

BE CONFIDENT OF DIVINE VICTORY!

Note to the speaker:

Help your audience to see that it is important not only to know the truth but to be absolutely confident in the message that we bear. What we do with our lives shows whether we have real confidence in Jehovah's coming divine victory or not

WHAT DOES "DIVINE VICTORY" MEAN? (4 min.)

We hear of wars and reports of wars, as Jesus foretold (Mt 24:6, 7; *gm* 136-8; *re* 93-5)

Outcome of a particular battle or war is often uncertain

People and leaders may be confident of victory but meet stunning defeat

What basis for confidence do people really have?

Jehovah's Witnesses widely preach about coming warfare between God's forces and those opposed to divine rulership

Will be part of "great tribulation" (Mt 24:21)

The Scriptures depict complete victory for God's side (Re 6:2; 17:14; 19:11-21)

This will come, just as surely as there is a Divine Ruler

Bible also says result will be elimination of corrupt rulers, exploiting commercialists (Ps 37:10; *g84* 1/22 9)

Divine victory means destruction for many, but what about us?

WILL YOU BENEFIT FROM DIVINE VICTORY? (6 min.)

With a human victor in war, a new rulership is often as bad as or worse than the defeated one

When God is Victor, benefits are complete

He is not motivated by greed for territory or people to exploit

Jehovah is a loving Universal Ruler deserving of our worship (Re 4:11)

God's victory will benefit survivors of great tribulation, those supporting divine rulership (Re 7:14-17)

They will not feel hot wrath of God (*re* 126-7)

Will have God's approval, abundant refreshment; will be able to partake of provisions for eternal life

Bible indicates many other blessings for those benefiting from divine victory (Re 21:3, 4; *re* 303)

Even now we can benefit (1Ti 4:8; *w78* 10/1 29-30; *w81* 5/1 4-8)

Enjoy improved family life because of applying divine principles

Have upbuilding association with people you can trust and who will gladly help you

Attain peace of mind and purpose in life by now sharing in doing God's will (Php 4:6, 7)

To gain these benefits, we must bring our life into harmony with God's standards and take a stand for true worship

Knowing of coming divine victory and possibility of gaining its benefits should move us to a course reflecting confidence

DOES YOUR CONFIDENCE REALLY AFFECT YOUR LIFE? (9 min.)

Easy to feel, 'I am confident of divine victory!' Yet, does that confidence really show through in your life?

One might pay lip service to something but not let it affect his life

We will discuss some areas for personal examination; also consider the care needed so that one's confidence is not slowly eroded

The case of Judean king Asa illustrates that one's confidence must be guarded (*it-1* 183-5; *w80* 12/1 28-30)

Asa was zealous for pure worship (2Ch 14:1-8)

Attacked by enemy far outnumbering his army, Asa was confident of divine aid and success (2Ch 14:9-11)

He was not let down (2Ch 14:12, 13)

When later threatened by Baasha of Israel, Asa unwisely relied on human reasoning or bad counsel, resorted to diplomacy and conspiratorial maneuvering (2Ch 16:1-3)

Seer Hanani called attention to erosion of Asa's confidence and foretold bad results (2Ch 16:7-9)

In addition to making sure our confidence really affects our life, we must guard that it does not become eroded

MANIFEST CONFIDENCE IN DIVINE VICTORY (20 min.)

Manifest in your life your confidence that divine victory will *soon* come, though we do not know exact time

Natural to be interested in time factor (Mt 24:3; Ac 1:6)

Jesus gave no set date; urged followers to be active and on the watch (Mt 24:36-42)

If one serves with date as goal, might worry, 'What if it does not occur then?'

Can slowly erode confidence that victory will come at all

We have good reason for confidence that the end is near (Re 12:12)

Understanding this, one's confidence will not erode when nations talk of peace and security (1Th 5:3, 4; w87 5/15 17-20)

Can be certain that God will not delay (Hab 2:3)

Do you manifest confidence by arranging your life accordingly?

In everyday life, do your activities reflect assurance that divine victory over present wicked system will *soon* come? (Jas 2:17)

Do you let anxieties of life or desire for material possessions cause you to lose sight of coming victory and new world? (Mt 13:7, 22)

Food shortages, unemployment, rising cost of living, are problems of great concern to people

We are not immune but should reflect confidence in God's assurance to provide for his people (Mt 6:25-34; Heb 13:5, 6; w78 11/15 18-20; w89 12/15 19-20; w88 2/15 11-12)

We must also watch that world's view that certain luxury items are really necessities is not causing us to live beyond our means (*re* 73; w84 5/15 8-11; g88 4/22 4-6)

Undue concern over material things can cause our vision to be blurred to really important thing—life as approved servants of Jehovah (1Ti 6:17-19)

When our relationship with God is of greatest importance, we will make every effort to strengthen it

Jehovah speaks to us through his Word, revealing his personality, ways, and dealings therein

Are we eager to know what he has to say, to give his sayings more than the usual attention?

Do we really apply ourselves to personal study of the Bible and publications that can help us to understand it? (Pr 2:3-5)

Do we 'buy out the opportune time' to do so? (Eph 5:16)

In the Bible, God makes clear what his requirements are for those who will have his approval

Do we simply take it for granted that whatever we may be doing is all that God requires?

With an earnest desire to bring our lives into full harmony with God's will, do we diligently continue to examine his Word and make application of it to ourselves? (Eph 5:10, 17; Jas 1:22-25)

Do we indifferently procrastinate, or out of a keen awareness of the nearness of the time for the divine execution of judgment, are we giving God's will an important place in our lives now? (2Pe 3:11, 12)

CONTINUE TO BUILD AND MANIFEST YOUR CONFIDENCE IN DIVINE VICTORY (6 min.)

Make decisions and guide your life with divine victory in mind

This type of soundness of mind is required of all of us (Tit 1:7, 8; 2:2-6)

With soundness of mind and confidence in God's victory, we may victoriously survive approaching end

Meanwhile, we want to keep busy helping others to gain an accurate knowledge of God's truth so that they may be among those who share in the blessings of divine victory

Even if upheavals, strains, and problems come, we will not be thrown off balance

We will be like Habakkuk; he was affected by graphic report of God in day of battle but was determined to exult in Jehovah (Hab 3:16-18)

Let that be our determination too

(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)