

YOUR FUTURE—HOW CAN IT BE KNOWN?

Note to the speaker:

You can know the future! Bible prophecies give us that information. The future for Jehovah's servants is marvelous. Now is the time to prepare for being a part of that future

WHAT WILL YOUR FUTURE BE? (3 min.)

People are intensely interested in what the future holds

We can often note sensible evidences of interest in what the future holds and how it will affect us

(Briefly give a few examples from your area: attention to long-range weather predictions; newspaper reports forecasting economic conditions, job market, international situation; articles on what life will be like in the future, and so forth)

If we could know what the future holds, it would likely affect how we live now

Would you leave your home unoccupied if you knew burglary was likely on that day?

To benefit from knowledge of the future, a person must be willing to adjust his life accordingly

You need to know: (1) what the future in general will be and (2) what you can and should do about it

But how can anyone be assured of what the general future will be?

THINGS HIDDEN, EVEN THE FUTURE, CAN BE REVEALED (20 min.)

Jehovah God knows the truth about the future (Isa 14:24)

He enlightens those who obey him by supplying information about the future (Isa 42:9)

The exciting example in Daniel chapter 2 has a direct bearing on our day; involves our lives and future

The world situation since the start of World War I was prophetically illustrated some 2,600 years ago

Prophecy of Daniel 2 was given while Babylon was dominant world power (Da 2:1-13)

Even the Chaldeans could not determine content of dream (*it-1* 425 ¶14)

God could reveal hidden information, including interpretation of the dream (Da 2:14-23; *dp* 46-9)

Daniel stressed that God was the one to look to for knowledge of future (Da 2:24-28)

If we are interested in the future, we too must learn what God's will is

Daniel provided details of the dream involving changing world powers (*dp* 50-7)

The dream was of a huge "image" that was to come to a disastrous end (Da 2:29-35)

In interpreting the dream, Daniel identified Nebuchadnezzar as "the head of gold" (Da 2:36-38)

Medo-Persian World Power was next part in the dream image (Da 2:39)

In 539 B.C.E. Daniel's interpretation proved true; it affected people's lives

Daniel's interpretation regarding Greece was also accurate (Da 2:39b)

"First king" (Alexander the Great) was followed by four generals (Da 8:20-22)

Fourth kingdom, ironlike one, was Rome; it had major influence on history, even down to our time (Da 2:40)

True to prophecy, the Roman Empire came after Greece; it was the force that shattered Jewish revolt and crushed Jerusalem in 70 C.E.

Fulfillment concerning this "fourth kingdom" extends beyond the Roman Empire itself; iron legs of the image included another world power that exists today

Britain and its former colonies in North America united in becoming seventh world power

Has been the greatest power so far, but what will happen to it?

Should concern us, since our future is tied up in what occurs

Final aspect of dream is especially interesting, for it shows the outcome of present world developments (Da 2:41-43; *dp* 57-60; *w86* 11/15 6; *w85* 7/1 31)

The two materials depicted suggest different qualities of rulership

Iron stands for oppressive forms of man-rule, or government

The clay represents more pliable rule by men made from the dust; common man has had increased influence in some democratic and socialistic governments

What does the prophetic dream foretell for the future, including our future?

What bearing does this centuries-old dream have on your life?

MARCH OF WORLD POWERS INVOLVES OUR FUTURE (10 min.)

Whereas a person might choose to ignore the past, he cannot hide from the future

If Bible prophecy regarding the past proved true, it is sensible to consider what Bible says about our future

According to Daniel's prophecy, march of world powers will soon come to calamitous end (Da 2:34, 35, 44; *dp* 60-2)

The destructive end of "the image" will come "in the days of those kings"—which kings and when?

"Those kings" would be kings, or political rulers, at the time of the Kingdom's establishment or those who have since come to power in the time of the end of this system of things

At the end of this period, the God of heaven—not any human nation—will bring end to world powers
“The stone” that accomplishes this is the Messianic Kingdom in the hands of Jesus Christ
“Mountain” represents the universal sovereignty of the Creator (Ps 121:1, 2)

Messianic Kingdom, which was established in 1914, came out of Jehovah’s universal sovereignty

With his backing, it has power and authority to crush “the image” of human rulership for all time

We are involved, for the prophetic dream locates this event in our time, when “feet” of clay and iron exist
Just as this prophecy proved altogether reliable in the past as to what then future events would occur, it
will prove equally reliable in our time

Prophecy shows that the future will mean whole earth filled with rulership of Messianic Kingdom (Da 2:35)

Blessings will extend over the entire earth, so it will truly be a world government

But what conditions will prevail for its subjects? What can you look forward to as to your future? Can you
now know?

A FUTURE TO ANTICIPATE AND WITH WHICH TO BE DELIGHTED (12 min.)

All of us would be encouraged if we were assured that the future would be delightful

Let us briefly consider the changed conditions that we have reason to anticipate under God’s Kingdom and
why we can have confidence that such delightful things will occur

Humans will be delighted with conditions under Kingdom rulership

It is reasonable that mankind will return to speaking one language, with unifying effect and blessings this
will bring (*ws* 176)

Unified, perfect laws will make life better (Isa 2:3, 4)

The superiority of law from heaven can be seen in that all mankind will then learn war no more

Abundance of food will bring an end to famines and malnutrition (Ps 72:7, 16; *ws* 175; *tp* 105-6)

Perfect health will be the lot of all, permitting them to enjoy life more (*g87* 5/8 8-9)

Disabilities of body and mind will be done away with, along with hospitals and asylums (Re 21:3-5)

Resurrection will return to life individuals who will have an opportunity to fit into the harmonious order

Jesus gave assurance that such would occur (Joh 11:23-25)

We can be certain of such future blessings because center of this world government will be heaven

Will have superhuman power and thus supernatural ability

Paul testified as to God’s power and ability in Ephesians 3:20, 21 (Read)

Applying in principle what he said, we can have confidence in what God will accomplish

Both Jehovah and Christ have repeatedly shown their interest in benefiting others (Mr 1:40-42; Ac 14:15-17)

Even if a person knows what future holds, the next thing is what he will do in order to experience and enjoy it
Now is the time to exercise faith in God and provisions for the future; involves actively advocating that world
government

Can others easily tell that you are zealous advocate of that Kingdom? Is it a constant concern and thus part
of your daily conversation? Does your life manifest your support?

Every one of us, without exception, should give deep thought to that, for our future is now being determined

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