

RESCUE FROM WORLD DISTRESS

Note to the speaker:

With warmth and conviction, explain the Bible's promise of the coming deliverance. Express your confidence in this promise, and show what we must do in order to be delivered when Jehovah destroys the present wicked system

THE BIBLE'S PROMISE OF DELIVERANCE (3 min.)

Jehovah cleansed the earth of ungodly people in Noah's day, and his Word assures us that soon he will destroy all those who are ruining the earth today (2Pe 2:5; 3:5-7; Re 11:18)

He fulfilled his covenant, or promise, to deliver Noah and his family through the Flood (Ge 6:18; 7:1; *it-1* 521 par. 3; 522 par. 2)

We can have confidence in the Bible's promise that Jehovah will rescue all who take refuge in him (Ps 37:39, 40)

A PATTERN OF THINGS TO COME (5 min.)

Jehovah's judgment against Sodom and Gomorrah 'set a pattern of things to come' [**Read 2 Peter 2:6-8**]

Because of his compassion, Jehovah sent angelic messengers to urge Lot and his family to leave that place right away; He "rescued righteous Lot" while reducing the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes (Ge 19:12-17, 24, 25)

The apostle Peter viewed Lot's deliverance as an undeniable confirmation of Jehovah's ability and desire to rescue people of godly devotion [**Read 2 Peter 2:9**]

Modern-day messengers compassionately and zealously take the good news of deliverance to people everywhere, urging them to seek Jehovah before the end comes (Zep 2:2, 3; Mt 24:14)

SURVIVING THE COMING "TIME OF DISTRESS" (12 min.)

Jehovah inspired the prophet Daniel to write about "a time of distress" that would lead to the destruction of the present wicked system [**Read Daniel 12:1**]

The approaching time of distress is also referred to as the "great tribulation" (Mt 24:21)

Its outbreak will be shocking to many, yet the Scriptures foretell that "the wild beast," which symbolizes the United Nations, will attack "Babylon the Great," the world empire of false religion (Re 17:5, 16-18; *w13* 7/15 4-5 pars. 6-7)

This marks the beginning of the "great tribulation" and the time of world distress

It is "during that time" of world distress, according to Daniel 12:1, that "escape" will be provided for those serving Jehovah

Deliverance will depend on obedience to instructions from God's Word and organization (*w12* 4/15 26 par. 16)

The foretold "time of distress" will culminate in the war of Armageddon (Re 16:14, 16)

At that time, according to Daniel 12:1, Michael, who is Jesus Christ in heavenly power, will "stand up" to take action in Jehovah's name as an invincible Warrior-King (2Th 1:6-8; *w10* 4/1 19; *dp* 288-289 pars. 4-6)

He will rid the earth of wickedness and open the way for "a great crowd" to be brought safely through Armageddon into the new world (Re 7:9, 10, 14)

PREPARE NOW FOR RESCUE (8 min.)

In Daniel's prophecy, the names of the escaped ones are described as being "written down in the book" (Da 12:1; *dp* 289 par. 7)

"The book" represents Jehovah's remembrance of those who do his will; he will never forget or abandon his loyal ones (Ps 37:28)

Because Jehovah's day is coming "as a thief," we need to stay awake spiritually [**Read 2 Peter 3:10-13**]
(*w10* 7/15 3-7)

We can do this by performing deeds of godly devotion (*w10* 7/15 11 pars. 17-19)

Studying the Bible and sharing what we have learned with others (Mt 28:19, 20)

Showing by our conduct that we love God and are determined to remain attached to him (1Ch 29:17)

Praying to him from the heart (Php 4:6, 7)

Not forsaking Christian meetings (Heb 10:24, 25)

DELIVERANCE INTO A WORLD FREE FROM DISTRESS (2 min.)

Soon Jehovah's rescued ones will cry out joyfully and lead lives free of disturbance (Isa 14:7)

All the problems that now plague the human family will be gone forever (Isa 65:17; Re 21:4, 5)

May all of us continue to study God's Word, obey it, and keep in expectation of Jehovah and his promised deliverance into a new world free from distress (Isa 30:18)

(Public talk by circuit overseer, starting March 2014. Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on)