

A CLEANSED EARTH—WILL YOU LIVE TO SEE IT?

Note to the speaker:

Show that those who desire to enjoy the cleansed earth must strive to be physically, mentally, and morally clean. Help all to examine their attitude and actions. Do these reflect God's clean standards in every aspect of life? Encourage all to live in a way that shows they believe that a cleansed earth will soon be here

CLEANNES HAS APPEAL—TO US AND TO GOD (4 min.)

Pleasure to see well-kept homes in lovely settings

Especially so if we usually see dirtiness, pollution

Have you noticed trend toward more uncleanness, pollution? (*g*90 5/8 4-9)

When most in community are unclean because of poor training, frustration, or hopelessness, this discourages the efforts of others to be clean

Do not beautiful, clean settings also stimulate us to be clean?

Can be sure that Creator, Jehovah God, appreciates clean earth

Made earth with clean, fresh, unspoiled natural beauty

Instituted natural processes designed to keep the earth clean (*g*90 5/8 10-11)

Promised new system of things will be righteous, clean, orderly (2Pe 3:13)

Uncleanness and disorder are contrary to Jehovah's ways and would be source of irritation (Le 19:2)

TO PREPARE FOR CLEANSED EARTH, WORK AT CLEANNESS NOW (14 min.)

Learning from God's ways, Christians need to work at cleanness *now*

Laws given to Israel made them outstanding in physical cleanness, helped protect them from disease (*ce* 204-5; *it*-1 478; *w*89 6/1 16)

Jesus drew on principle of cleanness (Mt 23:25, 26)

May mean much work to overcome past habits, training, surroundings (*g*88 9/22 9-11)

Physical cleanness is of concern to whole family

Entire family, including children, need to work together at cleanness

Includes keeping body and clothes clean (*w*89 6/1 16-17; *g*88 9/22 8-9; *g*71 7/22 25-6)

Parents should start early in teaching children the value and importance of keeping physically clean

In regard to the home, Bible shows that wives especially have responsibility (Tit 2:4, 5)

However, unloving for husband and children to be sloppy, forcing wife to be constantly cleaning up after them (*w*89 6/1 17)

Bible does not require wives to be fanatical about cleaning; need balanced view of its importance

Their success or failure can reflect on Word of God

Automobiles should also be kept neat and clean throughout (*w*89 6/1 18)

Care in these areas is way of showing one's desire to live in cleansed earth

Will be noted by others (home and clothing may not be expensive but will be clean, neat) and is linked to our hope and beliefs (*g*86 12/22 22-3)

We will be developing pattern of cleanness that will fit new world

DEMONSTRATING OUR DESIRE TO LIVE IN A CLEANSED EARTH (16 min.)

Ideal physical conditions alone do not make promised new world

Some people live in beautiful area but are troubled by distrust, fear of crime, loneliness, depression

Lot lived in beautiful location (Ge 13:10)

But moral badness of neighbors in Sodom tormented him (Lu 17:28, 29; 2Pe 2:7, 8)

We are similarly distressed by growing moral badness today

"New earth" will also be morally clean and at peace (2Pe 3:13; *g*84 10/22 9-11)

Bible promises removal of present "heavens" and "earth" (2Pe 3:7, 10; *sl* 297-306; *rs* 113-15)

Governmental "heavens," or systems of rulership, must go

Its "elements" are worldly atmosphere, spirit—definitely unclean (*wt* 175-7)

Do you agree that this current unclean spirit is not in accord with God?

Symbolic "earth," wicked human society, is "discovered"

Jehovah will sear all disguise away as by fire

Will expose the wickedness of ungodly human society, showing it to be worthy of complete destruction (*rs* 114-15)

Being out of harmony with the clean God, it needs to be eliminated

"Works," such as institutions and organizations, often operate at cost to environment, "ruining the earth" (Re 11:18; *go* 181)

Do we show by our keeping separate from the world that we want present system of things to be replaced? (Joh 17:16; *w80* 6/15 5-10)

Are we *morally* and *mentally* clean, or does unclean spirit of world show up in our conduct and thinking?

More is needed than just avoiding immorality, as shown in Law (Illustrate with Leviticus 19:2, 3, 11-18, 29, 33-36; *w89* 6/1 12-13; *w87* 11/1 10-20; *w78* 8/1 30-1)

A gauge of extent to which we want present heavens and earth replaced is whether we still find pleasure (even occasionally) in its uncleanness

Do we have attitude that a little will not hurt? (*w89* 6/1 16)

What about vulgar jokes, suggestive music and dancing, and profanity?

Why let world dictate to us what is enjoyable, desirable, or praiseworthy?

Can others see by our attitude and conduct that we truly believe present heavens and earth are doomed and will soon be replaced?

If we want clean, peaceful new world, what relationships are we cultivating with family and brothers?

We are hanging on to spirit of world if we continue to be critical and jealous, listen to and spread gossip, find fault, and meddle in what is not our concern

Can we truly say we are working at ridding ourselves of world's spirit?

To extent that we are changing, we show we want to live in cleansed earth (Jas 4:1-4, 11)

WORK TO REMAIN APPROVED AND READY FOR CLEANSED EARTH (11 min.)

If we really want cleansed earth, must show that *now*, not later (Read 2 Peter 3:11)

Positive deeds of godly devotion will keep us close to our clean God

Daily life should show that we are devoted to God and are following his ways (Ac 9:36; 1Ti 5:4)

Remain zealous in urging others to learn about cleansed earth

Be ready for Jehovah's day; could come at any time (2Pe 3:12, 17, 18; *sl* 309)

Easy to be distracted by things that a person may think will only temporarily slow him down or deflect him from giving his all

Can ask self: If Jehovah's day were to come very soon, would I be satisfied with what I have been doing?

Our purpose should be to worship Jehovah, be found approved and at peace with him (2Pe 3:14)

Helpful for all of us to sit down and review our situation

Are there areas where improvement in physical cleanness should be made?

Do we in any way reflect the unclean spirit of world?

Are we truly applying ourselves in deeds of godly devotion?

What adjustments are needed?

No question that cleansed earth is coming

Strive to be there by maintaining God's high standard of cleanness

Even if others doubt, we know it will come (2Pe 3:4, 13)

Build up your faith through increased knowledge, prayer, and Christian activities

Make it your resolve to live in a way that shows you are sure a cleansed earth will soon be here

(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)