

WHY SUBMIT TO GOD'S RULERSHIP NOW

Note to the speaker:

Stress the advantages of submitting to God's rulership and the joy that comes from doing God's will

SUBMISSION TO GOD'S RULERSHIP IS THE ISSUE (4 min.)

It is the greatest issue now facing people of all nations (Ps 83:18; Mic 4:1)

According to God's calendar, time is near for momentous change

His purpose is to manifest his power, make known his name, give attention to affairs of the earth for benefit of righteously disposed people (Isa 55:10, 11; Ro 9:17, 18)

PEOPLE MUST DECIDE WHAT THEY WILL DO AS TO GOD'S RULERSHIP (4 min.)

Psalm 24:1 and 89:11 show earth and those dwelling in it rightly belong to Jehovah; he is the Supreme Ruler (Da 4:17, 35)

According to Psalm 89:35-37, Jehovah swore to establish everlasting throne by David and his "seed"

From 607 B.C.E. onward, he allowed Davidic kingship to lapse, to be interrupted for "appointed times of the nations" (Lu 21:24)

In 1914 "appointed times" ended and kingdom of the world of mankind became "kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ" (Re 11:15)

Jesus Christ then accepted kingship from Jehovah (*w*95 11/1 16 par. 2)

So the time is here for people to know about this and why they must decide for or against God's rulership (Re 14:6, 7)

HUMAN RULERSHIPS ARE IN A CRITICAL STATE (4 min.)

Prominent leaders are warning that time is running out for nations to determine how they will resolve their problems (*tp* 11)

Problems include food shortages, crime, ethnic violence, availability of nuclear weapons, pollution, overpopulation, unemployment, and other economic difficulties (*w*94 8/1 3-5; *g*93 4/8 3-5)

What complicates situation is that human rulerships are temporary

Any change occurring in governments or administrations alters commitments and policies, impeding efforts to follow through consistently

Human rulers are limited in what they are capable of doing

Their good intentions may be halted by death, by whims of people voting them out of office, or by a revolution (Ps 146:3, 4)

WISE TO SUBMIT TO JEHOVAH'S RULERSHIP (10 min.)

Nebuchadnezzar had to submit to God's authority (Da 4)

While Babylon was in its heyday, Nebuchadnezzar bragged of his accomplishments, but suddenly all of that changed (Da 4:29-33)

What was the effect on Nebuchadnezzar? (Read verses 34, 35)

Although he never became a worshiper of Jehovah, he had to accept the indisputable reality of Jehovah's rulership

Can see parallels in our time

For example, Hitler boasted that he would set up an empire that would last 1,000 years, yet it came to an end in about 12 years

Even though some rulerships come into power with popular support, they soon turn out disappointing

Another factor showing wisdom of submitting to Jehovah's rulership is that soon the real ruler of this world will be cast out (Joh 12:31)

In 1914, God's Kingdom came to power (Re 12:10)

Jehovah has given Jesus authority (Da 7:13, 14)

Nations and people are called on to submit to God's rulership (Ps 2:1, 2, 12; Zep 2:3)

Wise to do so now, as only short time remains for other rulerships (Da 2:44)

Soon all who refuse to submit will be destroyed and God's rulership will be the only one existing

HOW TO SUBMIT TO GOD'S RULERSHIP (18 min.)

Must not allow prominence, worldly glory, or material wealth to hold us back from making right choice (Pr 16:18; Joh 19:38; 1Jo 2:15, 16; *w*95 5/1 28-9)

Essential to take in accurate knowledge of the truth (1Ti 2:3, 4; *w*97 4/15 28-31)

Have vital contact with God's organization; follow pattern of early Christians (Ac 2:42; 8:26-38)

Make firm decision to become disciple of Christ; symbolize dedication to God by water baptism (Mt 28:19, 20)

Be determined to do God's will, avoiding permissive, lawless spirit of world (Ro 12:2; 1Pe 4:1, 2)

Regularly share with congregation in declaring the Kingdom good news (Lu 9:60; Ro 10:10)

Demonstrate modesty before God and love for what is right (Mic 6:8)

Avoid spirit of arrogance and pride (*it-2* 681-2)

Appreciate need of living no longer for ourselves (2Co 5:14, 15)

BENEFITS OF SUBMITTING TO GOD'S RULERSHIP (5 min.)

Now: Become part of international brotherhood, finest group of people on earth—loyal friends in whom we can confide and with whom we can unitedly worship Jehovah (Joh 4:23, 24)

Life with true meaning and the joy of representing Jehovah, helping others to learn the truth

Freedom from illnesses due to immorality or excesses by not following Bible's moral standards

Resources formerly wasted on vices now used to benefit others, resulting in happiness (Ac 20:35)

Freedom to approach Jehovah in prayer and a clean conscience because of having forgiveness of sins

Future: Everlasting life in Paradise; no crime, injustice, oppression

Living under flawless rulership of Jesus Christ among caring people (Isa 11:6-9)

Truly we have every reason to submit to God's rulership now

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