

A WORLDWIDE BROTHERHOOD SAVED FROM CALAMITY

Note to the speaker:

Help all to see clearly what the true Christian brotherhood is and the role it plays in helping individuals escape the coming global calamity

IDENTIFYING THE TRUE BROTHERHOOD (10 min.)

Psalm 133:1 is an exclamation, indicating that true brotherhood is rare and notable

More than blood ties are needed to form a true brotherhood

In recent years, bloody conflicts have taken place among people of similar racial origin

Is there a people among whom true brotherhood and love exist?

Yes; Jehovah's Witnesses are a global "association of brothers" (1Pe 2:17; Isa 43:10, 11, 21)

Even outsiders have acknowledged the strong bond that exists among Witnesses (*w*94 4/15 15)

Their unity is not based on kinship or on some political creed

United by their obedience to God's Word, worldwide they all follow the same Bible standards (Isa 54:13)

Unified by Christian love (Col 3:14)

They are 'true companions' who support one another when distress occurs (Pr 17:17; *ju* 310-15)

Their brotherhood is open to people of all races, nationalities, and backgrounds (Ac 10:34, 35)

Outsiders have commented on racial unity observed at conventions (*y*b87 17)

By means of global preaching work, Jehovah's Witnesses invite all honesthearted ones to become part of this worldwide brotherhood (Mt 28:19, 20; Ac 1:8)

How you respond to invitation is no small matter

Brotherhood will soon survive the greatest calamity ever to befall mankind

THE CALAMITY WE MUST ESCAPE! (6 min.)

Life in our time has been marked by calamity (Mt 24:7, 8)

World war, pestilence, and widespread famine, as well as ecological disasters, earthquakes, storms, and other so-called natural disasters have caused untold suffering for millions [Give recent examples of well-known disasters]

The Bible shows that the worst calamity yet lies ahead (Mt 24:21)

Satan's influence is pushing the nations to the great war against God (Re 16:13-16)

Armageddon is the world situation in which earth's rulers will be unitedly gathered in opposition to Jehovah and to his Kingdom by Jesus Christ (*rs* 44)

God will execute judgment against opposers (Jer 25:31-33)

Is there any way to survive this calamity?

SURVIVAL OF A WORLDWIDE BROTHERHOOD FORESHADOWED (10 min.)

The Bible provides historical precedents for survival (Ro 15:4)

In Noah's day, earth became "filled with violence"; God decreed that he would destroy the wicked (Ge 6:5-7, 11, 12)

The conduct, way of life, and courageous obedience of Noah and his family marked them as different from their violent contemporaries (Ge 6:9; Heb 11:7)

Obedied God's command to build an ark, which carried them safely through global Flood

Jesus indicated that parallel situation would occur in our day (Lu 17:26, 27)

Means there will be survivors! (1Pe 3:20, 21)

Jehovah's saving power again demonstrated by the deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt (Ps 106:8-11)

Points to a future deliverance (1Co 10:1, 2, 11)

First-century Christians saved when Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 C.E.

Jesus foretold calamity and that 'some flesh' would be saved (Mt 24:15-22; *w*96 8/15, 15-18)

Destruction of Jerusalem points to future "tribulation such as has not occurred since the world's beginning"

As in first century, there will be survivors

REQUIREMENTS FOR BEING SAVED WITH WORLDWIDE BROTHERHOOD (12 min.)

As in past, those who will survive must take certain action

Must call on the name of Jehovah (Joe 2:32; Ro 10:13)

Must exercise faith in God's Son

Involves more than emotional expressions of belief

Must acknowledge Christ as Ransomer of mankind (Mt 20:28; Ro 5:9, 10)

Must acknowledge Jesus as "Lord," observing all his teachings and recognizing his position as Head of congregation (Ro 10:9; Mt 28:20; Eph 1:22)

Not enough, though, simply to have faith

Those seeking salvation today must become part of modern-day Christian brotherhood

First-century converts became 'joined to' fellow believers (Ac 2:37, 40-42, 47)

Since 'God is not a God of disorder,' Christians make up a visible organization (1Co 14:33)

Congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses today work under the direction of a Governing Body of spirit-anointed elders

The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society and its affiliates are the legal agencies through which the Governing Body provides direction

Becoming associated with Jehovah's organization is thus an important step in gaining salvation

Can begin doing so by attending meetings and studying Bible-based publications produced by organization

In time, honesthearted ones are moved to make a dedication to God and publicly declare it by water baptism (Ro 10:10)

After baptism, one becomes a part of "whole association" of Christians

THE TRUE WORLDWIDE BROTHERHOOD CAN HELP YOU SURVIVE (7 min.)

People of all races and nationalities are now being gathered for survival (Re 7:9, 14)

Constitute a true global brotherhood, accomplishing what no human brotherhood movement could ever hope to do

People of all races and nations are now learning to live together as one family of brothers and sisters

Are you working to be found among them?

Taking a stand with this brotherhood will require courage

Meet opposition and suffer persecution

Have to cope with own fleshly weaknesses

Be assured, though, that with the help of God's spirit, you can maintain integrity, taking a bold stand against Satan (Isa 40:29-31; Zec 4:6; 1Pe 5:8, 9)

Rewards for keeping integrity are great

Enjoy the unity and peace that exist among true Christians

Foretaste of living on the Paradise earth to come (*kl* 184-5 pars. 12-14)

In God's new world, *everyone living* will be part of the true brotherhood (Ps 37:29, 34; Pr 2:21, 22)

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