

DELIVERANCE FROM A WORLD OF DARKNESS

Note to the speaker:

Help audience recognize that in spite of material and scientific advances, this world lies in deep spiritual darkness. Impress on them the need to take in knowledge of the light of truth and to act on it. Build up appreciation for all of God's spiritual provisions

MANY FEEL THAT MODERN WORLD IS ENLIGHTENED (2 min.)

Great progress made during last century

Improved living standards, transportation, communications, and health care (g93 6/8 19)

Increased sensitivity to human rights

Extensive research continues in fields of medicine, agriculture, science, technology, and so forth (w99 10/15 4-5; g89 7/22 10-12)

FACTS SHOW THAT WORLD IS IN DARKNESS (8 min.)

While progress made in material and scientific ways, there is moral and spiritual decline (g99 12/8 7-12)

Conduct once considered antisocial and wicked is now accepted as normal (2Ti 3:1-5)

Sexual immorality rampant

Loyalty to mate, genuine love for family, and respect for life deteriorating

Pleasure-seeking has become a priority

Spiritual darkness engulfs world (w93 3/1 8-11)

Foretold to come upon the vast majority of earth's inhabitants (Isa 60:2a)

So-called enlightened lands have produced atheism, evolution, and many other confusing and conflicting ideas and theories

Many are closed-minded about God; they equate God and the Bible with unreasonable teachings of religion in general

Some blindly embrace superstitions and fables and are fleshly, not spiritual, in their thinking and actions (Col 2:8)

Hate has given birth to religious fanaticism, terrorism, and violence worldwide

Conditions today not only resemble those spoken of by Paul at Ephesians 4:17-19 but far surpass them (Read and make application to today's world)

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WORLD DARKNESS? (5 min.)

Bible refers to "world rulers" as the ones responsible (Eph 6:12)

These are, not human governments, but invisible spirit forces that influence men and nations (2Co 11:14; Re 12:9)

Chief force for evil is Satan, who blinds minds through false teachings and hate (Ge 3:4, 5; 2Co 4:4; 1Jo 2:11; 3:10-12)

He is responsible for condition described at Isaiah 60:2a (Read)

His objective is to turn everyone away from Jehovah and the truth (Job, chaps. 1-2)

Demonic methods effective with majority (1Jo 5:19)

Issue is really about Jehovah's sovereignty (Ex 9:16)

WHEN WILL WORLDWIDE DARKNESS END? (5 min.)

God's Word guarantees that this world of darkness will end

Jehovah has denounced works of darkness practiced by nations (1Jo 1:5)

His wrath to be expressed against all of those who continue to walk in darkness (Eph 5:6)

Zephaniah gives graphic description of how Jehovah will end wickedness completely (Read and briefly explain Zephaniah 1:14-18)

Issue of sovereignty to be settled at the end of this system of things, following events foretold in Scriptures (Mt 24:7, 8, 12-14, 21; Re 18:21; 19:19-21; 20:1, 2)

YOU CAN LEAVE WORLD'S DARKNESS AND COME INTO GOD'S LIGHT (20 min.)

Same prophecy that foretold darkness also foretold the light that makes deliverance possible (Read Isaiah 60:1, 2)

Woman represents mother of 144,000 spirit-anointed ones (Ga 4:26)

Arose to shed light from 1919 onward (ip-2 303-6)

Flashes of light have been provided for the righteous (Ps 97:11)

Remnant of 144,000 still with us

Anointed remnant constitutes "slave" assigned to dispense spiritual food (Mt 24:45-47)

Deliverance depends on recognizing God's channel for spiritual enlightenment

As we preach, we reflect the light of truth (Mt 5:14-16; Ro 10:14b; Php 2:15)

Good news of the Kingdom provides opportunity for people to reveal whether they prefer light or darkness

Individuals must "come to the light" (Read John 3:19-21)

Favorable response results in receiving further knowledge through return visits

When Bible study conducted, light has opportunity to penetrate

Isaiah 60:22 now undergoing fulfillment (Read)

Jehovah makes timely provision for enlightenment through congregation arrangements

(Briefly discuss benefits of weekly meetings, and show why all of them are necessary for spiritual growth)

Paul tied matter of assembling together to the approaching day of Jehovah (Heb 10:25; 2Pe 3:10)

Deliverance requires our "walking in the light" (1Jo 1:6, 7)

Must put away "works that belong to the darkness" (Eph 5:8-11)

Cannot practice such and expect Jehovah's favor (1Co 6:9, 10)

Deliverance also dependent on proclaiming God's name and purpose (1Ti 4:16)

God's organization equipped to help you meet all requirements

WHAT DELIVERANCE FROM DARKNESS WILL MEAN FOR YOU (5 min.)

This dark world will soon experience great tribulation

Jehovah promises to protect his people (Ps 91:14, 15; Pr 18:10)

Kingdom rule will mean no more darkness, violence, despoiling, and breakdown (Isa 60:18-20)

Righteousness will prevail throughout entire earth (Ps 37:11, 29; Isa 60:21)

Our hope is to survive this world of darkness

Even if one dies now and is faithful, assured of a resurrection

Then all will live in the light of God's Kingdom forever (Joh 17:3)

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