

## ARE YOU “MARKED” FOR SURVIVAL?

### *Note to the speaker:*

Strive to deepen the audience's appreciation for the fact that, to be marked for survival, we need to detest this wicked world and its apostate religion. We must also have the Christian personality and be faithfully doing God's will *at the time the great tribulation breaks out*

### **SURVIVAL IS A MATTER OF GREAT CONCERN** (6 min.)

When threatened with disaster, people make real effort to survive (*w81 4/15 30; g75 10/22 31*)

Witnesses have proved that nations are heading for disaster (*g88 4/8 3-16*)

End will definitely come (Hab 2:3; Mt 24:21, 22, 37-39)

Person's conduct and attitude will determine whether he will be destroyed or will survive (Pr 1:31; 2Pe 3:9-14)

Survivors must view matters as God does; what is God's viewpoint?

### **INSTRUCTIVE EXAMPLE FROM DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM, 607 B.C.E.** (18 min.)

Ezekiel's prophecies emphasize the importance of getting God's viewpoint

Those prophecies helped some to survive that destruction of Jerusalem

As is true today, people then were held personally responsible (Eze 7:3)

Most Jews rejected God's viewpoint, decisions (Eze 18:25)

A few Jews proved to be faithful and alert; they took steps for survival

Evaluated conditions and actions in the light of God's viewpoint

Same is necessary for any who expect to survive in our day

By examining what God found detestable in Jerusalem, we are helped to get his viewpoint today

Many attitudes, practices, common today do not have God's approval

Upon evaluation, do we actually have his view?

Ezekiel received vision of detestable things practiced in Jerusalem, and we should learn from this (*w88 9/15 13-14*)

Offenders were Jews supposedly serving Jehovah (*kj 142-6*)

Those people had “symbol of jealousy,” perhaps representing Asherah, Canaanite goddess of fertility (Eze 8:5, 6)

Incited true God to jealousy; he forbade idolatry

Today in Christendom people claim to worship God of the Bible

Include idols, religious symbols, in worship; God's condemnation is the same as in Ezekiel's day

Do we share God's view that these practices are detestable?

Our survival or destruction can hinge on our view

God was and is outraged over worship given to creatures (Eze 8:10-12)

Jews viewed God as being as good as dead

Today many care little about God, yet they are fervent in their devotion to other things

Get enthusiastic about national symbols, sports teams (*kj 147-9; re 194, ftn.*)

Rejecting God as man's Creator, many prefer evolution, Mother Nature, theories (*g61 11/22 5-7*)

How about us? Do we embrace such deceptive views?

Do we have Jehovah's view that the elevating of creatures is something detestable to him?

Self-scrutiny is in order

Apostate Jews worshiped false god Tammuz (Eze 8:14; *kj 150-3; g89 1/22 22*)

Tammuz was a Babylonian deity and lover of the fertility goddess Ishtar

This vision shows how spiritually deadly apostasy is today (*w88 9/15 13-14*)

Churches often give honor and prominence to false gods and goddesses

Worship of Mary (*w89 5/1 20-2; g88 11/8 11-12*)

Worship of Trinity (*rs 405-6; ti 31*)

Worship of saints and relics (*rs 184, 354; w91 11/15 3-4; g73 8/8 26-7*)

Christians are careful to worship the true God exclusively (Ex 20:2, 3; 2Co 6:14-18)

Jews even worshiped the sun (De 4:19; Eze 8:16; *kj 154-8*)

Churches and the clergy fall into similar error even though they do not worship the literal sun

Turn from God and look to modern science, technology, intellectualism, for light

The turn to technology has resulted in pollution, arms race, new morality

Are we enthralled with space accomplishments?

Are we envious of, impressed with, higher education? (*g88 1/22 28*)

Getting and maintaining God's view requires effort

Are you making that effort?

**FOR SURVIVAL A PERSON MUST BECOME ONE OF GOD'S MARKED ONES** (Relate briefly Ezekiel 9:1-11) (*kj* 162-76; *w88* 9/15 14; *su* 94-7) (15 min.)

Literal six men did not do the destructive work on the unmarked ones

The six represent heavenly forces

Destruction in 607 B.C.E. by the Babylonians was with divine approval

Those marked for survival today are ones identified as worshipers of God

Ancient custom was to put literal mark or deity's name on a person's forehead

Symbolic mark indicates that person is a worshiper of Jehovah

Mark is not mere Bible knowledge

Bible scholars and clergy have that; do not serve Jehovah

The mark is evidence that one is dedicated, baptized Witness of God

Has a Christlike personality

Possesses fire-resistant qualities (1Co 3:10-15)

Others observe that the one with the mark is unquestionably a Christian (Eph 4:22-24)

He displays it in treatment of marriage mate, neighbors, schoolmates (*tr* 187-9; *w87* 10/1 4-7)

Has Bible truth made a marked difference in your heart?

Marked one sighs and groans over the bad conditions around us

Not just because of inconvenience but because these bad conditions dishonor Jehovah

Has God's view; actually hates what is bad

All of us have room for improvement in making clear the mark in our lives

**DISPLAY MARK BY HELPING OTHERS TO ACQUIRE HOPE OF SURVIVAL** (5 min.)

Anointed Witnesses have worked to help people earth wide to get God's viewpoint, acquire mark, come in line for survival

God's blessing supports conclusion that he is using them to do marking

All who benefit by getting the mark happily share in spreading God's message

Know that Christian personality is not end in itself

Preaching and teaching Bible is natural outgrowth of such personality

Find joy in helping anointed Christians in marking work (*w88* 9/15 14; *su* 158-9)

**REASON FOR GRATITUDE TO GOD** (1 min.)

Jehovah has assured us that survival is possible; alerted us to need for this mark

We invite your association with Witnesses

Benefit from program of Christian education and activity that helps people to be marked for survival

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