

MAKE JEHOVAH YOUR STRONGHOLD

Note to the speaker:

Explain that making Jehovah our stronghold involves all aspects of life. By submitting to God's guidance and trusting in him fully now, we can enjoy his favor and hope to be preserved through the great tribulation

FUTURE SURVIVAL DEPENDS ON MAKING JEHOVAH YOUR STRONGHOLD (6 min.)

The Bible foretells a coming time of "great tribulation" (Mt 24:21)

The great tribulation will begin with the destruction of false religion (*w15* 7/15 15 ¶4)

A coalition of nations will attempt to annihilate God's people (*w15* 5/15 29-30)

All humans opposed to Jehovah God will be destroyed (Re 19:11-21)

Who will survive those fear-inspiring events?

Only those who have the right stronghold

A stronghold is a fortified place, one of security or survival

During the great tribulation, the majority will seek the protection of human organizations (Re 6:15-17; *w15* 7/15 16 ¶7)

Only those "seeking refuge" in Jehovah will survive [**Read Nahum 1:6, 7**]

If we want Jehovah to be our stronghold in the future, we must make him our stronghold now

WORK HARD TO GAIN JEHOVAH'S APPROVAL (14 min.)

To gain Jehovah's approval, we must willingly submit to his guidance in all aspects of life (Pr 3:5, 6)

We should not rely on our own thinking or adopt the prevailing attitudes of this world (Pr 14:12)

Uphold God's moral laws and principles

To enjoy God's favor, we must be morally upright [**Read Proverbs 10:29**]

Those who make Jehovah their stronghold shun "sexual immorality" and "hurtful desire" (Col 3:5)

Single Christians do not view dating as mere recreation (*yp2* 14-20)

If they date, they are careful to avoid unclean conduct (1Th 4:4-7; *w15* 1/15 32 ¶16)

Married Christians refuse to flirt with or to cultivate an inappropriate relationship with someone not their mate

Do not put material pursuits ahead of your relationship with God

Some view material wealth as their refuge, but such thinking is faulty [**Read Proverbs 18:11**]

Jesus said that it is impossible to "slave for God and for Riches" (Mt 6:24)

Those trusting in Jehovah honor their business agreements and do not resort to dishonesty (Pr 11:1; Heb 13:18)

Make the doing of God's will your priority

Do not be so fully absorbed in family life, pleasures, or recreation that you neglect to do God's will

Recognize the urgency of the times in which we live (1Co 7:29-31; *w15* 10/15 20 ¶7-8)

RELY ON JEHOVAH DURING TIMES OF DIFFICULTY (7 min.)

Jehovah can especially prove to be our stronghold when we experience trials [**Read Psalm 37:39, 40**]

If you are coping with *serious health problems*, look to Jehovah for wisdom and support

Paul and Timothy served God loyally, yet they experienced sickness and physical problems (Ga 4:12-15; 1Ti 5:23)

While not miraculously curing Paul or Timothy, God helped them to carry on in his service (Php 4:13)

If you are troubled by *conflict with a fellow believer*, humbly seek Jehovah's guidance

Respond to the situation in a way that promotes peace (Col 3:13; *lv* 33-34 ¶16-18)

If you face *opposition or persecution*, trust in God to strengthen and deliver you

Be confident that Jehovah hears your cries for help (Ps 18:2, 6)

Opposers are no match for Jehovah's ability to rescue those trusting in him (Ps 18:16-19)

JEHOVAH WILL PROVE LOYAL TO THOSE MAKING HIM THEIR STRONGHOLD (3 min.)

Jehovah is able to satisfy our daily needs now, and he assures us of the prospect of everlasting life

By means of the resurrection, God will prove loyal to those who are faithful until death (Ac 24:15, 16)

If you really make Jehovah your stronghold now, you will be able to rejoice forever (Ps 5:11, 12)

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Ministry School* book, pages 52-55, 166-169]