

WHAT GOD'S RULERSHIP CAN DO FOR US

Note to the speaker:

It has become obvious that changes are needed. God's rulership will lift man from his present desperate situation. Those who support God's rulership will have a fine reward

PEOPLE DESIRE A CHANGE, BUT WILL THEY CHANGE TO GOD'S WAY? (4 min.)

Many people are unhappy because of injustice, crime, wars, hatred, and sickness

They ask, "Why doesn't God stop these things now?" (*w89 10/15 21-2*)

To stop these things would mean to change systems, institutions, and customs; would this be welcomed?

We see much opposition toward those who seek a change for people's betterment (*g88 5/8 5-8*)

There are constant fights between ecologists and industrial managers, between those wanting to save the environment and those who want "progress"

For real happiness and cooperation, people must be willing to change to do what is right

God's way provides guidance so that humans can exercise free will wisely (*Ro 2:4*)

Jehovah is not waiting for men to ask him to be their Ruler (*Ps 2:1-6; w79 1/15 6*)

He is carrying out a program that will culminate in his rule being undisputed in all the earth

RULERSHIP BY GOD, NOT MAN, IS BEST FOR US (4 min.)

Man was not created to dominate other men (Read *Ecclesiastes 8:9; Jeremiah 10:23*)

Man-rule always leads to oppression; have you not seen that to be true? (*gm 187-8*)

God's wisdom and his knowledge of his creation qualify him to know exactly what mankind needs (*Isa 40:12-14*)

He knows every detail of our bodies and our personalities (Read *Psalms 139:3, 4, 16*)

If He is the best Ruler for mankind, why has God let man exercise rulership?

God is not unconcerned, but he purposes to act at the exact time that will benefit the greatest number of people living now and those who lived in the past (*2Pe 3:9; w80 3/1 4*)

WHY HAS GOD ALLOWED SUFFERING ON EARTH? (8 min.)

The original man, from whom the human race sprang, was a son of God, perfect, willingly acknowledging God's rulership (*rs 371-2; it-2 160 ¶1*)

Adam had perfect moral qualities and a capacity for developing greater knowledge of and love for Jehovah and closer relationship with him (*it-2 604 ¶2, 3*)

God no doubt regularly provided instructions for Adam (*w89 8/1 11-16*)

As Adam and his offspring would work to subdue the earth, he would have to continue to love his Creator and to receive instructions from God

Adam and Eve had all things necessary to enjoy life (*w89 8/1 19-20*)

Out of simple gratitude, they rightly owed loyalty and obedience to God

On the part of perfect humans, as Adam and Eve were, any sin would be a deliberate one—an act of rebellion against God (*it-1 45 ¶7*)

A perfect person who sinned would be unreliable, not trustworthy (*Lu 16:10*)

'The tree of knowledge of good and bad' was representative, or symbolic, of Jehovah's sovereign rulership, and it marked the limit of man's domain, or authority (*Ge 2:17; it-2 1011 ¶1, 2; 1124 ¶1, 2*)

Partaking of the tree would mean that one withdrew from subjection to God

The course Adam took raised the question: Would *anyone* in God's family remain loyal under all pressures and temptations?

Eating of the tree was more than mere disobedience; it was a challenge before the universe as to the rightfulness of God's sovereignty, or rulership (*it-2 1010 ¶6*)

The book of Job describes the challenge, or issue, that Satan raised (*Job 1:9-11; 2:4; it-2 1011 ¶3*)

Job served on God's side of the issue and did not lose out by remaining loyal to God

ADAM, BY SINNING, HURT THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE (7 min.)

Satan first approached Eve to start a rebellion against God (Read *Genesis 3:1-6; 1 Timothy 2:13, 14*) (*w86 8/1 11-12*)

Eve was deceived, believing what the serpent claimed would come true

Adam showed he no longer loved God sufficiently or appreciated what God had given him (*Ge 3:12*)

He lost faith and deliberately rebelled

"In the day" that he sinned, Adam died spiritually; his physical body also began to deteriorate (*Ro 3:23; 5:12, 14*)

All humankind descends from Adam, so all are imperfect, dying sinners; also, all have actually committed sins themselves

God put Adam and Eve out of the garden, but he allowed them to have children

Some of these children have proved faithful to God under test

When the great issue of God's sovereignty is finally settled, never again will wickedness and suffering be allowed to disturb the universe (*ce* 193-6)

How, though, could God help humankind out of their sad, dying state?

GOD COMES TO MANKIND'S RESCUE (8 min.)

Mankind needed help, but God could not merely say, 'I forgive your sins'

He could not simply ignore sin, for that would be unjust

For God to help mankind, a legal problem presented itself—how to forgive sinners (*w89* 3/1 21-2)

Man was helpless, sold under sin (Ps 49:7; Ro 7:14)

God could not negotiate directly with condemned, sinful people

He had to act in justice while he helped the human race by showing mercy (Ro 3:23-26)

Through God's kind and legal arrangement, his Son provided opportunity for mankind to gain life, at the same time settling the issue of the rightfulness of God's rulership (*Lmn* 18-20)

Jesus was born and lived as a perfect human (Read Hebrews 7:26)

Satan never got Jesus to sin in thought, word, or action

Christ's giving his life as a sacrifice provided a basis for faithful men to be declared righteous (*it-1* 604-5)

Jesus has served as the Advocate for God's servants since his resurrection (Read 1 John 2:1, 2)

Jesus becomes "Eternal Father" by means of his ransom sacrifice (Isa 9:6; *ws* 163-6)

He 'gets children' because God accepts his ransom sacrifice as a guilt offering

All who take hold of Jesus' ransom in faith can become his children

CHRIST'S RANSOM OVERCOMES SIN WITH ALL ITS EFFECTS (4 min.)

Through the application of the value of the ransom sacrifice, all who desire to will be able to gain perfection and everlasting life (Joh 3:17-21, 36)

Those who fail to get life will be those who reject Jehovah's rule and its righteousness (Re 20:7-9)

God's name will be sanctified and his sovereignty vindicated, fulfilling the description in Psalm 150 (Give gist)

At the end of the thousand years of Christ's Kingdom rule, he turns the Kingdom back to the Father, together with the rehabilitated human race

Mankind then will be sons of God, like Adam in Eden, and they will be tried in the final test (1Co 15:24; *it-2* 170)

YOU CAN BE CONFIDENT OF A REWARD (10 min.)

Life—everlasting life—is a free gift of God

We cannot earn life by our own works, for our works are not righteous (*su* 98-9)

Life is a reward to those expressing faith in and being obedient to Christ as God's King

Our objective should be to gain the friendship of God

Why are you favored with hearing and understanding these things when millions of others are not?

God looks into the heart and recognizes anyone sincerely seeking him

He draws a person to him when he sees that circumstances are right (Relate Acts 8:25-36)

All of those whom God has looked upon favorably have a purpose in life and must not be negligent (Read 2 Corinthians 6:1, 2)

To neglect the object of our learning the truth would result in loss of the reward

After a person learns the truth and is fully convinced as to God's rulership and purpose and his own place in it, he fulfills one of God's requirements by being baptized in water (*w82* 2/15 28-30)

He ought to make this decision altogether on his own

A person should recognize that at baptism he is only a spiritual babe and should continue to study and make unceasing efforts to reach maturity (1Co 14:20)

It is not selfish to look forward to the reward because Jehovah is appreciative and is the Rewarder of those earnestly seeking him (Col 3:24; Heb 11:6)

We should appreciate the marvelous opportunity of serving God now (Mt 24:14)

We are in position to stand on the side of God's sovereignty and to proclaim the Kingdom despite opposition

Also may have opportunity to serve as part of "the foundation" of the "new earth" (Isa 51:16; 65:17)

A person should not become 'overrighteous' simply because he has accepted God's rulership and has been kindly blessed by God to see His purposes (Ec 7:16; Mt 7:1, 2)

Happy integrity keepers should always try to be helpful to others, looking forward to the joy of living under God's rulership, which will provide everything we need (Php 4:19)

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