

IS THIS WORLD DOOMED TO RUIN?

Note to the speaker:

Build confidence that Jehovah will soon act to relieve mankind's current distress. Emphasize the actions that should be taken to ensure survival

MANY FEAR FOR THE WORLD'S FUTURE (4 min.)

Human actions appear to jeopardize mankind's survival now more than at any other time in history

The dangers of global climate change and the threat of nuclear war hang over mankind (*w10* 8/1 3-4)

Economic shocks, brutal violence, and resurgent disease give evidence of this system's instability (*g05* 8/8 4-7; *g03* 5/22 6-11)

Is this world doomed to ruin? Yes, it is, but not in the way that many fear

The Bible uses the term "world" to refer both to mankind as a whole and to human society at enmity with God (*it-2* 1210 ¶1)

Although many may fear that mankind will become extinct, God will not cause this or permit it to happen

GOD IS AWARE OF MANKIND'S DISTRESS (5 min.)

Jehovah God is completely aware of mankind's worsening situation (Ps 11:4; Pr 15:3)

He will hold accountable those responsible (Ps 37:37, 38)

Why has God allowed world problems to reach such extremes?

In the garden of Eden, Satan called into question God's way of ruling (*w07* 9/15 4-7)

God has permitted world conditions to reach a point where no one can rightly claim that man has successfully ruled himself independent of God (Jer 10:23)

Present world conditions provide abundant evidence that Satan lied

Those who long for relief wonder how and when God intends to act (Hab 1:2, 3)

HOW WILL GOD BRING THIS WORLD TO RUIN? (8 min.)

Jehovah God *will* bring to ruin this present wicked system

When God acts, "people of godly devotion" will be preserved but wicked human society will be eliminated, just as in the global Deluge of Noah's day (2Pe 2:5, 9)

The Bible contains vivid prophecies describing the coming of "the day of Jehovah" [**Read Joel 2:11, 31**]

The expression "day of Jehovah" refers to an awe-inspiring time of destructive judgment in which Jehovah will act against those who oppose him and will rescue those who love him (*it-1* 594-595)

Such 'days' have occurred in the past (*w07* 12/15 11 ¶2)

Those past judgments prove that Jehovah was aware of conditions on earth and took action

In the future, Jehovah will use a heavenly army led by Christ Jesus to destroy this wicked world (Re 19:11-16; *w14* 2/15 6-7 ¶15-16)

Is this coming "day of Jehovah" near?

WHEN WILL GOD BRING THIS WORLD TO RUIN? (8 min.)

The apostle Peter applied the prophecy found at Joel 2:28-32 to "the last days" of his time [**Read Acts 2:16-21**]

The prophecy had an initial fulfillment near the end of the first-century Jewish system

At that time, holy spirit empowered Jesus' disciples miraculously to speak in various tongues (Ac 2:4-11)

Joel's prophecy is now having a greater fulfillment during the last days of this system of things (*w98* 5/1 14-15 ¶4-8)

That Jehovah will gather "all the nations" indicates the worldwide scope of his coming day (Joe 3:2)

In fulfillment of Joel 2:28, 29, God's spirit has empowered a worldwide proclamation of Jehovah's day

Jesus' prophecy concerning "the conclusion of the system of things" also has two fulfillments (Mt 24:3)

A portion of Jesus' prophecy was initially fulfilled on the Jewish system of things, and it has a global fulfillment on the entire wicked system of things of today

Jesus' words found at Matthew 24:29 are similar to those of Joel 2:31, linking Jesus' prophecy with the coming of Jehovah's day

The sign that Jesus gave, which includes the global preaching work, is now visible earth wide, indicating that Jehovah's day is very near (Mt 24:7-14)

YOU CAN SURVIVE THE END OF THIS DOOMED WORLD (5 min.)

Despite the Bible's clear warning and the global preaching by Jehovah's Witnesses, "Jehovah's day" will take many by surprise (2Pe 3:10)

Now is the time to prepare for Jehovah's day by calling on his name [**Read Joel 2:32**] (*jd* 187 ¶19)

Continue to meet Jehovah's requirements for survival (Zep 2:2, 3; *w01* 2/15 17-19 ¶3-8)

Those who do so are assured of God's protection when he brings this wicked world to ruin (Joe 3:16)

(Public talk by circuit overseer, starting September 2016. Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on)