

WILL YOU BE A SURVIVOR OF THE LAST DAYS?

Note to the speaker:

Convey the urgency of our times. Prove conclusively that we are living in the last days. Motivate audience to take positive action in order to be among the survivors

WE MUST BE CONCERNED ABOUT SURVIVING THE LAST DAYS (2 min.)

Jehovah's Witnesses teach worldwide that we are living in the last days

Are these *really* the last days of this present system of things? Is there proof? What is needed for survival? In the first century, Jesus warned of the imminent destruction of the Jewish system of things

We can learn from those who recognized the last days of that system and survived

JESUS FORETOLD THE END OF THE JEWISH SYSTEM OF THINGS (7 min.)

Jesus warned of events preceding the end of the Jewish system **[Read Matthew 24:1-8]**

He told his disciples to flee when they saw Jerusalem "surrounded by encamped armies" (Lu 21:20-22; *w15* 7/15 14-15 ¶1-3)

History confirms that Jesus' prophecy had a fulfillment in the first century (*w07* 4/1 8-11)

Romans under Cestius Gallus came in 66 C.E. and then withdrew, which gave Jesus' disciples an opportunity to flee (*w12* 4/15 25-26 ¶13-15)

In 70 C.E., the Romans returned and brought the last days to a destructive climax

Those who heard Jesus' prophecy had ample proof of its fulfillment, and faithful disciples took action and kept living

Jesus also foretold that many would lack discernment and would not heed the warning

[Read Luke 19:43, 44]

PROPHECY ABOUT CONCLUSION OF SYSTEM APPLIES TODAY (7 min.)

History proves that much of Matthew 24 had an initial fulfillment from 33 C.E. to 70 C.E. (Mt 24:4-22)

Jesus' prophecy has seen a greater, global fulfillment since the establishment of God's Kingdom in 1914 (*g* 10/12 26-28)

Revelation chapter 6 points forward to the crowning of Jesus at a time of war, food shortage, and plague on earth (*w14* 1/15 28-29 ¶4-7)

Book of Revelation was written a quarter of a century after the end of the Jewish system of things

Agreement between Matthew 24 and Revelation 6 proves that Matthew 24 would also have a *future* fulfillment

Thus, both the Bible and history show that the major fulfillment of Matthew 24 is occurring now

FURTHER PROOF THAT WE ARE LIVING IN "THE LAST DAYS" (6 min.)

Another prophecy about "the last days" is found at 2 Timothy 3:1-7 **[Read verse 1]**

Paul describes actions and attitudes prevalent in the last days **[Discuss 2 Timothy 3:2-5]**

Paul was *not* referring to the last days of the Jewish system of things (*w94* 4/15 10-11 ¶14-17; *it-2* 206 ¶6)

This prophecy applies now (*w14* 1/15 29-30 ¶8-13; *w06* 9/15 5-6)

Bible prophecy thus clearly establishes that we are living in the last days of this system of things

ACTION IS REQUIRED IF WE ARE TO SURVIVE THE LAST DAYS (8 min.)

Despite proof, ridiculers abound, as they must have in Jerusalem just prior to its destruction in 70 C.E. (2Pe 3:3, 4)

It is absolutely essential that we show by our godly conduct and devotion that we realize that we are living deep in the last days of Satan's world **[Read 2 Peter 3:11, 12a]**

Many who learn that destruction is impending need to make changes in their life

Jehovah's Witnesses are happy to assist them by means of a free study of the Bible

For those already serving Jehovah, it is imperative that they keep alert and not be preoccupied with the cares of daily life (*w06* 12/15 18-19 ¶17-18)

Now is the time to take action and remain steadfast so that we may be survivors **[Read 2 Peter 3:14]** (*w10* 7/15 9 ¶10-11)

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Ministry School* book, pages 52-55, 166-169]