The Pathway to Peace and Happiness
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The Pathway to Peace and Happiness  English (ph-E)
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Sanath was very worried.* Many things were troubling him. For a long time, he had been trying to find stable employment in order to care for his family. He wanted his children to have a good education and a better future. But all of this seemed beyond reach. The best that he could hope for was to remain healthy and keep on working so that he could earn enough to provide food for his family and pay the rent. But he was really concerned—should something happen to him, who would look after his family?

Vasana, Sanath’s wife, was also worried. Lately, their relationship had become very tense. Sanath was always tired when he got home from work. Vasana really wanted him to help her teach the children proper manners and respect, but he had no time for them. Vasana was sad that she and Sanath often argued, and it was not really good for their children to see that. Then, what if one of their children should get sick? Where would they find the money for medicine and hospital care? Vasana did not even want to think about the possibility!

Sanath and Vasana also noticed that conditions in their community were no longer what they used to be. People had little time for one another, and the community spirit that the couple so fondly remembered did not seem to exist any longer. They could see that all their friends and relatives

* The information in this publication is presented in the form of a series of imagined conversations between two couples.
had problems similar to theirs and were worried about the future. It appeared that no one had real peace of mind anymore. Vasana often thought about how nice it would be to find a solution to these problems and thus have some peace and contentment. Even though Sanath and Vasana tried very hard, it seemed that everything they were striving for was just out of reach.

One day, Sanath and Vasana talked about their troubles.

“Wouldn’t it be wonderful if we could just find the pathway to peace and happiness?” asked Sanath.

“Oh, yes!” Vasana responded. “I have been thinking about that too. It would surely be the answer to all our problems.”

“But there are so many religious ideas and philosophies of life,” Sanath replied. “How can we possibly find out which one is the pathway to happiness? We can’t examine them all! Besides, just about every one of them claims to have the answer to life’s problems; yet, you have to admit that not one of them has really made much difference in people’s life. To me, it seems futile even to try.”

Although Vasana agreed with Sanath, deep down she wanted to find some help for her family. She felt that there had to be a way somehow.

Perhaps you too are concerned about some of the things that Sanath and Vasana were facing. Their problems are common around the world. People everywhere long for good health, peace of mind, and a happy family life. But it all seems so difficult to attain. Is there any hope of finding the pathway to peace and happiness?
The Search for Practical Guidance

Vasana noticed that her neighbors, Buddhika and his wife, Anushka, always seemed so contented and peaceful. She told Sanath that she was going to ask Anushka what their secret was. So the next time she saw Anushka, she asked her.

“Well, Vasana, we really have the same sort of problems and worries that you and Sanath have,” Anushka said. “But not too long ago, I found a book that gives some very practical guidance for me and my family. This book shows us the pathway to peace and happiness. It helps us to be happy despite the pressures and worries that we face every day.”

Vasana was intrigued. Anushka explained more about this book. “It is an ancient book from the Middle East and the Orient. Yet, the book is for all people because it transcends all religious and sectarian divisions. In fact, it has been translated into hundreds of languages, so that practically everyone can read it.” Anushka also said that the book has often been quoted by educators and that it has even been the basis for the legal systems of many nations.

Vasana was really interested in seeing this book. That afternoon, she went to Anushka’s home. There Anushka showed her the practical guidance that this book offers on these topics:
Raising children

“Train up a boy according to the way for him; even when he grows old he will not turn aside from it.”

“Fathers, do not be irritating your children.”

Work and money management

“Let the stealer steal no more, but rather let him do hard work, doing with his hands what is good work, that he may have something to distribute to someone in need.”

“If anyone does not want to work, neither let him eat.”

Drugs and alcohol

“Let us cleanse ourselves of every defilement of flesh and spirit.”

“Wine is a ridiculer, intoxicating liquor is boisterous, and everyone going astray by it is not wise.”

Moral values

“Let marriage be honorable among all, and the marriage bed be without defilement.”

“Abstain from fornication.”

“Everyone that keeps on looking at a woman so as to have a passion for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

Respect in family life

“Honor your father and your mother.”

“Listen to your father who caused your birth, and do not despise your mother just because she has grown old.”

“Let each one of you individually so love his wife as he does himself; on the other hand, the wife should have deep respect for her husband.”

For those who have a Bible, we list here the source of the quotations above.
Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4
Ephesians 4:28; 2 Thessalonians 3:10
2 Corinthians 7:1; Proverbs 20:1
Hebrews 13:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Matthew 5:28
Ephesians 6:2; Proverbs 23:22; Ephesians 5:33
Review Box

- What did Vasana notice about her neighbors?
- What are some of the things that Anushka showed Vasana?
- Which points of guidance do you find valuable to you?
A Book That Is Extraordinary

When Sanath came home from work that evening, Vasana told him all the things that Anushka had shown her. Sanath thought it was interesting, but he had heard others talk about different pathways to peace and happiness, so he was a little skeptical. Still, he decided that he would talk about this with Buddhika. The next Saturday, he did just that.

“Yes, the book is called the Bible,” Buddhika told Sanath. “I have been reading it, and I am fully convinced that it is accurate and reliable.”

Sanath told Buddhika about his doubts. “We can all see that there is no end to the poverty and misery around us, and people of all races and nations are affected,” he observed. “What is more, there are so many religions and philosophies that claim to be the true pathway, yet none of them have solved the problems of war, bad government, racial hatred, and poverty. Why would what this book says be any different from all these religions and philosophies?”

Buddhika showed Sanath something from the Bible that really surprised Sanath. He showed him that the Bible says: “Man has dominated man to his injury” and “it does not belong to man who is walking even to direct his step.” Sanath agreed that no one could deny the truth of those words. They were realities of life in Sanath’s own country as well as in Western lands.
Buddhika further explained to Sanath that he could put confidence in the Bible for many other reasons. “The Bible not only provides sound guidance for everyday life, such as the points Anushka showed Vasana,” said Buddhika, “but it also clearly identifies the cause of the problems facing mankind.” He added: “You know, Sanath, the Bible is also scientifically accurate.”

Sanath was still doubtful. “How could such an ancient book as the Bible be relevant to present-day problems and be scientifically accurate?” he asked. He also wanted to know who wrote this book.

“The Bible was not written by one man,” Buddhika explained. “It is actually a collection of 66 small books written by more than 40 different men over a period of about 1,600 years, which ended around 1,900 years ago. Even though these writers had limited scientific knowledge, they wrote about facts that became known only thousands of years later. For example, one Bible writer stated that the earth is ‘hanging upon nothing,’ and another described the earth as a circle, or sphere. These facts were not generally known at the time of the writing but were proved true by scientists only in relatively recent times.”

“That is fascinating,” said Sanath. Buddhika wanted to show Sanath another equally fascinating point.

“About 200 years in advance, the Bible predicted the fall of a major world power called Babylon.” Buddhika said. “The Bible described how Babylon would be conquered, and amazingly, it even mentioned the name of the conquering king long before he was born! Actually, there are hundreds of prophecies in the Bible.”
As Sanath was pondering all of this, Buddhika said something that Sanath found even more amazing. “Do you know that the hardships that you and I and others are facing today were predicted 1,900 years ago in the Bible?” He read this passage to Sanath from the Bible:

“Know this, that in the last days critical times hard to deal with will be here. For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, self-assuming, haughty, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, disloyal, having no natural affection, not open to any agreement, slanderers, without self-control, fierce, without love of goodness, betrayers, headstrong, puffed up with pride, lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God, having a form of godly devotion but proving false to its power.”

Buddhika told Sanath that other parts of the Bible foretold that there would be troubles all over the world, including wars, diseases, famines, earthquakes, and lawlessness.

Sanath was surprised to see that many of the problems that he and Vasana were experiencing had been accurately described so long ago in the Bible.

“How extraordinary!” Sanath exclaimed.

Ecclesiastes 8:9; Jeremiah 10:23
Job 26:7; Isaiah 40:22; 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Review Box

Why was Sanath a little doubtful about what Vasana told him?

What did Buddhika say about the Bible and about how it was written?

What interesting things did Buddhika point out so that Sanath could put confidence in the Bible?
Promises That We Can Trust

Sanath thought a lot about what Buddhika had told him. Of course, it was not the first time that Sanath had heard about the Bible. He had always known that it is a holy book, but now he began to think that if the Bible really contains true prophecies, perhaps it is more than just an ancient holy book. Yet, he wondered how those men who wrote down the words in the Bible could have known those scientific facts and historical events so far in advance. Where did their knowledge come from?

Sanath and Vasana went to visit Buddhika and Anushka the next day, and Sanath asked Buddhika that very question: “How could the writers have known all those things so far in advance?”

Buddhika explained: “The men who wrote those things were not the originators, or authors, of what they wrote. They were like secretaries who wrote down information given them by someone else. The real Author was actually our original Father.”

“Our original Father?” asked Sanath. “Who is he?”

“He is the One who gave us life originally,” Buddhika explained. “And, like any real father, He also has a name.” Turning in his Bible to Psalm 83:18, Buddhika read to Sanath:

“That people may know that you, whose name is Jehovah, you alone are the Most High over all the earth.”

Buddhika showed Sanath another text in the Bible. It described Jehovah as “the One telling from the beginning the finale, and from long ago the things that have not been
done.” (Isaiah 46:10) To explain this verse, Buddhika said: “Just as our natural father has more experience in life and often knows much more than we do, Jehovah, our original Father, is greater in knowledge and wisdom than all of us and can even foretell the future. For this reason, he was able to let the Bible writers know what to write about the future.”

“Does Jehovah know what future Vasana and I will have?” Sanath wanted to know.

“Well,” Buddhika explained, “Jehovah does not determine in advance the outcome of each person’s life individually. But like a father, he knows our problems, and he wants to help us.”

Buddhika told Sanath that from the Bible, they could find out what Jehovah would do to help them have a happy and peaceful life. They could also learn how the decisions they make could affect them now and in the future.

Sanath thought that all of this was very logical because he too was a father, and he would do all that he could to help his children to have a happy future. Buddhika was happy to show Sanath and Vasana some of the promises that are contained in the Bible. These are a few of the things he showed them:

“He is making wars to cease to the extremity of the earth.” —Psalm 46:9.

“They will certainly build houses and have occupancy; and they will certainly plant vineyards and eat their fruitage. They will not build and someone else have occupancy; they will not plant and someone else do the eating. For like the days of a tree will the days of my people be.”—Isaiah 65:21, 22.
“There will come to be plenty of grain on the earth; on the top of the mountains there will be an overflow.”—Psalm 72:16.

“He will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away.”—Revelation 21:4.

Sanath was touched by all these wonderful promises in the Bible. He really liked the idea of a world where everyone would be treated justly, where sickness and death would be no more, and where there would be plenty of food for everyone. Vasana was impressed too, but she thought it was all too good to be true.

“I can well understand how you feel, Vasana,” said Buddhika. “But think about this: Just as we have seen, many other prophecies in the Bible have been accurately fulfilled. Does that not assure us that these promises will also be fulfilled? Actually, the Author of the Bible guarantees their fulfillment with these words: ‘Write, because these words are faithful and true.’”—Revelation 21:5.

**Review Box**

- How did the men who wrote down the words in the Bible know what to write?
- Who actually is the Author of the Bible?
- What future does the Bible promise for mankind?
- Why are the promises in the Bible trustworthy?
Sanath was happy to learn about all the things that Jehovah had promised, but he wondered how anyone could have the power to fulfill these promises. Buddhika explained that to understand how Jehovah could do everything he promised, they could think about a basic idea that everyone was familiar with—the law of cause and effect.

Buddhika said that this basic fact is also explained in the Bible, and he showed Sanath this Bible text:

“Every house is constructed by someone.”—Hebrews 3:4.

“That seems logical,” Sanath responded. “Surely, no house can come about without a builder.”

“To take your observation one step further,” said Buddhika, “I might add that no meal was ever prepared without a cook.”

Then Buddhika reminded Sanath that all around them were things much greater and more complex than a house. “Look at the delicate flowers, the majestic mountains, the powerful sea, and the boundless universe,” he said. “If a house needs a designer and a builder and a meal has to be prepared by a cook, then what about all the marvelous things in the universe? Do they not also require a Designer and Maker?”
Sanath had to agree that Buddhika had a good point.

“The Bible says that, indeed, there is an original Designer and Maker of all things,” Buddhika continued. “Of course, to be the Maker of all things, this One would have to be a powerful and mighty Person. That is why the Bible calls him God. In the original language of the Bible, this word means ‘Mighty One’ or ‘Strong One.’ Today, there are many whom people call ‘gods,’ but because Jehovah made all things, he is rightly called Almighty God.”

Sanath was surprised to see that the Bible describes the many wonderful works of Jehovah God. These are a few examples of what Buddhika showed him:

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”—Genesis 1:1.

“Know that Jehovah is God. It is he that has made us, and not we ourselves.”—Psalm 100:3.

“The heavens are declaring the glory of God; and of the work of his hands the expanse is telling.”—Psalm 19:1.

“He who is building in the heavens his stairs, and his structure over the earth that he founded; he who is calling for the waters of the sea, that he may pour them out upon the surface of the earth—Jehovah is his name.”—Amos 9:6.
Yes, Jehovah God is the Maker of all things. But he did more than just form, or make, things. He gave life to all creatures. “With you is the source of life,” the Bible says of Jehovah. (Psalm 36:9) So he is the Giver of life, the Creator. Since Jehovah is the Originator of life, he truly is our Father. That is why the Bible says: “Is it not one father that all of us have? Is it not one God that has created us?”—Malachi 2:10.

“Well, well!” Sanath exclaimed. “I must say that when we look at the things around us and think about them, it is not hard to see that there has to be an original cause, a Designer, a Life-Giver—a Creator.”

“If he had the power to create all these things,” Vasana joined in excitedly, “then he must also have the power to fulfill all the promises he made in the Bible!”

To Sanath and Vasana, everything they heard that day made perfect sense, but they wondered what sort of Person this powerful Designer is.

Review Box

- Why is it logical to think that there is an Originator of all the things that surround us?
- Why does the Bible call the Originator Almighty God?
- What are some of the things that the Bible says God made?
- Why is God also the Creator?
“Let me ask you, Sanath and Vasana, when you look at a child, do you often see in him characteristics of his parents?” Buddhika asked.

“Why, yes!” answered Sanath. “I often say that our daughter looks so much like her mother. She even has her mother’s personality.”

“Yes, she really does,” Buddhika replied. “So we can say the same about our Maker, our Father. By looking at ourselves and the things Jehovah has made, we can find out about his qualities, what kind of Person he is.”

“That’s interesting. I never thought about that,” said Sanath.

“This is actually what the Bible tells us,” Buddhika explained. “See what Romans 1:20 says: ‘His invisible qualities are clearly seen from the world’s creation onward, because they are perceived by the things made, even his eternal power and Godship.’”

Sanath asked how this was the case.

“Well, Sanath, think about the love that a father has for his children. A good father, like you, always cares for his children. Sometimes a child might be disobedient or disrespectful to his father, but the father would still provide for and love the child. Why would a father do this? It is because Jehovah created in parents the capacity for natural affection and love for their children. This love, Sanath, is a reflection of the love that Jehovah has for us.
“Even if we did not know Jehovah, he would still provide for us through the things he has made,” Buddhika continued. “That is why the Bible says at Matthew 5:45: ‘Prove yourselves sons of your Father who is in the heavens, since he makes his sun rise upon wicked people and good and makes it rain upon righteous people and unrighteous.’ We certainly benefit from rain and sunshine, don’t we? They keep us alive and help us to grow our food. And Jehovah continues to supply us with these essentials whether we show any gratitude or not. Is this not evidence that Jehovah is a God of love? In fact, the Bible says that love is Jehovah’s principal quality; it is the essence of Jehovah God. At 1 John 4:8, we read that ‘God is love.’”

Next, Buddhika asked Sanath to think about the quality of justice. “As a good father, you love and care for your children in a just or fair manner, don’t you? You also teach them to respect others and to live by the standards of behavior that you believe will help them grow up to be responsible people. It is obvious that humans have a yearning for justice, both for themselves and their families. We want to be treated justly, and we want people to respect our need for justice. Why? Again, it is because we are reflecting the qualities of our Creator.”

Buddhika then showed Sanath and Vasana these scriptures about Jehovah God:

“All his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness, with whom there is no injustice.”—Deuteronomy 32:4.

“He is a lover of righteousness and justice.”—Psalm 33:5.
Yes, we love justice because Jehovah, our Creator, loves justice, and we are created in his image, that is, we are created with many of Jehovah’s qualities, which we can manifest to some degree in our life. (Genesis 1:27) But Jehovah did not leave it to us to determine what is just and what is not. He has established standards and laws by which he wants his earthly children to live. It is when God’s laws are broken that injustice occurs.

“There is another remarkable thing I want you to think about,” Buddhika continued. “Do you know that the laws of most countries are in many ways similar to those that were written in the Bible thousands of years ago?” Sanath and Vasana were surprised.

“For example,” Buddhika went on, “the laws of many lands include prohibitions against murder, stealing, and adultery. These were all written down in the Bible more than 3,500 years ago. When we live by these just standards from Jehovah God, we are reflecting God’s justice, and we can have a happier and more satisfying life.”

After listening to all that Buddhika had said, Sanath and Vasana now appreciated that Jehovah is a loving Person and a God of justice. They had always felt that love and justice were among the most important qualities that people should show in their dealings with others. They had always tried to be loving and just with their children. Now they understood that these

A GOD OF LOVE AND JUSTICE
deep-seated desires were actually a reflection of the qualities of the Creator, Jehovah God.

Sanath was really excited about getting to know the qualities of Jehovah. It made Jehovah real to him—so much so that he began to think that perhaps he should do something about showing more love to his wife and children. He thought that it would be good to imitate Jehovah by being loving, just, and fair with everyone.

“That is very good, Sanath,” Buddhika responded happily. “The way you are thinking is very much in harmony with what the Bible recommends. In fact, there is a very famous statement in the Bible that I want to show you.” Opening the Bible, Buddhika read the following words to Sanath:

“All things, therefore, that you want men to do to you, you also must likewise do to them.”—Matthew 7:12.

Buddhika said that Jehovah has many other fine qualities besides love and justice. Sanath and Vasana wanted Buddhika to show them more about Jehovah’s wonderful qualities.

Review Box

- What can help us to learn more about God?—Romans 1:20.
- What is God’s principal quality?—1 John 4:8.
- How does God show love to us every day?—Matthew 5:45.
- How does God feel about justice?—Psalm 33:5.
- How can we imitate God’s justice?—Matthew 7:12.
Buddhika explained that the things God has made also reveal some of his other qualities. He read to Sanath and Vasana this interesting verse from the Bible.

“How many your works are, O Jehovah! All of them in wisdom you have made. The earth is full of your productions.”
—Psalm 104:24.

“Even the tiniest insects can show us something about the wisdom of Jehovah,” Buddhika said. “For example, the Bible talks about the instinctive wisdom of the ant.”

Buddhika reminded Sanath that they had often seen ants busily nipping off pieces of leaves to carry to their nests. How do they know to do this? One of the Bible writers explained that the ant is “instinctively wise.” Who, though, made it that way? Who put this instinctive wisdom in the ant? The Bible answers that it was Jehovah, the Producer of heaven and earth.—Proverbs 30:24, 25.

“I have to agree that creatures with such instinctive wisdom must have had a Designer and Creator,” replied Sanath.

Buddhika then said something that made a deep impression on Sanath and Vasana: “Do you realize that our very existence depends on Jehovah’s wisdom?” They wondered how that could be.

Buddhika explained that it was absolutely amazing to him that conditions on the earth are just right for life to flourish. The speed of the earth’s rotation on its axis and the
speed of its movement in its orbit around the sun are such that solar energy is distributed to the planet’s surface in the best way possible. Gravity keeps earth’s vital atmosphere—consisting of just the right mixture of gases—from escaping. Yet, the gravitational pull is not so strong as to hamper our freedom of movement. There is also a vast supply of water, which is absolutely essential for life to continue. Even the soil is filled with nourishment that readily combines with water to be absorbed and used by plants.

“I strongly believe that it could not be by blind chance that all these things are the way they are,” said Buddhika. “I am convinced that it is the Source of unlimited wisdom, Jehovah God, who puts into operation all that is necessary for life to exist.”

Sanath and Vasana nodded in silent agreement.

Buddhika mentioned another quality of God that impressed them—power. Sanath wanted to see what the Bible has to say about Jehovah’s power. Buddhika opened the Bible and read this verse to him:

“O Sovereign Lord Jehovah! Here you yourself have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm.”—Jeremiah 32:17.

“We can get some idea of Jehovah’s great power by considering the power of the sun,” said Buddhika. “When you stand outside on a bright, sunny day, you feel the warmth of the sun, don’t you? Have you any idea how powerful the sun is?”
“I know it can get very hot around here before the monsoon season,” answered Sanath, and Vasana agreed.

Buddhika told them that he had read that at the sun’s core, the temperature is about 27 million degrees Fahrenheit. If you could take a pinhead-sized piece of the sun’s core and put it here on the earth, you could not safely stand within about 100 miles of that tiny heat source! Every second, the sun emits energy equivalent to the explosion of many hundreds of millions of nuclear bombs.

“If the sun has such tremendous power, what power must the Maker of the sun have?” Buddhika asked. “We cannot even imagine his power. When we observe the sun, we see just a tiny evidence of the boundless power of its Creator, Jehovah.”

Sanath and Vasana had to agree with Buddhika that all these wonderful things could not have happened by chance. There had to be a Creator. They began to understand that although the Creator, Jehovah, is an invisible Spirit, he is a real Person who displays perfect love, justice, wisdom, and power in all the things he has made.

**Review Box**

- What outstanding quality of Jehovah God is clearly revealed in creation, according to Psalm 104:24?
- Looking at the things around us, what examples of God’s wisdom can you see?—Proverbs 30:24, 25.
- What other quality of Jehovah is seen in creation, according to Jeremiah 32:17?
- What evidence of God’s power can you observe from the things he has made?
All the information that Buddhika shared about Jehovah really impressed Sanath, but something was still troubling him. He asked Buddhika: “If Jehovah is such a powerful and loving Person who created all things, why is there so much trouble on earth? Why do we have so many problems?”

“This is a very good question, and many people have been puzzled by it,” Buddhika told Sanath. “When we consider the qualities of Jehovah God, it should be clear that the current bad conditions on earth cannot be what he wants for his earthly children. For this reason, to understand why things are the way they are, we need to understand what God’s original purpose for the earth was and what has happened to it.”

Buddhika then explained to Sanath how Jehovah God felt when he finished his earthly creative work. Here is the verse that Buddhika read:

“God saw everything he had made and, look! it was very good.”—Genesis 1:31.

The crowning glory of Jehovah’s creation was the first human couple. Their names were Adam and Eve. God created them perfect, just as the rest of his creation was, so that they could live forever on earth. God put them in a beautiful park called the garden of Eden. There, they were supplied with everything they needed for a happy life. They
lacked nothing. (Genesis 2:8, 9) Furthermore, Jehovah told them to have many children and fill the earth and subdue it. (Genesis 1:28) This means that eventually the whole planet would become one large Paradise filled with a perfect, happy family of people. What a marvelous prospect!

What went wrong? Buddhika showed Sanath a simple explanation from the Bible:

“Through one man sin entered into the world and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men because they had all sinned.”—Romans 5:12.

As a loving Father, Jehovah God gave Adam and Eve certain rules, or standards, by which they could continue to live and care for the paradise. (Genesis 2:15-17) And as a wise Father, Jehovah did not force them to do what he said but allowed them to show their love for him by choosing to be his obedient children. Like us, Adam and Eve had freedom of choice. What did they do?

Sadly, Adam and Eve chose not to follow the direction of their Creator. They went their own way. Because of this, they sinned. To sin means to miss the mark of perfection. Soon, Adam and Eve began to grow old and die. This was exactly what Jehovah God had said would happen to them if they did not hold to his standards.—Genesis 2:17.

Since all of us are the offspring of Adam and Eve, we have inherited their imperfection, and that is why we grow old and die. However, to reassure Sanath, Buddhika pointed out that Jehovah’s purpose for mankind has not changed. As a loving Father, Jehovah still wants humans to enjoy
life on a paradise earth. Buddhika showed Sanath and Vasana this Bible verse:

“This is what Jehovah has said, the Creator of the heavens, He the true God, the Former of the earth and the Maker of it, He the One who firmly established it, who did not create it simply for nothing, who formed it even to be inhabited.”—Isaiah 45:18.

Buddhika reminded Sanath and Vasana of all the beautiful promises in the Bible. There would be no more sickness, pain, and suffering; there would be plenty of food and good housing for everyone; and there would be no more death. All these blessings were part of God’s original, unchangeable purpose for mankind—life without end on a paradise earth. Buddhika showed Sanath this promise:

“The righteous themselves will possess the earth, and they will reside forever upon it.”—Psalm 37:29.

That is what Jehovah God promised, and that is what will come true.

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Review Box

- What is God’s purpose for mankind?—Genesis 1:28.
- What requirement did God place on the first human couple?—Genesis 2:15-17.
- What was the result of Adam and Eve’s disobedience?—Romans 5:12.
- What has happened to Jehovah’s original purpose for the earth and mankind?—Psalm 37:29; Isaiah 45:18.
Sanath and Vasana were thrilled to know that one day the earth would be filled with good and honest people who would treat one another in a loving way. They thought about how wonderful life would be in a world without hunger, sickness, or death, a world in which peace and happiness would be everyone’s lot. How they wished all of this could come immediately!

“When will all these things happen?” Sanath wanted to know.

“It is interesting that you should ask that question,” Buddhika told Sanath. “Let me ask you, Sanath, do you remember hearing about the man named Jesus?”

“Yes, I have heard of him,” Sanath replied. “I understand that he said some very wise things. But what does that have to do with my question?”

“Well, some 2,000 years ago, when Jesus was on earth, his followers, or disciples, asked the same question that you did,” Buddhika explained. “In answer, Jesus gave them a ‘sign’ that would be made up of many events. He told them that when all the events making up the sign should appear together, that would be the time the promised change is near.”—Matthew 24:3.


“The various aspects of this sign are all written down in the Bible,” Buddhika told Sanath. Opening the Bible, he said: “Here are a few of them.”
“Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom.”—Matthew 24:7.

“There will be food shortages.”—Matthew 24:7.

“Increasing of lawlessness.”—Matthew 24:12.


Right away, Sanath and Vasana said that all these things seemed to be happening today. In fact, for that very reason, they felt troubled and anxious about the future.

“The fulfillment of this sign means that Jehovah God’s rulership over the earth will soon take effect,” Buddhika said. “The Bible calls this new rulership, or government, God’s Kingdom.” Buddhika then read a Bible verse that shows what this Kingdom will shortly do:

“In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be brought to ruin. And the kingdom itself will not be passed on to any other people. It will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, and it itself will stand to times indefinite.”—Daniel 2:44.

“When God’s Kingdom asserts its rulership over the earth,” Buddhika continued, “all wickedness, injustice, and corruption will be gone forever. What a wonderful thing to contemplate!”

All of this was very exciting to Sanath and Vasana, and they very much wanted to be a part of this peaceful new world.

“Is there something that Vasana and I must do so that we can have that wonderful future?” Sanath asked.
You know very well, Sanath and Vasana, that anything worthwhile has its price,” Buddhika replied. “Think of Adam and Eve and what they lost. What can you learn from the way they acted?”

“They lost perfect life in Paradise because they did not live in harmony with God’s requirements,” said Sanath.

“In much the same way, Jehovah God has requirements for us today,” Buddhika explained. “If we want to enjoy life in the Paradise that he will soon bring about on earth, we need to learn about him and his requirements and strive to live in harmony with them.”

Sanath agreed that all of that was very reasonable, but he wondered how he and Vasana could possibly do so.

“To obey Jehovah God is not a burden because, as our loving Father, he asks us to do only what is in our best interests,” Buddhika assured him. “He not only shows us the pathway to a peaceful new world but also invites us to be guided by him along the way. Notice this loving invitation found in the Bible.”

“I, Jehovah, am your God, the One teaching you to benefit yourself, the One causing you to tread in the way in which you should walk. O if only you would actually pay attention to my commandments! Then your peace would become just like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea. And your offspring would become just like the sand, and the descendants from your inward parts like the grains of it. One’s name would not be cut off or be annihilated from before me.”—Isaiah 48:17-19.

Sanath and Vasana both felt the warmth of those beautiful words. They really wanted a way of life that would
benefit them and their family. In fact, they could think of nothing better than to live with all their children in a righteous and peaceful world.

“All these wonderful blessings can be yours if you learn what Jehovah God is teaching us and try your best to follow it,” Buddhika told them.

“How do we go about learning all these things?” Sanath asked eagerly. “Could you and Anushka help us?”

“We would be delighted to do so. In fact, we have just what you need to help you find and pursue the pathway to peace and happiness!”

Review Box

- What question similar to Sanath’s did Jesus’ disciples ask?—Matthew 24:3.
- Do you see this “sign” being fulfilled today?
- What help did Sanath and Vasana want from Buddhika and Anushka?
Buddhika told Sanath and Vasana that he and Anushka would be happy to help them learn more about all the wonderful things they had been discussing. He showed them a book called *What Does the Bible Really Teach?*

When Sanath and Vasana examined the book, they saw in the table of contents many subjects that they had always wondered about. Buddhika then explained that the book has many interesting features. He said:

“Each chapter starts with several questions that highlight what is considered in that chapter. It then ends with a box entitled ‘What the Bible Teaches,’ providing a summary of the key points of the chapter and the Bible texts that support them. There are many instructive illustrations throughout the book, and the material is written in a style that is easy to read and understand.”

Sanath and Vasana were eager to start reading the book. They were looking forward to learning more about all the things Buddhika had told them and making sure that these things were not just a dream. And Sanath and Vasana were grateful to Buddhika and Anushka for their willingness to help them find the pathway to peace and happiness.
Find out the answers to these important questions:

- How can we find the pathway to peace and happiness?
- Whom can we trust to provide practical guidance for life?
- Why are there so many bad things happening around us?
- Who can bring justice and peace to the world?
- When will there be true peace and happiness?

Would you welcome more information? Write Jehovah’s Witnesses at the appropriate address below.

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Address ___________________________________________
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City __________________________ State _____ ZIP Code ______

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