

WHAT THE NEAR FUTURE HOLDS!

Note to the speaker:

Jehovah's Witnesses know what the near future holds, but you can help the audience to be more conscious of this. Those who will emerge as survivors must prepare themselves *now* to accept the developing situation and to be quick about adapting to theocratic direction

ALL OF US ARE INTERESTED IN THE FUTURE (6 min.)

Are you not concerned about your future? about that of your family?

What should you study at school? Will you marry? Should you buy a home? Should you start your own business? Should you move to another location?

Certain concerns about the future may seem particularly vital

Will inflation destroy your security? How will you pay rent or buy food? Will food supplies run out? (*g80* 1/22 5-15) Will dangers to your health and safety grow? Can the nations prevent outbreak of wars? (*g90* 5/22 28; *g90* 9/8 7)

Many seek answers from news or financial analysts, politicians, scientists; others turn to astrology, ESP

Bible has much to say about future—not guesses, but true knowledge comes from One who knows accurately (*Isa* 42:9; 46:9, 10)

Foretold wars, crime, food shortages for our generation

What will yet come? How will it affect you? Will your future be happy?

GOD'S WORD REVEALS THE NEAR FUTURE (10 min.)

Fulfillment of composite "sign" shows we are in conclusion of system of things (*Mt* 24:3, 7-14)

Bible enables Christians to be specific as to year of Kingdom's birth in heaven in 1914, events to follow (*tp* 70; *g89* 7/8 20)

Nations now being gathered toward destruction at Har-Magedon (*w90* 5/15 3-7)

Righteous are to be preserved; new earth to follow

What will occur between now and the end? Four basic developments:

(1) International situation that seems to justify cry of peace and security; this will be final signal that world destruction is to begin (*1Th* 5:3; *tp* 85; *g88* 4/8 14; *w91* 9/1 5-6)

(2) Aroused by some development, political element will suddenly turn on and destroy Babylon the Great, world empire of false religion, beginning "great tribulation" (*Re* 7:14; 17:16; 18:8, 21; *w89* 4/15 14-15; *re* 256-7, 269)

(3) Seeing Christian servants of Jehovah dwelling in peace, Satan (Gog) will direct a vicious attack against them by means of the nations (*Eze* 38:11, 16; *kj* 361; *sl* 258-9; *w88* 9/15 25-6)

(4) In reaction, Jehovah will bring final part of tribulation, destruction of all remaining earthly opposers in war of great day of God the Almighty, followed by abyssing of Satan and demons (*Eze* 38:18-22; *kj* 366-7; *sl* 262, 265; *w90* 5/15 6; *w88* 9/15 26)

Then God will usher in new world under Christ's thousand-year Kingdom; near future holds that too

THE FUTURE DESCRIBED BY THE BIBLE IS CERTAIN (8 min.)

Abundant evidence proves Kingdom was born in 1914 (*Re* 12:5, 10)

Christ now ruling as King in heaven, as indicated by Bible chronology (*Ps* 110:1, 2; *w84* 4/15 3-4)

The fulfillment of "sign" of Christ's presence proves that near future includes the complete end of this wicked system (*Mt* 24:3; *w78* 1/15 8-10; *g73* 10/8 16-22)

Near future will include the four developments discussed previously

For true Christians, near future includes survival into new world

Prospect of eternal life in Paradise (*Zep* 2:2, 3; *w75* 681-3)

BE READY FOR WHAT THE NEAR FUTURE HOLDS (9 min.)

With increase of problems, easy to let them command our full attention

Finances, troubles in school, obtaining food, social injustices, political corruption, and so forth, might divert one, obscure vision of future

Can even occur with Christian long in the truth

Instead, increasing problems should make our faith stronger and our hope firm (*Jas* 1:2, 3)

Hope will enable us to resist pressures and distractions

Firm belief that we are now in invisible "presence" of Jesus (*Jas* 5:8; *w75* 9-11)

Must keep awake, await future "coming" that will eliminate all wickedness on earth (*Mt* 24:36-42; *ka* 332-5; *su* 50, 53)

Since we know the near future, should not be shocked by developments

Temporary cry of peace and security will not deceive us (*w76* 441-2; *tp* 85; *w87* 5/15 17-19)

World will be deceived but not dedicated worshippers of Jehovah

There may be vast destruction, bloodshed, as false religion ends
Likely be upset of food supply, violence between greedy persons
May be extreme economic hardship for God's servants
Having been alerted, we will wait on Jehovah (Hab 3:17, 18; *w73* 758-9; *g80* 8/22 5-8)

YOU CAN ENJOY AN ETERNAL FUTURE (12 min.)

Great tribulation will rid earth of those who will not serve God (2Th 1:6-9)

Those approved by God will, in near future, enter into a cleansed earth, which will become progressively better

Much work to do in clearing away remains of destruction, preparing places to live, cultivating food (*Eze* 39:9-13; *w89* 8/15 14)

Health will improve

Will not immediately be perfect; nevertheless, a time of increasing delight (*Re* 20:5; *w91* 12/15 12; *re* 290; *rs* 338-9)

We display Christianity now; this helps us cope with problems; same in new system of things

Cultivation of right qualities now will speed post-Armageddon adjustment (*lp* 171-4)

Blessings in past give a pattern for things to come (*lp* 143-56)

Will include health, food, freedom, and satisfying work (*tp* 96-104)

No question of what near future holds; God's promises are sure (*Re* 21:5; *re* 303-4)

What it holds for you depends on what you do now (*tp* 91-3)

Continue to acquire accurate knowledge

Progress toward dedicating yourself to Jehovah, being baptized

If you are already baptized, be whole-souled in promoting true worship

Let your knowledge of near future structure your life now (*w80* 6/1 8-10)

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