

No. 49 "Jehovah Will Treat His Loyal One in a Special Way"

[PLEASE NOTE: This talk includes three videos. Not all cited texts need to be read, nor must every subpoint be discussed by the speaker]

"WITH SOMEONE LOYAL YOU ACT IN LOYALTY" (7 min.)

Over the past three days, we have learned much about loyalty

Recall that loyalty is a facet of love; loyalty involves commitment, integrity, and deep attachment—all based on love (cl 281-282 ¶4-6)
Our program has discussed many ways in which we can maintain loyalty to our heavenly Father, Jehovah

But as we conclude our convention, let us discuss further how God is loyal to his earthly servants

Jehovah has provided the loftiest example of loyalty

Notice the words in our theme text for today [Read Psalm 97:10]

The expression "is guarding" tells us that Jehovah repeatedly helps his loyal worshippers when they are in distress (cl 285 ¶14-15)

King David experienced firsthand Jehovah's loyalty

After Jehovah rescued him from the hand of his enemies, David said: "With someone loyal you act in loyalty" (2Sa 22:1, 26)

David stated with confidence: "Jehovah will treat his loyal one in a special way" (Ps 4:3)

God's Word assures us that if we are loyal to Jehovah, he will be loyal to us no matter what challenges or hardships we may face in this disloyal world

Let us now discuss four questions: (1) How does Jehovah treat his loyal ones in a special way? (2) How has this convention program been evidence of God's special treatment? (3) How can we meet the challenge of remaining loyal to God? (4) How will Jehovah treat his loyal ones in a special way in the future?

HOW DOES JEHOVAH TREAT HIS LOYAL ONES IN A SPECIAL WAY? (7 min.)

Let us examine David's words recorded at Psalm 4:1-8 [Read] (w11 5/15 30-32 ¶14-23)

Why did David write this psalm?

The wording suggests that David had faced discouraging situations, perhaps including false accusations from enemies who sought to humiliate him (Verse 2)

What confidence did David have?

This psalm has been called "a song of confidence"; in it David expresses his complete trust in Jehovah

David feels sure that Jehovah "will treat his loyal one in a special way" (Verse 3)

What special treatment can loyal ones expect from Jehovah?

Jehovah hears their prayers and helps them in their distress (Verse 1); they enjoy the light of divine favor (Verse 6b); they have joy of heart, and they sleep peacefully because Jehovah makes them "dwell in security" (Verses 7, 8)

What lessons can we learn from David's words in the 4th Psalm?

Jehovah loves his loyal worshippers; he has a deep sense of commitment and a special attachment to them

No matter what hardships we may face, we can rest assured that Jehovah truly wants to help us

Our God *will* act in loyalty toward those who are loyal to him
Can you recall a time in your life when you experienced special treatment by Jehovah, perhaps in a time of distress?

[Relate a verified local experience of a loyal worshipper who prayed for help with a specific trial and who received the help needed, or use one of the following experiences: w08 10/15 10-11 ¶14-15; g05 10/22 20-21; g01 7/22 14-15; yb01 60]

HOW HAS THIS CONVENTION BEEN EVIDENCE OF JEHOVAH'S SPECIAL TREATMENT?
(12 min.)

By means of this program, Jehovah has indeed treated us in a special way these past three days

Would you not agree that this program is proof that God knows the trials we face and that he fully equips us to deal with them successfully so that we can remain loyal to him? (Ps 34:19; Isa 48:17)

Would you like to express your appreciation to all who were involved in presenting the 48 preceding parts?

We also want to thank all the volunteers who worked hard so that we could enjoy the convention

Consider just a few highlights from the program

[Highlight key points discussed each day. You may draw from the following, adding specific points, as time permits]

Symposiums: Our program featured nine symposiums—fast-moving presentations that included videos, demonstrations, and interviews
On Friday, we learned (1) how to maintain loyalty first in thought and then in word and action, (2) how we can imitate Jesus in showing loyalty in the face of all manner of challenges, and (3) how to uphold Jehovah's judgments loyally even when it is not easy to do so

On Saturday, the symposiums taught us (1) practical lessons on how to help others to become loyal to Jehovah, (2) warning lessons about not imitating disloyal ones, (3) positive lessons we can learn from loyal ones, and (4) powerful lessons we can learn from the Bible book of Job

Today, two symposiums taught us how to avoid what erodes loyalty and how to pursue wholesome qualities that build it

As you listened to these symposiums, did you take note of specific, practical points that you can apply in your life?

Baptism discourse: Listening to this talk every few months enables us to reflect on our own dedication to Jehovah

Yesterday, we were reminded that our dedication and baptism are a promise of loyalty, and Jehovah expects us to keep that promise—not just now but also in the new world

Would you like to welcome _____ brothers and sisters who symbolized their dedication to Jehovah and who have now joined the ranks of loyal ones whom Jehovah treats in a special way?

Dramas: This year marks the 50th anniversary of the use of dramas at our conventions

The first dramas were presented in 1966 at the "God's Sons of Liberty" District Assemblies; those assemblies featured three dramas—one sound-only and two live-action presentations

How pleased we were to have three dramas at this convention—one dramatic Bible reading and two video dramas!

We have had an added blessing—the release of several dramas

We can now benefit from these dramatic presentations over and over again

Make good use of these dramas—watch them, meditate on them,
discuss them with others, and use them in your family worship
Without question, this convention program is powerful proof that
Jehovah has a deep attachment to us and wants to help us
To continue benefiting from this special treatment by Jehovah,
however, we must remain loyal to our God

HOW CAN WE MEET THE CHALLENGE OF REMAINING LOYAL TO GOD? (18 min.)
Why is it a challenge to remain loyal to Jehovah?

We live in a disloyal world that is controlled by Satan
Satan and his demons fight against those who strive to be loyal to
Jehovah (Eph 6:11, 12)

We all face tests of loyalty

Some are facing opposition from governmental rulers, religious
leaders, or unbelieving relatives

Others are living with chronic physical or emotional illness or
dealing with the challenges of caring for aged or infirm loved
ones

To meet the challenge of remaining loyal to God, we need courage

It takes courage to stand firm in the face of opposition

It takes courage to endure prolonged suffering or adversity

[You may relate an experience concerning someone who showed
courage in the face of distress, such as from g95 1/22 11-15]

We can learn much about courage and loyalty from the example of
Hezekiah, as presented in the drama that preceded this part

(1) *Hezekiah courageously stood firm for pure worship*

He was raised in a climate of apostasy; his father, Ahaz, followed
an apostate course, even sacrificing some of his sons to false
gods (2Ki 16:1-4)

After Hezekiah became king, at 25 years of age, he courageously
put a stop to the false religious practices tolerated by his
father

He reopened the temple, organized the priests and Levites to
cleanse it, arranged for a great Passover, and destroyed the
pagan idols (w13 11/15 17-18 ¶6-8)

What can we learn from Hezekiah's example?

We can choose to be loyal to Jehovah even if we did not grow
up in a family that worshipped Jehovah; we are not helpless
victims of our environment (w10 9/1 14; yp2 193)

Young ones, let God's Word and the direction from his
organization help you to make wise choices about how to live
your life

By seeking first the Kingdom, you will show your zeal for pure
worship and prove your loyalty

(2) *Hezekiah courageously stood firm against Assyria*

Hezekiah's apostate father had been allied with the Assyrians, who
were brutal in warfare (it-1 62 ¶3-4)

[Video crew begins one-minute video depicting Assyrian military
might and brutality]

Hezekiah broke the alliance with Assyria [Read 2 Kings 18:7]
His bold stand provoked the wrath of the Assyrians, who then
conquered many cities in Judah (2Ki 18:13; it-1 204 ¶5)

What can we learn from Hezekiah's example?

We need courage to remain neutral when it comes to the wars of the nations; our loyalty to God requires that we be "no part of the world" (Joh 17:16)

As with Hezekiah, our taking a loyal stand may provoke the wrath of worldly nations, but God has a special attachment to his loyal worshippers and knows how to deliver them (Ps 145:20)

(3) *Hezekiah courageously maintained a loyal course*

Hezekiah undoubtedly faced opposers who urged him to compromise, but he did not give in to the pressure

[Video crew begins one-minute video. This drama excerpt begins with Shebna's line, "Will you not even now face the facts?" and shows Hezekiah's response]

What helped Hezekiah to hold "fast to Jehovah"? (2Ki 18:6)

He likely reflected on the good example of loyal kings, such as David, who held fast to Jehovah (w12 3/1 30-31)

He no doubt read God's Law daily, obeying the command for kings to do so (De 17:18, 19; w99 11/1 11-12 ¶9-12)

When in distress, he prayed to God and acted in harmony with his prayer [Read 2 Kings 19:14-19] (w11 11/15 7 ¶5-6)

The letters from Sennacherib mocked God, urging Hezekiah to give up

Hezekiah "spread them out before Jehovah"

What can we learn from Hezekiah's example?

Imitate the good example of fellow believers who have proved their loyalty to Jehovah

Make it a practice to read and meditate on God's Word daily (Ps 1:1-3)

When in distress, go to Jehovah in prayer and 'spread out' your concerns before him

(4) *Hezekiah was blessed for his loyalty*

Jehovah rewarded Hezekiah for his loyalty by delivering Judah—just one of Jehovah's angels slew 185,000 Assyrians in a single night!

What can we learn from Hezekiah's example?

Jehovah will bless us and reward us for our loyalty to him

No matter what test of loyalty we may face, God will "make the way out" for us—either by delivering us from the trial or by giving us the strength to endure it (1Co 10:13)

What powerful lessons we learn from the drama about King Hezekiah!

Would it not be beneficial if we could view this drama over and over, perhaps considering it in our family worship?

We are pleased to announce the release of the new drama "O Jehovah, . . . I Trust in You"!

The chairman will indicate how you can access this video

HOW WILL JEHOVAH TREAT HIS LOYAL ONES IN A SPECIAL WAY IN THE FUTURE?
(10 min.)

If we take to heart and apply in our life what we have learned at this "Remain Loyal to Jehovah!" Convention, Jehovah will treat us in a special way now, in the immediate future, and forever

How can we benefit from Jehovah's special treatment now?

He provides for us abundantly, directing "the faithful and discreet slave" to dispense spiritual food "at the proper time"—what we need, when we need it (Mt 24:45)

Take full advantage of all the provisions for our spiritual well-being

How will Jehovah treat his loyal ones in a special way *in the immediate future?*

We can expect to face increasingly difficult tests of loyalty

World conditions will continue to worsen (2Ti 3:1-5, 13)

Our loyalty to God will likely bring increasing ridicule
(2Pe 3:3, 4)

We will face the attack by Gog of Magog during the great
tribulation (*w15* 5/15 29-30)

We will not need to fear, for Jehovah will deliver his loyal ones

[Read Daniel 12:1] (*dp* 288-290 ¶4-7)

"Michael" is the glorified Jesus Christ

He "will stand up" at Armageddon in behalf of God's loyal ones

Jesus and his anointed corulers will ride in conquest, even as

did the single angel who destroyed the Assyrian army (Re 6:1, 2;
17:14)

How may we benefit from Jehovah's special treatment *forever?*

During the Millennium, Jehovah will make "all things new" (Re 21:5)

Jehovah himself guarantees this promise (*re* 304 ¶9)

We will have the prospect of living forever in perfect health

The earthly resurrection will take place

Can you imagine what it will be like to listen as loyal resurrected
ones tell how God treated them in a special way?

[Video crew begins three-minute video depicting Armageddon survivors
and resurrected ones]

How can we gain the promised reward?

We must be determined to do what is stated in our convention theme:

"Remain Loyal to Jehovah!"

If we remain loyal to our loyal God, we will benefit from his special
treatment—now, in the immediate future, and forever!

TO BE COVERED IN 54 MINUTES

© 2015 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania

CO-tk16-E No. 49 12/15