

THE EARTH WILL REMAIN FOREVER

Note to the speaker:

Help audience to appreciate both God's gift of the earth and the unchangeableness of his purpose to have a perfect human family dwell on it forever. Emphasize the nearness of that reality, showing that many now living can share in transforming the earth into a permanent Paradise home, to Jehovah's praise

THE EARTH—GOD'S BEAUTIFUL GIFT TO MANKIND (5 min.)

God created the earth and pronounced it "very good" (Ge 1:1, 31)

God gave the earth to mankind as a permanent home (Ps 115:16)

The earth is perfectly and specifically designed for human habitation (Isa 45:18; *g95* 4/22 28; *ce* 130-1)

Scientists have been moved to praise the astonishing design of this gift, and astronauts have described this one-of-a-kind gift as a "jewel in space" (*g95* 11/22 8-10; *ce* 129)

HOW DO WE KNOW THAT THE EARTH IS TO BE OUR ETERNAL HOME? (7 min.)

The earth stands "even to time indefinite," that is, forever (Ec 1:4)

It is to be a flawless, eternal home, capable of sustaining life of humans, animals, and other living things

Designed to last forever, with complex cycles and mechanisms upon which life depends (*ce* 140-1)

God's 'covenant of day and night' provides indirect proof that our earth will remain forever (Jer 33:20, 25, 26; Ge 1:14-19)

His original purpose for Adam and Eve was never abandoned (Ge 1:27, 28; Isa 55:11; *rs* 116; *it-1* 667-8)

IS THE EARTH DAMAGED BEYOND REPAIR? WILL IT BE BURNED UP? (14 min.)

International alarm has been sounded over environmental abuses worldwide (*g97* 1/8 3-4; *w91* 4/1 6-7)

Pollution and other consequences of selfishness are threatening the earth's ability to sustain life (*g95* 10/8 31; *g93* 10/22 11; *g93* 11/8 28)

Population explosion and increased demand for consumer goods have exacerbated problems (*g88* 5/8 5-6)

The environmental damage that has resulted from man's mismanagement of the earth is not beyond repair

Earth's ecosystems have enormous powers of recovery (*w98* 6/15 5)

Jehovah designed the earth with the ability to clean and repair itself (*g90* 5/8 10-11)

Abuse of the earth reveals a deeper spiritual crisis—a selfish disregard by humans for their own progeny and for the Creator's purpose (De 32:5; Ec 7:29; *g93* 1/22 9; *g88* 5/8 7-8)

God will "bring to ruin those ruining the earth" (Re 11:18)

Never will the magnificently designed earth be destroyed, burned up, or made uninhabitable (Ps 93:1; Isa 66:1; Mt 5:35)

That would be unreasonable and would contradict God's stated purpose (Ps 37:29; Jer 27:5)

Jehovah has a quarrel, not with the earth, but with its despoilers, who are soon to be destroyed (Ps 37:9; *g93* 1/22 10-11)

Such Bible expressions as heaven and earth being "reserved unto fire," and the earth "shall be burned up" are often misunderstood as indicating that God will destroy the earth (2Pe 3:7, 10, *KJ*; *g97* 1/8 27; *rs* 113-6)

These expressions are figurative, or symbolic, pointing to the destruction of ungodly human society on earth, as took place during Flood of Noah's day (Ge 6:5-7; 2Pe 3:5-7)

God will save the earth from ruin by destroying this wicked system and abyssing Satan (Re 16:14, 16; 20:1, 2; *rs* 437)

Happily, there will be righteous survivors, who will form the nucleus of "a new earth" (2Pe 3:13; Pr 2:21, 22)

THE RESTORATION OF A PARADISE EARTH IS CERTAIN (12 min.)

God has the power to bring about the needed reversal of conditions, and he will do so shortly (Ro 16:20; Re 21:1-3)

Jehovah has no need to change his original purpose, unlike frail and imperfect humans, whose lives are affected by "time and unforeseen occurrence" (Ec 9:11; Isa 14:24; Mal 3:6)

Though his purpose was interrupted temporarily, it will have certain success (*w98* 6/15 8)

God will first deal with Satan the Devil, the chief desecrater and polluter of the earth (Re 20:1-3; *g88* 5/8 9)

With Satan's influence gone, a glorious new era will begin for the survivors, who will have the joyful task of transforming the earth into a beautiful paradise home (*dg* 22-3)

Wickedness and suffering will be things of the past (Ps 145:16; Re 21:5; *kl* 6-11; *pr* 29-30)

Untold millions—Armageddon survivors, resurrected ones, children yet to be born—will inherit the cleansed earth (Mt 5:5; Joh 5:28, 29; *g87* 7/22 9)

Because of Jesus' ransom, all will have the thrilling prospect of never dying (Joh 11:25, 26; *kl* 68-9)

Christ, with his 144,000 corulers in heaven, will see to it that the prayer for God's will to 'take place upon earth' will be realized (Mt 6:10)

Without any question, the earth will remain forever, and it will be inhabited by obedient humans, as divinely mandated by Jehovah (*w84* 2/15 4)

GOD'S EARTHLY FOOTSTOOL WILL REMAIN FOREVER—SO CAN YOU (7 min.)

Jehovah is the infallible Purposer; whatever he mandates will 'prove to be and will have certain success' (Isa 55:10, 11)

The defection of Adam and Eve could not thwart God's purpose to have a populated, paradisaic earth; he would accomplish it without them (Ge 1:28; Nu 23:19)

During Christ's approaching Millennial Reign, Edenic conditions will cover the entire globe, which will be peopled by obedient and happy descendants of the first human pair

For all eternity, the earth will bear a distinction that no other planet will ever enjoy (*ws* 184 par. 10)

God is now gathering peace-loving people worldwide into an international brotherhood, the foundation of a new earthly society, which is to remain forever (*w98* 4/15 19; *dg* 28-31)

Jehovah's Witnesses are happy to help you to learn and to do what is necessary to become part of it (Joh 17:3; 1Jo 2:15-17)

Our beautiful planet Earth is here to stay

It will remain forever—and so can you!

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