

OVERCOMING FEAR OF THE FUTURE

Note to the speaker:

The purpose of this talk is to show that if we are doing God's will, we have no need to be fearful about the future. Contrast the bleak future for those who are wicked with the blessings God promises for his faithful people. Instill confidence

MANKIND HAS GOOD REASON TO BE FEARFUL OF COMING CALAMITIES (6 min.)

Almost 2,000 years ago, Jesus foretold the coming of startling events (Read Luke 21:25, 26)

These would occur after the great tribulation had started and would result in anguish of nations, men's hearts failing them for fear of what is coming (Mt 24:29; w94 2/15 20)

This fear will be shared by men of all stations, from Nobel prize winners to man on street

Even now, as we come near the end of this system of things, there is much anxiety over current events and conditions (g93 1/8 4-10, 12)

"Many people have lost their faith in the future, because in virtually every facet of our civilization we are beginning to act as if our future is now so much in doubt that it makes more sense to focus exclusively on our current needs and short-term problems" (Al Gore, in his book *Earth in the Balance—Ecology and the Human Spirit*)

Concerning the destruction of the environment, environmental consultant Norman Myers stated: "No generation in the past has faced the prospect of mass extinction within its lifetime. No generation in the future will ever face a similar challenge: if this present generation fails to get to grips with the task, the damage will have been done and there will be no 'second try'" (*State of the World 1988*)

Terrorism, violence, crime, drugs, immorality, disasters, and diseases mark time of end; like pangs of distress upon pregnant woman (w93 3/1 4-6; w94 7/15 3-4)

Time has come for God "to bring to ruin those ruining the earth" (Re 11:18)

WICKED NEED TO FEAR COMING DAY OF JEHOVAH'S ANGER (15 min.)

Entire wicked world of Satan is marked for destruction (w94 3/1 15-23)

All nations will drink of Jehovah's anger and act like crazed men (Read Jeremiah 25:15, 16)

His judgments likened to 'foaming cup,' a deadly potion (Ps 75:7, 8)

Since 1919, Jehovah's class (anointed remnant) has been calling the attention of the nations to this "cup"

By "expressions inspired by demons," all nations are now being gathered to 'war of great day of God Almighty' (Re 16:13, 14, 16)

Jehovah will send Jesus Christ among them with "sword" of execution at Armageddon (Re 19:11, 15)

Jehovah's "great tempest" will sweep whole earth and put to death all opposers (Read Jeremiah 25:31-33)

Christendom and rest of false religion will be destroyed first in the "great tribulation" (Mt 24:21; Re 18:21)

Governmental rulers, or "shepherds," will howl during "great tribulation" (Read Jeremiah 25:34-38)

As in a chain reaction, the religious leaders and then the political elements are engulfed by "tempest"

The "pasturage" of the rulers, the system of things, gets despoiled

Kings of earth and their armies will fight against Jehovah's Warrior King but will be destroyed by being cast into "the fiery lake that burns with sulphur" (Re 17:12-14; 19:19-21)

Coming day of Jehovah was pictured by extermination of "world of that time" in Deluge, with exception of Noah and family (2Pe 3:6, 7)

Opposers called upon to "kiss the son," Jesus Christ, in order to make peace (Ps 2:9-12; w79 1/15 6-7)

Majority will stubbornly refuse and be broken by the iron scepter of the enthroned Lord Jesus

FACING THE FUTURE WITHOUT FEAR (18 min.)

Those heeding Jehovah's warning need not fear the future

God's anger will not be directed against them (Zep 2:3)

As in times past, God is fully capable of delivering his people (Ex 6:6-8; 15:1-13, 19; 2Pe 2:9)

Those who do God's will have the joyful prospect of survival into the blessings of God's Kingdom

Opposers of God's righteous rule will go off into everlasting cutting-off (Pr 2:21, 22)

Jehovah's government of peace will replace evil world of Satan (Isa 9:6, 7)

Kingdom will accomplish what no man-made government could ever hope to achieve

Its benefits will be everlasting and perfect because it will educate all teachable ones in God's ways (Isa 2:2-4)

Instead of trusting in nuclear or high-tech weapons to bring peace, Jehovah's people are trusting in the mighty Prince of Peace

Rather than ruin the earth, he will provide a paradise

Men will "build houses and have occupancy" and "plant vineyards and eat their fruitage" instead of having their works plundered by enemies (Isa 65:21, 22; 62:8, 9)

Fear of invasion by enemy nations will not exist because Jehovah will 'make wars cease to the extremity of the earth' (Ps 46:9)

He will also destroy all their implements of war

Today, fear is being replaced by love and joy as Jehovah gathers the meek together out of all the nations (Re 7:9, 10)

These even now compose a worldwide brotherhood without national or racial animosities (Joh 13:34, 35; 1Pe 1:22)

(Use statements from news sources, such as those found in the *Index* under "Jehovah's Witnesses, Statements by Others")

OVERCOME FEAR—ABOUND IN GOOD CHEER AND HOPE (6 min.)

Entire earth will soon be ruled by the glorious Prince of Peace

He is worthy of our trust; brings everlasting remedies for all sorrows (Read Matthew 12:18-21) (*gt* 33)

All of Satan's violent agents will be removed; no one will need to be in fear of wicked ones again (Pr 2:22)

Put your complete trust in Jehovah and his prophetic Word (Pr 3:5, 6)

Hope of seeing loved ones come back from Sheol as death is swallowed in victory, all tears are wiped away (Isa 25:6-8; *w93* 11/15 6-7)

Find unending life and happiness, when fear will be gone forever (Ps 37:39, 40)

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