

HUMAN RULE-WEIGHED IN THE BALANCE

Note to the speaker:

Help audience appreciate the importance of trusting in God's Kingdom. Focus attention on the blessings that will come to those who give their allegiance to God's Kingdom now

HUMAN GOVERNMENTS FOUND WANTING (6 min.)

Scales, or balances, have been used throughout the ages to measure things (*it-2* 874)

Value of gold and silver determined using scales (Ge 23:15, 16; Isa 46:6)

Scales are used figuratively to represent accurate judgment (Job 31:6)

When products do not measure up to appropriate standards, the consequences can be serious

Man has experimented with just about every conceivable form of government and political philosophy (g85 4/8 3-4)

How have these governments fared?

Monarchies have been found wanting (g90 8/22 16, 19)

Aristocracies have been found deficient (g90 9/8 24, 26-7)

Democracy has many weaknesses (g90 9/22 11, 13-14)

No ruling system has produced a government that satisfies every citizen or meets man's basic needs for living a satisfying and productive life

Some honest men have worked hard to improve things and at times have produced some positive results

Ultimately, they have been unsuccessful because man was not made to rule himself (Jer 10:23)

NATIONS HAVE BEEN CALLED TO JUDGMENT BY JEHOVAH (12 min.)

Jehovah God has called governments for a reckoning

Nations are compared to a film of dust on scales (Isa 40:12, 15)

How have they fared on his scales of justice?

In Daniel's day, Jehovah weighed the dominant political power of the time and found it lacking (Read Daniel 5: 24-28) (*dp* 108-9)

Overnight one rulership was replaced by another (Read Daniel 5:30, 31)

Babylonian World Power was succeeded by Medo-Persia, followed by Greece, Rome, and Anglo-American alliance, spanning a history of some 2,500 years

Some political powers of Bible prophecy are represented by four huge beasts in Daniel chapter 7 (Read Daniel 7:2, 3, 17)

After introducing the four beasts, the prophet Daniel describes a courtroom scene that takes place in heaven (Read Daniel 7:9, 10)

The Ancient of Days, Jehovah, sits to judge these rulerships (Ps 90:2; w9510/15 19-20; w88 6/15 3-4; *dp* 144; *it-1* 105)

He finds them meriting annihilation (Read Daniel 7:11, 12) (*dp* 145)

They are allowed to continue for a time, only to be finally destroyed at Armageddon (Re 16:14, 16)

GOD'S KINGDOM WILL RULE THE WORLD (20 min.)

The universal Court gave rulership of the earth to the Messianic Kingdom, which was established in heaven in 1914 (Read Daniel 7:13, 14) (dp 145-6)

Since 1914, God's Kingdom and man-made governments have ruled simultaneously

Even now we can weigh them and make a wise choice

Man's rule has failed to protect subjects from such evils as immorality, use of tobacco, and misuse of drugs; Christ's rule does (1Co 6:9-11; 2Co 7:1)

Human governments have not succeeded in educating subjects to live happy and productive lives; Christ's rule teaches us how to live now and forever (Isa 48:17; 54:13)

Rule by mortal man cannot bring lasting benefits; the Messianic Kingdom will (Ps 146:3, 4; Da 7:14)

In the near future, God's Kingdom will destroy all earthly governments, bringing its own righteous rule to the entire earth (Da 2:44)

Consider what that will mean for humanity (w88 6/15 6-7; dg 22-8)

Crime and violence will end (Ps 37:9, 10)

Racial and national divisions, and the wars they prompt, will disappear (Isa 2:4)

Housing shortages, homelessness, and unemployment will be things of the past (Isa 65:21, 22)

There will be plenty of food for everyone (Ps 72:16)

Perfect health will be restored (Job 33:25; Isa 35:5, 6; Re 21:3, 4)

All the damage done to the human family will be undone (Isa 65:17, 18)

The entire globe will be transformed into a paradise (Lu 23:43)

No. 154-E 3/02

Printed in U.S.A.

HOW WE MUST ACT NOW TO LIVE UNDER GOD'S KINGDOM (7 min.)

What must we do now to qualify for life under God's Kingdom?

Study the Bible, and submit to the requirements of God's Kingdom (2Co 5:14, 15)

Cultivate godly qualities (Mic 6:8; Zep 2:3; 1Pe 4:8)

Associate with true worshipers (Isa 2:2, 3; Heb 10:23-25)

Zealously share in proclaiming the good news of God's Kingdom (Mt 24:14)

Jesus Christ lives forever, and his government "will stand to times indefinite" (Da 2:44)

By living now according to its laws and principles, we can look forward to everlasting life on a paradise earth

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

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TO BE COVERED IN 45 MINUTES

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