

TRUST IN JEHOVAH'S SAVING POWER

Note to the speaker:

Help your audience to see that having a personal relationship with Jehovah enables us to cope with problems. Motivate the audience to demonstrate greater trust in Jehovah

ALL HUMANS NEED JEHOVAH'S SAVING POWER (5 min.)

We live in a troubled world (Ro 8:22)

International problems threaten mankind's very existence

War, pollution of the environment, crime, and violence continue

Personal problems and pressures plague people mentally and emotionally

Some suffer the emotional aftereffects of past traumas

Many struggle with health problems, infirmities, old age, financial woes, lack of employment, and economic instability

Loss of joy and peace of mind, even anxiety and depression, result

Such sufferings are common experiences "in the entire association of your brothers in the world" (1Pe 5:9)

Ahead lies a time of trouble of a magnitude never seen before

The rapidly approaching "great tribulation" will test our trust in Jehovah's saving power (Mt 24:21)

JEHOVAH'S SAVING POWER DEMONSTRATED IN THE PAST (15 min.)

During Noah's day the earth became filled with violence (Ge 6:5, 11, 12)

Living in that violent world must have brought great distress to righteous Noah and his family

In time, God brought judgment against that wicked world, wiping it out (Ge 6:13, 17; 7:11, 12)

Noah and his family, however, were preserved (Ge 7:23)

Through righteous Noah, true worship survived the Flood (Ge 8:20; *it-2* 507, 660)

Centuries later, a people known as the Gibeonites also experienced Jehovah's saving power (*it-1* 930-1)

The Israelites had been instructed to exterminate all the Canaanite tribes (De 7:1)

Nevertheless, the Gibeonites had a wholesome fear of Jehovah and sent a delegation to Joshua

By means of a ruse, they made peace with Israel (Jos 9:3-15)

The Gibeonites' faith in Jehovah's saving power became manifest when they were threatened by five Canaanite kings; they appealed to Joshua for help

Using great hailstones and miraculously extending the daylight, Jehovah fought for and saved the Gibeonites (Jos 10:1-14; *it-2* 662)

In the days of Hezekiah and Isaiah, Jehovah delivered his people from Sennacherib and from the taunts and ridicule of Rabshakeh (2Ki 18:17-19:37; Isa, chaps. 36, 37; *it-2* 725-6, 893-5)

Hezekiah trusted in Jehovah and in the power of prayer

Jehovah listened to Hezekiah and assured him through the prophet Isaiah that Jerusalem would be saved

In one night Jehovah's angel put to death 185,000 Assyrians

Sennacherib was later assassinated by his own sons

Rabshakeh's blasphemous taunts against Jehovah came to nothing

The apostle Peter was imprisoned by Herod Agrippa, who intended to have him killed (Ac 12:1-11; *it-1* 1097)

Jehovah's angel freed Peter so that he could continue his ministry (*w90* 6/1 20)

Jehovah assures us that those who call on him in full faith and trust will be saved (Ac 2:21; Ro 10:13)

He has already made provision for our salvation

JESUS CHRIST IS JEHOVAH'S INSTRUMENT FOR SALVATION (10 min.)

Ever since Adam's defection, the human race has suffered the effects of sin and death and has needed Jehovah's saving power (Ro 5:12)

First prophecy in the Bible pointed to Jehovah's means of salvation, a promised "seed" (Ge 3:15)

Just who this "seed" would be and how he would bring deliverance remained a secret for 4,000 years (Ro 16:25, 26; *it-2* 836-7)

Seed proved to be Jesus (Ge 22:18; Gal 3:15, 16)

Jehovah gave sound basis for faith in his Son (Mt 11:2-6)

God's "sacred secret" now to be given the widest proclamation and publication (Col 1:25-28)

The name Jesus means "Jehovah Is Salvation" (Mt 1:21, ftn.)

The shed blood of Jesus Christ provides a ransom for mankind's sins (Mt 20:28; *w91* 2/15 10-14; *it-2* 733-6)

Jehovah's love is magnified in that he provided a ransom at tremendous cost to himself (Joh 3:16; Ro 5:6-8)

To benefit, we must trust in this expression of Jehovah's saving power (Joh 3:36)

As Redeemer, Ransomer, and King of God's Kingdom, Jesus will demonstrate Jehovah's saving power during the great tribulation (Mt 24:29-31)

Jesus' Kingdom rule will eliminate the problems brought on man by Adam's sin (Isa 9:6, 7; Re 21:4)

RECOGNIZING JEHOVAH'S SAVING POWER IN OUR LIVES TODAY (10 min.)

We can have full confidence when praying to "the One abounding in power to save" (Isa 63:1)

Knowledge of God's will should govern the content of our prayers

Statements regarding the asking of "anything" must be understood according to their context (Joh 16:23; 1Jo 5:14; *it-2* 669)

Spiritual concerns should be the main focus of prayers (Mt 9:36-38; Col 1:9; Jas 5:13)

We can also be confident that Jehovah hears our requests for help when we are mentally or emotionally distressed (Ps 34:18, 19; Php 4:7; *w94* 12/15 32)

Requests for forgiveness are appropriate and should be made on the basis of Jesus' ransom (Eph 1:7)

We can pray for power to continue witnessing (Isa 40:29-31; Acts 1:8; 2Co 4:7)

Jehovah does not need to answer in miraculous way; gives his servants strength, enlightenment, and direction (*it-2* 670)

When we experience suffering, we should not view this as punishment from God, as though he has withdrawn his saving power

Jehovah will never forsake his people (Ps 94:14)

He will provide us with wisdom that helps to protect and preserve us (Ec 7:12; Jas 1:2-5)

"Only our lack of faith and trust in [Jehovah] limits what he will do for us," noted a modern-day servant of God (*w94* 3/1 24)

JEHOVAH WILL SHOW HIS SAVING POWER IN THE NEAR FUTURE (5 min.)

Very soon we can expect the great tribulation (Mt 24:21, 22)

Jehovah will preserve "a great crowd" through it (Re 7:9, 14)

It is vital that we recognize the urgency of our day (2Pe 3:11, 12)

Do not allow mundane activities to prevent you from being thoroughly involved in study, meetings, and service (Re 7:15)

Reflecting on accounts of Jehovah's saving power in the past should strengthen our faith in his ability to do the same for us

May all of us live to see Jehovah's saving power, as he declares his name in all the earth (Ex 9:16; *w91* 9/15 17-18)

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