

THE RESURRECTION—WHY THAT HOPE SHOULD BE REAL TO YOU

WHY THE RESURRECTION BECAME NECESSARY (7 min.)

Resurrection is central to the fulfillment of Jehovah's purpose

Bible's first prophecy helps us to see how that is so (Ge 3:15)

That prophecy showed that the serpent would be crushed; Satan's works would therefore be undone (Ro 16:20; 1Jo 3:8)

Jehovah will defeat "the last enemy" (1Co 15:26)

Death came upon man because of the schemes of Satan (Joh 8:44)

Resurrection harmonizes with God's purpose for the earth (Ge 1:28)

Resurrection vindicates Jehovah as the loving, powerful Preserver of his servants (1Sa 2:6)

Jehovah rewards faithful ones with everlasting life (Mt 24:9; Tit 1:2; Re 2:10)

No other god can preserve and restore life (Ps 36:9)

WHY THE RESURRECTION IS A CERTAINTY (7 min.)

Jehovah provides guarantee of resurrection (Ac 17:31)

Guarantee is the resurrection of Jesus (*w82* 10/1 20 pars. 2-3)

Christ appeared to hundreds after his resurrection (1Co 15:6)

Jesus, whom Jehovah uses to resurrect others, is rightly called "the resurrection and the life" (Joh 11:25)

His resurrection paved the way for resurrection of billions

Jesus demonstrated reality of resurrection

He likened death to sleep

With God's power, Jesus overcame death as readily as we might waken a loved one from sleep (Joh 11:11-14)

No wonder Jesus expressed confidence in the certainty of the resurrection! (Joh 5:28, 29; *it-2* 789 pars. 3-6)

First-century Christians had faith in this hope (Heb 6:1, 2)

A SOURCE OF SUSTAINING COMFORT (10 min.)

We are 'a mist appearing and disappearing' (Jas 4:14)

In this uncertain system of things, life can end suddenly

Resurrection hope sustains us, tempers harsh reality of death

Those loving Jehovah are not dominated by morbid fear of death, a dread that enslaves many (Heb 2:14, 15)

For those faithful to God, death is not a final end

Reality of resurrection provides comfort and sustains all of us

Many in the truth for years had hoped to survive the end of this system but are now facing problems of advancing age (Ec 12:1-7)

Since life in this system may be temporary, we need to focus on "the real life," that is, "everlasting life" (1Ti 6:12, 19)

Sickness, accidents, and death can befall anyone (Ec 9:11)

Like Paul, we are sustained by resurrection hope when facing trials that arise because of our service to God (2Co 1:8, 9)

Such difficulties put our faith in the resurrection to the test

If life is threatened, the resurrection hope helps us to remain faithful and refuse to compromise

This hope has helped many to obey God's law on blood and to maintain Christian neutrality

HOW WE SHOW OUR FAITH IN THE RESURRECTION (3 min.)

Integrity of Jehovah's servants, even in the face of death, proves that their service is based on faith and love (Re 12:11)

We render exclusive devotion to Jehovah because of his wonderful qualities (Re 4:11)

It is a privilege to share in proving that the Devil's accusations against Jehovah and us are false (Job 2:4; Pr 27:11)

KEEP WAITING "WITH EVERLASTING LIFE IN VIEW" (3 min.)

Great comfort comes from knowing that Jehovah yearns to bring faithful ones back to life [Read Job 14:14, 15]

We must keep ourselves "in God's love," patiently waiting for the certain fulfillment of Jehovah's purpose to give obedient humans everlasting life (Jude 21)