

THE SCENE OF THIS WORLD IS CHANGING

THIS PAST CENTURY HAS GIVEN BIRTH TO NUMEROUS CHANGES (3 min.)

Forward steps in technology, communication, health care, education, transportation, and human rights have benefited many

On the other hand, soaring crime rates, plummeting moral values, mounting drug abuse, skyrocketing divorce rates, spiraling inflation, and escalating terrorism have affected millions

Truly, the scene of this world is changing [**Read 1 Corinthians 7:31**]

The apostle Paul's expression drew on the image of a scene on the stage of a theater; like actors on a stage, political, religious, and cultural personalities make their appearance, play their roles, and then leave the stage to others (*w04 2/1 18-19 par. 3*)

THE PACE OF CHANGE IS ACCELERATING (4 min.)

In past centuries, changes usually took place over long periods of time

Educators and historians acknowledge that since 1914, the pace of world developments has accelerated dramatically (*w04 2/1 20 par. 9; w01 6/1 5-6*)

The villain behind the scenes of these rapidly deteriorating conditions is none other than Satan the Devil (Re 12:7-9, 12)

THE WORLD ENTERED ITS TIME OF THE END IN 1914 (5 min.)

Worsening world conditions signal not only the fast-approaching end but also the invisible presence of Jesus Christ (Mt 24:3)

Jesus foretold the calamities that would form a sign of the last days and of his presence (Lu 21:10, 11; Re 6:2-8; *w14 2/1 5-7*)

EVENTS LEADING UP TO JEHOVAH'S AWE-INSPIRING DAY (15 min.)

Current world conditions viewed in the light of Bible prophecy indicate that further significant changes will shortly take place

The day of reckoning will come suddenly, unexpectedly, because most people center their lives on personal pursuits and do not really believe that God will intervene in human affairs (Mt 24:37-39; 2Pe 3:3, 4)

Leading up to Jehovah's day, the nations will issue a significant declaration of "Peace and security!" [**Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3**] (*w13 11/15 12-13 pars. 9-12; w12 2/1 9*)

The events that follow this declaration will be anything but peaceful

Jehovah's day will begin when the political elements of this world move against false religion to remove it completely from the world scene (Re 17:1, 3, 5, 15-17)

That attack on false religion also marks the beginning of the "great tribulation" (Mt 24:21; *w14 5/15 26-27 par. 2; w12 9/15 3-5 pars. 3-7*)

Thereafter, the foretold "sudden destruction" of the political elements along with all who oppose God's Kingdom will take place (Da 2:44; Re 19:11-15)

What might be called the final act is now being played out on the world stage

Jehovah will ring down the curtain on disobedient ones

The day of Jehovah will culminate in the war of Armageddon (Re 16:14, 16)

This wicked system, along with its spirit and ungodly characteristics, will be completely obliterated (2Pe 3:10)

Thereafter, Satan himself will be thrown into the abyss (Re 20:1-3)

The earth will be cleansed, and wonderful changes will take place for all who love Jehovah God

FEAR NOT, AND HAVE FAITH IN JEHOVAH'S PROMISES (3 min.)

We encourage all who long for a righteous new world to examine God's promises and put faith in his inspired Word

Soon the scene of this earth will change for good

Jehovah will end all wars (Ps 46:9)

Crime, violence, and terrorism will be done away with (Ps 37:10, 11)

All disease and sickness will belong to the past (Isa 33:24)

All who serve Jehovah God faithfully will live forever (1Jo 2:17)

Be among those who exercise faith in Jehovah's promises by engaging now in "holy acts of conduct" and performing "deeds of godly devotion" (2Pe 3:11-13)

(Public talk by circuit overseer, starting March 2015. Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on)