

GAINING COMFORT IN ALL OUR TRIBULATIONS

Note to the speaker:

Deliver the discourse in a consoling manner with warmth and feeling. Help depressed ones to see that Jehovah cares for them, drawing attention to his means for providing comfort in these "critical times hard to deal with"

THE WHOLE CREATION IS IN GREAT NEED OF COMFORT (4 min.)

All mankind are in much need of comfort (Ro 8:22)

Jehovah's people are also in need of comfort

We live in "critical times hard to deal with" (2Ti 3:1)

Must also contend with our own imperfect flesh (Ro 7:21-24)

Where can we find needed comfort?

WHEN FACED WITH TRIALS, TURN TO 'THE GOD OF COMFORT' (12 min.)

Jehovah, 'the God of comfort,' can help us endure under all conditions and circumstances (2Co 1:3, 4)

His Word written to provide comfort and hope (Ro 15:4)

Son sent as comforter with message of life

Assured mourning ones they would be comforted (Mt 5:4)

Would refresh those "loaded down" (Mt 11:28-30)

Paul found comfort in Jehovah in spite of much hardship throughout his ministry (2Co 4:7, 16-18)

Listed 23 types of trials or persecutions in 2 Corinthians 11:23-27 (*w82 12/1 12-22*)

Paul and Silas could sing praises to Jehovah in spite of cruel persecution for preaching (Ac 16:19-25)

Their garments were torn off, and they were beaten and put in stocks (*vss. 22-24*)

They prayed, sang praises to God for all to hear (*vs. 25*)

Jehovah miraculously freed them (*vs. 26*)

In turn, comforted jailer and family with good news (*vss. 27-34*)

We too can look to Jehovah for comfort and help in all times of need (Ps 55:22; *w92 4/15 26-30; w92 5/1 26-9; w92 5/15 28-31* or other current source)

"I might be isolated from my fellowmen, but no one could isolate me from God. What spiritual strength and comfort prayer brought to me! . . . There are no guns, no walls, no prison bars that can keep the spirit of God from reaching his people! . . . With God's almighty power he is able to make even the most frail of us come off victorious in the face of persecution!" (Missionary in solitary confinement in China) (*w72 9/1 524-5*)

HOW WE CAN RECEIVE COMFORT FROM JEHOVAH (10 min.)

We must accept and apply the help Jehovah extends to us through his spirit, Word, and organization (Heb 13:5b, 6)

Regular study and meeting participation fortify one against Satan's attacks (Ps 1:1-3; Heb 10:24, 25)

Acquaint self with Jehovah's dealings (1Co 10:6, 11)

Meditation anchors truths deep in mind and heart (Php 4:8)

When isolated or faced with sudden trial, draw on principles already learned (Ps 105:5)

Prayers of Jehovah's servants instantaneously heard (2Ch 7:1; Ne 2:4-6; Lu 3:21, 22; Ac 9:11, 12; 10:30, 31)

Regular prayers important (Mt 26:41)

Especially essential in times of tribulation (Ps 77:2)

Keep mental vision of Jehovah before you (Ac 2:25, 26)

As we strive to endure faithfully, he helps and comforts us, as he has his people in ancient and modern times

IMITATE JEHOVAH BY COMFORTING OTHERS AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY (12 min.)

Jehovah comforts and strengthens us that we may encourage and comfort others (2Co 1:4)

Speak consolingly to those who are depressed, lonely, despondent (1Th 5:14; *w90 3/15 26-8*)

Jehovah will not forget their faithful service (Heb 6:9-11)

Lovingly encourage them to take positive view of situations and things they cannot change (1Co 10:13; Heb 12:1-3)

Help them realize 'God of comfort' cares (Ps 41:3; 1Pe 5:7)

Even those passing through death's door have prospect of resurrection (Job 14:13-15; *w86 10/1 12-13*)

Bring resurrection hope to those who have lost loved ones in death (Jas 1:27, *ftn.*; Joh 11:23-25)

Knowledge of condition of dead brings comfort (Joh 11:11, 14; Ec 9:5)

Comfort those with broken homes, rebellious children (Ps 27:10; Isa 49:15)

God's Word covers all conditions and circumstances (2Ti 3:16, 17)

DO YOU APPRECIATE JEHOVAH'S PROVISIONS FOR COMFORTING US? (7 min.)

Those who respect Jehovah's provisions enjoy strong faith and unwavering hope (1Pe 5:7-10)

Receive comfort even though "laid low" (2Co 7:6; 2Th 2:16, 17)

However, some lose appreciation for Jehovah's ways, go back into world

Perhaps they are stumbled, feel hurt, or have grown weary and "drift away" (Heb 2:1; Ro 14:13)

May feel unworthy of God's goodness because of bad conscience

Others may feel unworthy because of previous bad way of life

Can find comfort in illustration of the prodigal son (Lu 15:11-24)

May feel regret and turn to doing God's will (Mt 21:28-32)

Our desire should be to help willing ones return to God while there is yet time (Ga 6:1)

Will be too late when "great tribulation" begins (2Co 6:1, 2)

Be happy to study with willing ones

Comfort them with deeper understanding of truth (Heb 5:12-14)

Teach them to apply God's Word in their lives

Let us help all draw near to Jehovah not just for present comfort but also for salvation (1Ch 28:9)

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