

## DECIDE NOW FOR DIVINE RULERSHIP

### *Note to the speaker:*

Help each person to see why he must decide whether he will support divine rulership and that this is a matter not so much of words as of actions. The way a person acts now in connection with instructions from God shows whether he has decided in favor of divine rulership

### **JEHOVAH UNQUESTIONABLY SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED AS RULER** (5 min.)

Rulership is of worldwide concern

This is evident from the attention devoted to politics in the newspapers and the lengths to which some people go in an effort to influence or replace rulers

Preoccupation with human rulership often distracts people from recognizing Jehovah's rulership over entire universe

Unquestionably, the universe reflects an intelligent Creator with capabilities far beyond ours (Isa 40:12-15, 26; w87 7/15 24; g88 3/8 13; w89 10/15 29)

Since he runs the whole universe, God must also be its Ruler (Ps 103:19)

Even mighty human rulers have been forced to acknowledge God's almightiness (Da 4:34, 35, 37; w88 12/1 12-13)

### **EACH OF US MUST DECIDE WHETHER WE WILL ADVOCATE DIVINE RULERSHIP** (5 min.)

It is easy to give mere verbal acknowledgment of God's rulership, but do we demonstrate the significance of that rulership in our lives?

Nebuchadnezzar was forced to recognize God's rulership, but there is no evidence that he became a true worshiper and guided his personal life and thinking by God's laws and principles

Are we in a similar position?

Many people are attracted by Bible's message of a paradise earth under God's rulership; they may even associate with Jehovah's Witnesses, but more is involved

To show that we have truly decided for divine rulership, we must study God's Word and fill our mind and heart with it, dedicate ourselves to God, get baptized, and then live in accord with what these things mean

Truly advocating divine rulership involves the whole range of our life, how we walk each day (Mic 4:2)

This proves we have decided for divine rulership

We thus advocate such rulership by showing that we want it now, that we want to do things God's way

### **IN YOUR DAILY LIFE AND PREACHING, UPHOLD DIVINE RULERSHIP** (20 min.)

We do not uphold divine rulership by destroying those who ignore or oppose it; God will deal with opposers (2Ch 20:15)

There are definite things we can do now to uphold divine rulership

Develop and hold to personal morality based on God's standards

Divine standards are not secret; we know them

Ask self: 'Do I chafe under these or delight to live them?' (Ps 1:1, 2)

Jehovah is a God of truth; he hates falsehood (Ex 34:6; Pr 6:16-19)

Do we really love truth and speak the truth at all times? (Eph 4:25)

God forbids theft (Ex 20:15)

Do we show we uphold his view? (Eph 4:28)

Acknowledging our accountability to him as Ruler means honest reporting of wages and expenses, returning others' property, and not taking employer's or friend's belongings without permission

It matters not whether humans (parents or police) are watching (Heb 13:18)

Do we truly endorse God's standard of conduct between the sexes?

This rules out unclean conduct bordering on fornication, flirting with another's mate, and so forth (Ga 5:19, 21; yy 152-6)

To act otherwise would be to say, 'God, I reject your rulership!' (Mt 5:28; Heb 13:4)

Direct family life in accord with divine ways

God's way of rule is based on love

Family heads, do your dealings with wife and children reflect God's rulership? (fl 40-53, 102-6)

Wives, do you have deep respect for your husbands as the Scriptures encourage? (Eph 5:33; fl 54-69)

To do otherwise would be a failure to uphold God's way of rulership

Children, do you truly want divine rulership?

God made parents responsible for you; to rebel means you oppose his rulership (Eph 6:2, 3; Col 3:20; fl 161-70)

In your dealings with Christian brothers and others, manifest your decision for divine rulership

God sets the pattern; our love should move us to do good not only to our brothers but to others; do we imitate his way? (Mt 5:44-48; Lu 6:35, 36)

Should we not show concern for our brothers in small ways if we say we are willing to die for them? (Joh 15:12, 13)

Do we show we accept God's way of ruling by being generous and kind to neighbors, the aged, those who are lonely? (*w87* 6/1 3-13; *w88* 7/15 21-3; *w82* 3/15 3-7)

Have you personally overcome any racial or national prejudice, knowing that rising tensions in world require us to work at it constantly? (*w88* 5/15 10-20; *g88* 11/8 20-2)

When we are equally fair and understanding with all persons, we show we agree with God; we want *all* to gain salvation (Ac 10:34, 35)

Preaching work is a key area in which to show we support God's rule

Human rulership is often moved by greed; emphasizes doing what is best for oneself

Truly upholding divine rulership means responding to God's love, gladly putting his work ahead of our own comfort

It involves demonstrating love for our fellowmen, exerting ourselves to help them to gain salvation (Ac 20:20, 24)

Now is the time for preaching and disciple making

We are nearing the finish of old system; no time to slow down (Lu 21:34-36)

If we deeply believe that God's rulership is best for everyone, we will want everyone to hear about it; we will exert ourselves by preaching that God's Kingdom by Christ is now established in the heavens (Re 11:15)

#### **THOSE DECIDING FOR DIVINE RULERSHIP MAY FACE SEVERE TESTS OF LOYALTY** (10 min.)

Choosing to uphold divine rulership puts one in opposition to Satan's rulership

Satan gives power and authority to political governments (Joh 12:31; 1Jo 5:19)

Democracy, Communism, socialism, totalitarianism—all are forms of human rulership with backing from same unholy source

Many governments try to compel all to line up with their rule

Experience of our brothers in Malawi and other countries shows that can occur (*re* 197)

Such actions may increase as nationalism grows stronger (Re 14:9, 10, 12)

As nations strive toward world peace, may pressure you to praise and support rulers or organizations that contribute to international peace

Do not be pressured or deceived into looking to human rulership to produce genuine peace and security (1Th 5:3, 4; *w87* 5/15 17-19; *g88* 4/8 14)

While we remain law-abiding and respectful of rulers, we must maintain loyalty to Ruler of universe (Ac 5:29)

#### **DECIDING FOR DIVINE RULERSHIP WILL BRING ETERNAL BENEFITS** (5 min.)

Peace and any other benefits nations might arrange will be only temporary because nations are in defiance of God and his perfect arrangement for bringing lasting peace

Jehovah is Ruler of entire earth and the universe (Ps 47:1, 2, 6-8)

Benefits he provides for true worshipers will be eternal

His rulership deserves our everlasting support

Imperative that we now recognize divine rulership, indicate our decision to accept divine rulership by dedication and baptism, direct our lives accordingly (Ps 46:8-11)

(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)