

RUINING THE EARTH BRINGS DIVINE RETRIBUTION

Note to the speaker:

Present the Bible-based hope for a restored paradise in a reasonable way. Explain that the loving Creator purposes for man to enjoy life in Paradise and why this has not come about yet. Encourage audience to learn more about God's purpose

GARDEN OF EDEN, GOD'S GRACIOUS GIFT TO ORIGINAL MAN (6 min.)

Beautiful earth prepared in six creative days, designed with man in mind (Ps 115:16; Isa 45:18)

Climaxed by creation of perfect human son (Ge 2:7)

Man, made in God's "image" and "likeness," has capacity for spirituality, unlike animal creation (Ge 1:26)

This "spiritual need" must be fulfilled for happiness (Mt 5:3)

After forming man, God put him in the garden of Eden

Garden of Eden also known as "paradise of pleasure," "garden of Jehovah" (Ge 2:8, ftn.; Isa 51:3)

[Describe: Well watered; river running through, parting to become four large rivers. Water clean, pure, no pollution. All trees "desirable to one's sight and good for food." Endless varieties of flowers, shrubs, vegetation. Beautiful birds, charming animals (not killers), peacefully sharing God-given home (Ge 2:9, 10; *it-1* 676-7)]

Earth to be his eternal home (Ec 1:4)

Creator lovingly provided man with perfect wife as "complement" (Ge 2:18, 22)

First human pair made caretakers of Paradise home, with rich blessings for supreme happiness (Ge 2:15)

As human family increased, blessing would extend throughout entire earth (Ge 1:26-28)

PARADISE HOME LOST, RUINATION OF EARTH BEGINS (12 min.)

Paradise sanctuary lost by rebellion

Eating of forbidden fruit constituted willful rebellion (Ge 2:16, 17)

Human pair evicted from Paradise home, never to return; way back guarded by cherubs (Ge 3:22-24)

Prevented from returning and eating from "tree of life"

"Tree of life" a symbol of Creator's unchanged guarantee of life (*it-2* 247)

However, God never changed his mind respecting his purpose for earth, with man as caretaker (Isa 55:11)

Choosing independence from Creator resulted in imperfection, violence, death (Ro 5:12; *dg* 14-15)

Violence began with death of God-fearing Abel (Ge 4:8-11)

By time of Noah (c. 2490 B.C.E.), earth filled with violence of evil men and "mighty" offspring of depraved angels (Ge 6:4, 5)

Nephilim used their size to bully, contributing to violence

Creator, Jehovah, regretted having made man and felt hurt in heart because of polluted conditions on earth (Ge 6:6)

Flood—divine retribution—brought end to those ruining earth (Ge 6:11-13; *it-1* 609; *w92* 1/15 3)

Shortly thereafter, ruination and pollution began anew with Nimrod, "a mighty hunter in opposition to Jehovah" (Ge 10:8, 9)

Polluted earth with bloodshed, both animal and human (*it-2* 503)

Known as a man of aggression, he built Tower of Babel and extended his evil domain to territory of Assyria

District of the Jordan, although "like the garden of Jehovah," became polluted by tenants (Ge 13:10; 18:20)

Again, divine retribution was expressed, bringing destruction to Sodom and Gomorrah (Ge 19:13; Jude 7)

Canaanites later suffered divine retribution for same reason (Le 18:24, 25)

Unfaithful Israel violated God's Sabbath laws and brought ruin to the land

Land polluted by corrupt morals, idolatry, bloodshed, and so forth

Divine retribution came in 607 B.C.E. in the form of destruction and 70-year captivity (2Ch 36:14-21)

UNGRATEFUL TENANTS TODAY HAVE RUINED JEHOVAH'S GIFT (10 min.)

Man has ruined, rather than subdued, earth

After 6,000 years of ignoring God's laws, man threatens to make earth uninhabitable instead of joyful Paradise God purposed

Earth now needs protection from man!

By thoughtlessness and selfishness, man has tampered with delicate balance of nature and brought on catastrophic floods, droughts, pollution, untold misery and death

Some examples are toxic waste dumps, acid rain, overgrazing, deforestation, excessive use of pesticides, radioactive wastes, wars (*g93* 1/22 3-7; *g90* 5/8 3-7)

Air, water, soil, all polluted (*g92* 7/22 24; *g93* 1/8 9-10)

Birds, animals, insects, man, endangered (g92 11/22 28)

“We have probed the earth, excavated it, burned it, ripped things from it, buried things in it, chopped down its forests, leveled its hills, muddied its waters, and dirtied its air. That does not fit my definition of a good tenant. If we were here on a month-to-month basis, we would have been evicted long ago” (Rose Bird, former chief justice of California Supreme Court)

Violent crime, immorality, drugs, bringing earth to brink of calamity

As with ancient Israel, man and nations stand guilty before God for moral and spiritual as well as physical pollution of earth (Isa 24:5, 6)

HOW DIVINE RETRIBUTION WILL SAVE THE EARTH FROM RUINATION (7 min.)

God has promised the end of all wicked men (Ps 37:10; 2Th 1:6-9)

We do not burn down a house to rid it of pests, rodents, termites; so no need to destroy planet to rid earth of bad tenants

Past examples show what to expect in very near future (2Pe 2:4-9)

Jehovah will soon bring to ruin those ruining the earth (Re 11:18; g93 1/22 9-11)

Some may scoff, but fulfillment sure (2Pe 3:3-7)

Ungodly men will not survive “war of the great day of God” (Re 16:13, 14, 16)

Abysing of Satan and demons will eliminate root cause of pollution and ruination, both spiritual and physical (Re 20:1-3)

MAN'S ETERNAL HOME RESTORED TO A PARADISE (10 min.)

With polluters (visible and invisible) gone, survivors will work in harmony with Creator's universal rules of conduct

Will restore earth to Paradise condition (Ps 37:34; Lu 23:43; w89 8/15 15-20; w94 4/1 6-7)

Kingdom rule will institute a program of building, planting, educating (Ps 22:26, 27; Re 20:12; re 298-9; w93 2/15 7)

With results of rebellion and independence from God erased, there will be peace between God, man, and animals (Isa 11:6-9; Ps 37:11; 46:9)

God's perfect ecosystem will undergo restoration

Earth will then yield its abundance

All creation will praise Jehovah throughout eternity (Ps 37:29; 150:6)

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read)