

YOU CAN FEEL SAFE IN THIS TROUBLED WORLD!

Note to the speaker:

Be convincing without being dogmatic in your delivery. Be enthusiastic, while manifesting warmth and feeling

WHY PEOPLE DO NOT FEEL SAFE (3 min.)

Many have legitimate reasons to fear for their personal and family safety (g 11/06 3) [Where possible, cite local and current examples for following]

Hurricane leaves a path of death and destruction

Earthquake reduces a city to rubble

Pestilence claims lives of victims

Predatory criminals lurk in neighborhoods

Terrorist attack changes a quiet day into a nightmare of violence

Nuclear weapons, developed by increasing number of nations, threaten security

Warfare and civil disorders terrify millions

Is there any way we can truly feel safe?

SENSE OF SAFETY VANISHED IN 1914 (15 min.)

Bible Students of the late 1800's knew that the year 1914 was significant (jv 60, 134-5)

Secular historians acknowledge that 1914 was a turning point in human history (w05 10/1 5; w04 2/1 20; w92 - 10/1 17; rs 239-40) -

Jesus foretold events that would rob humans of a sense of security and safety in our day [Read Matthew 24:3, 6-8] (w05 10/1 4-6)

“You are going to hear of wars and reports of wars . . . For nation will rise against nation”

In his parallel account, Luke quotes Jesus as saying that we would “hear of wars and disorders” (Lu 21:9) Wars, revolutions, civil disorders, and acts of terrorism have become increasingly common since 1914 As a result, millions of lives have been lost (w06 9/15 4; w00 10/15 16; w97 4/1 9)

Some nations where people once felt relatively secure now face daily threat of terrorism

People all over the earth no longer feel safe

In 1914 the first *world* war was fought

Not merely a conflict between two armies but war between entire nations, affecting civilian populations (rs 235)

‘Peace was taken away from the earth’ in 1914 (Re 6:4; re 93-4)

Wars and ethnic fighting continue to rage

In many regions, both the noise of battle nearby and the reports of battles far away are being heard (w70 43)

In giving the sign of his invisible presence, Jesus made a remarkable statement: “See that you are not terrified” (Mt 24:6)

Such calmness could be achieved only by those who understand the import of Jesus’ words

[Read Matthew 24:7]

“*There will be food shortages*”

Today, many cannot feed their families properly for lack of money or land or because of the aftereffects of war (w06 9/15 4; w04 1/1 4; g00 5/8 4-5)

Hundreds of millions suffer from chronic hunger

“*Earthquakes in one place after another*”

Devastating earthquakes since 1914 have, on average, been 20 times more frequent per year than during the 2,000 years prior to 1914 (rs 236)

Since 1914, earthquakes strong enough to destroy buildings and split open the ground have averaged 18 per year (w05 10/1 6)

Earthquakes have claimed hundreds of thousands of lives in the last 100 years (w06 9/15 4-5)

Survivors suffer nightmares and long for place of safety (w95 10/15 4) [Read

Luke 21:11]

“*In one place after another pestilences*”

At the end of World War I, the Spanish influenza alone killed up to 50 million people (w05 10/1 5)

In spite of medical advances, all mankind still live in fear of the spread of deadly infectious diseases (w06 9/15 5)

Jesus said that this period of time would be marked by “fearful sights” and that in the future “men [would] become faint out of fear and expectation of the things coming upon the inhabited earth” (Lu 21:11, 26; w95 10/15 5-8)

How, then, is it possible to live in this troubled world and *not* be terrified?

WHERE REAL SAFETY CAN BE FOUND (22 min.)

Jehovah God assures us that he will protect those worshipping him in “spirit and truth” (Joh 4:24; Ps 46:1)

God’s name is a strong tower [Read Proverbs 18:10]

When one truly knows Jehovah and trusts him, he has a sound basis for feeling safe and secure (Pr 3:5, 6; c/ 68, 70)

When facing anxiety over the instability of this system of things, apply Philippians 4:6, 7 [Read]

Peace of God is a deep inner calm that frees us from anxiety and alarm and helps us to feel safe (w94 11/15 22)

Having this peace we can “dwell in security,” knowing that Jehovah will not let anything happen that will cause us permanent harm (Ps 4:8)

When giving the aforementioned features of the sign of his presence, Jesus compared the pre-Flood world of Noah’s day to our day [Read Matthew 24:37-39]

The Flood set a pattern for our day [Read 2 Peter 2:5, 6, 9]

By means of the Flood, the violence-filled world of that time was destroyed (2Pe 3:5-7)

Why were Noah and his family spared the destruction of that time?

Because “Noah walked with the true God”; he and his family obeyed Jehovah and found real safety in the ark (Ge 6:9)

Similarly, we must take advantage of Jehovah’s provision for a safe haven at this time—the symbolic ark (w97 3/1 12)

It represents the spiritual paradise that Jehovah has been building up among his worshippers since 1919—the condition of a restored peaceful relationship with God (w86 1/1 14-15)

[Consider some features of the spiritual paradise (w01 3/1 8-11)]

Prospective human survivors are already entering this “ark” so that they may get safely through the “great tribulation” that will culminate in Armageddon (Mt 24:21)

Armageddon will destroy the Devil’s unsafe, wicked system

Survivors will be safely ushered into a cleansed earth—a physical, gardenlike place of true peace and security (Re 7:9, 10, 14-17; 21:4)

Soon Jesus will arrive “in his glory” to judge mankind [Read Matthew 25:31-33] (Joh 5:22, 27; w95 10/15 22-3) The “sheep,” the “righteous ones,” will be granted “everlasting life” in God’s new world (Mt 25:46; 2Pe 3:13)

We will be considered sheeplike if, over a period of time, we have actively supported Christ’s brothers—his anointed followers—who have been given the commission “of bearing witness to Jesus” (Re 12:17; Mt 25:34-40; w95 10/15 25-8)

SEEK REAL SAFETY NOW (5 min.)

Do not be misled! Satan offers false promises of security [Read 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 3]

Claims that human governments will finally make their citizens truly safe are lies (Ps 146:3) The only source of true safety lies with Jehovah

By heeding his Word, the Bible, we can find genuine safety

While we must face the stresses of this imperfect world and may even face death, Jehovah will not forsake us (Ps 94:14)

Faithful ones will be kept safe in God’s memory, and he will resurrect them in his due time (Joh 5:28, 29; c/ 74)

Today, the world situation terrifies mankind

But you can feel safe in this troubled world!

Respond now to the good news of God’s Kingdom before it is too late! (Mt 24:14)

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