

IS IT TIME FOR GOD TO RULE THE WORLD?

Note to the speaker:

God took steps to rule the world in 1914. Today he rules through the established Messianic Kingdom. This will mean blessings to all who recognize and support his rule

MANY WISH GOD WOULD TAKE OVER RIGHT NOW (3 min.)

All of us can sense that the world certainly needs better rulership

While not being political revolutionaries or anarchists, many people see that most governments are grossly lacking (Read Proverbs 29:2) (*g80 3/22 3*)

Seeming hopelessness leads some to apathy and frustration or to futile efforts at improvement

Some have become cynical or atheistic, feeling that if there was a loving all-powerful God, he would have provided better rulership (*g89 4/8 17*)

Others firmly believe that God exists and has power to rule the earth perfectly but is permitting present situation

Is that how you feel? Could you explain clearly when and how God is going to rule the world?

GOD'S ABILITY SHOULD BUILD UP OUR HOPE AND CONFIDENCE (10 min.)

Bible reveals much about Jehovah's ways and abilities

He has right to be the Ruler of the universe because he is the Creator and Source of life (Ps 36:9; Re 1:8)

He has been and is the Great Provider for mankind (Ps 145:15, 16; *w90 9/15 18*)

Jehovah sent his Son as the means of relieving mankind of sin; God thus displayed love for humans

God is fully righteous and incorruptible, so his rulership will never degenerate (Ps 89:14)

His ability to foreknow future and see that his will is accomplished gives us reason for confidence (*go 17-36*)

God challenges the nations and their gods as to prophetic ability (Read Isaiah 43:9, 10) (*go 19-22*)

Nations have no witnesses to their various gods' abilities to predict the future correctly

What Jehovah had done and would yet do with the Israelites made them witnesses to his ability to foreknow the future (Read Isaiah 43:12, 13)

As he foretold through Moses, Jehovah delivered the Israelites from Egyptian bondage (Ex 6:1, 6-8; 12:37-42; *w88 2/1 11*)

Later, God foretold he would deliver his people threatened by Assyria, and he did so (Isa 14:24-27; *go 31-2; w88 2/1 12*)

God also foretold that he would repurchase the Israelites from exile in Babylon (Read Isaiah 43:14, 15) (*go 24-6; w88 2/1 12-13*)

Released Israelites would be witnesses to Jehovah's foretelling and accomplishing his will

All those occasions reflect that God knows the end from the beginning (Read Isaiah 46:9, 10)

It is logical, then, to look to him to learn when it is time for him to rule the world

Bible contains description of his taking rulership through his Christ (Read Revelation 11:15, 17) (*go 34-6*)

Do the Scriptures contain any prophetic information about the timing of that event?

This relates to basic question: Is it *now* time for God to rule the world?

DANIEL CHAPTER 4—A PROPHETIC ILLUSTRATION (14 min.)

For over a century, Jehovah's modern-day Witnesses have pointed to Daniel 4 as indicating the time for God to begin special rule

Do you know what Daniel 4 is about and what reason there is for connecting it with God's rulership?

Jehovah sent prophetic dream to Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylonian World Power (*dp 82-6*)

Dream was of an immense tree that was cut down (Read Daniel 4:9-17)

Daniel's inspired interpretation showed that rulership was involved in this prophetic dream (*dp 87-90*)

Concerning its direct application, Daniel said the tree then stood for rulership vested in powerful king of Babylon (Read Daniel 4:20-27)

What Jehovah predicted through Daniel did befall Nebuchadnezzar (*dp 90-4*)

At a word from heaven, powerful Nebuchadnezzar was cut down (Read Daniel 4:31-33)

For "seven times," or years, he ate vegetation in field like a beast; was like cut-down, banded tree

When king's sanity returned, he acknowledged the lesson he had learned about God's power (Read Daniel 4:34, 35, 37)

As if snapping bands on the tree trunk, God restored that king's rulership

Important questions for us: What reason is there to treat the tree dream as prophetic indication of when God would assume world rulership? If there is such reason, to what time does it point, and how are we involved?

A PROPHECY OF WORLD RULERSHIP FROM HEAVEN IN OUR TIME (*it-1* 132-5; *rs* 95-7) (13 min.)

The book of Daniel focuses attention on a time period leading up to the establishment of God's Kingdom

Dream image in chapter 2 begins with Babylonian dynasty and traces successive world powers until the Kingdom was established and through its crushing of earthly kingdoms (gist of Daniel 2:44)

Chapter 7 foretells God's giving "rulership and dignity and kingdom" to the Son of man (Da 7:14)

Why is it logical that the dream of the tree cut down for "seven times" would be a prophecy relating to God's Kingdom? (*it-1* 134 ¶1)

Ezekiel prophesied that the trampling of the kingdom dynasty of Davidic rulers that began in 607 B.C.E. would continue for God's set time (gist of Ezekiel 21:25-27)

Did not last merely 7 years, for after the 70-year captivity, Davidic kings were not restored

It awaited the Messianic Ruler who would reign with heaven's power and backing

The Messiah referred to the period of trampling on Jerusalem as continuing (Read Luke 21:24) (*it-1* 132-3)

The Davidic kingdom at Jerusalem represented God's sovereignty (1Ch 29:23)

When would the Universal Sovereign give rulership and kingdom to one he chose, one like a son of man?

Tree dream regarding divine sovereignty pointed forward to the establishment of God's Kingdom (*dp* 94-6)

How long would it be from when the divine sovereignty expressed through Davidic kingdom was chopped down in 607 B.C.E. until its renewal?

Bands of divine restraint were to be on for seven prophetic times, or years, equal to 2,520 days

Applying the Bible rule of "a day for a year," that would amount to 2,520 years, counting from 607 B.C.E. (Eze 4:6)

This is reasonable, for that period (not just seven literal years) would take it long past the first century, when Jesus gave prophecy of Luke 21:24

The 2,520 years would bring us down to 1914, when God could be expected to reassert sovereignty by a kingdom

History during and since 1914 has confirmed the view that the Kingdom was then set up in heaven (*w86* 11/1 4-7; *rs* 239-40)

At end of the "seven times," Jehovah began to exercise rulership through the Messianic Kingdom (Read Revelation 11:15, 18)

Though he has always been King of universe, God then began a special aspect of rulership

The nations no longer had the right to uninterrupted rule of the earth

Has special meaning for us because of time in which we live

Verse 18 shows that God will enforce his universal rulership by eliminating earth ruiners

What conditions will follow? What can it mean for us?

GOD'S RULING THE WORLD—WHAT WILL IT MEAN? (5 min.)

Rulership from Jehovah through Christ will logically mean blessings (Pr 29:2, 14; *go* 183-91)

Revelation describes the establishment of the Kingdom, destruction of earth ruiners, and conditions to follow
New Jerusalem will turn attention to earth to produce blessings for subjects (Read Revelation 21:1, 2)

Even the Devil and demons will not be there to cause problems

The 144,000 making up New Jerusalem will share in governing with Christ

Blessings will flow to mankind from the throne of God (Read Revelation 21:3, 4; 22:1, 2) (*re* 303, 310-12)

Christ sits on his throne in heaven

There will be ample provisions for eternal life available to all who respect and obey God

We can look forward to a divine curing of all physical and mental effects of imperfection

How thankful we can be that in this generation, Jehovah God has already taken steps to rule the world and that shortly all who now submit to and support his rulership can enjoy such blessings!

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