

“STAND STILL AND SEE THE SALVATION OF JEHOVAH”

Note to the speaker:

With Armageddon ahead, help audience appreciate need for faith and obedience. Our survival will depend on our quickness to obey specific instructions

MANKIND IS RIGHTLY CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT LIES AHEAD (5 min.)

Global problems lead some experts to warn that human race is in grave danger (*g90 2/8 31*)

System's collapse will not be from its own problems—overpopulation, famine, pollution, wars, and so forth—but will be at God's hand in “great tribulation” (Mt 24:3, 21)

Final part will be “war of the great day of God the Almighty” (Re 16:14; Joe 3:12, 13)

What will be your position in the approaching divine war? Will you be expected to fight?

What do you teach your children and others about this?

Knowing right view is important, for we want to be prepared and to survive (*w86 12/15 24 ¶14*)

It is God's war, so it is reasonable to look to him for answer

WHAT WILL YOU DO IN THAT FINAL WAR? (16 min.)

During a war individuals often take sides as active fighters

Others try to flee out of battle zone in order to stay alive

War of great day of God will be earth wide, so cannot flee to a neutral zone or nation

Will persons who choose God's side be expected to fight and exterminate wicked?

When Jews were God's people, they had an army and fought theocratic wars when commanded to do so

Jehovah authorized them to battle pagan inhabitants of Promised Land

They did so under Joshua's leadership and with God's help (De 7:1, 2; Jos 10:40-42)

David, too, sought God's direction when leading armies of Israel in war (1Ch 14:10, 16)

Is this the pattern for Christians, indicating we will share in fighting at Armageddon?

Instructive example occurred with Israel under Jehoshaphat (*w84 7/1 13-19*)

When enemy nations approached, he also sought God's guidance (2Ch 20:1, 5, 6, 10-12)

God answered through a Levite named Jahaziel (2Ch 20:14-17)

Thankful for God's guidance, Jehoshaphat obeyed and was victorious (2Ch 20:18, 20)

By Jehovah's intervention, enemy armies turned on one another

This led to mutual slaughter without Israel's having to fight (2Ch 20:22-24)

Israel praised, or blessed, God (Berakah means “blessing”) (2Ch 20:26)

Proves God is able to defeat enemies without his servants having to fight

Is this the pattern for “the war of the great day of God the Almighty”? (Re 16:14)

Christian Greek Scriptures indicate 2 Chronicles 20:17 is the pattern for God's people today

Revelation depicts only armies in heaven as sharing in warfare as supporters of Jesus Christ (Re 17:14; 19:11-16)

Thus, 2 Chronicles 20:17 is counsel we need to take to heart

WE MUST FOLLOW GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS (12 min.)

We have specific instructions from God telling us what we should and what we should not do

Jews back then needed to follow Jehoshaphat's organizational instructions

Could not reason that, since would not need to fight, could stay home to care for family, farm, or business

‘Taking position and standing still’ required as much obedience as if told to fight

Will we, too, follow instructions?

When we see wicked being destroyed, might be tempted to vent feelings of vengeance for past injustices

As to whether we are inclined to leave matters in God's hands, how do we react to injustices now?

Injustices and inequities lead many priests and ministers of Christendom to protest and crusade for changes (*g87 4/22 3-4; w86 7/15 27*)

Are we similarly inclined?

We have not been appointed as executioners (2Th 1:6-9; Heb 10:30)

Bible counsel is to be neutral and to look to God for solution (Joh 17:14, 16)

Instead of talking about what human organizations and groups should do, we ought to direct attention to Kingdom as needed remedy

By doing so, we take our “position” and follow instructions

We are instructed to ‘keep close in mind the day of Jehovah’ (2Pe 3:11-13)

Does your manner of life now reflect belief that day of Jehovah is near?

Do we view serving God as casual, incidental thing or as vital matter worthy of best efforts, putting it first in life, with recreation, employment, hobbies, and so forth, fitted in around it? (*bw* 185)

Are we willing to accept God's timing and handling of matters?

He knows best time for end; no need to try to second-guess him (2Pe 3:8, 9; *bw* 173-6; *w74* 56-7)

Need to keep on with assigned preaching (Ro 10:10, 18)

Some have speculated that at some point we will stop preaching and just sit back, waiting for end

Bible simply tells us to preach until the end comes (*w88* 1/1 25-6, 28-9; *w88* 7/15 10-11)

Others wonder what the content of our message will be as we near "day of vengeance" (Isa 61:2)

We are already presenting strong message; must be alert to theocratic direction as the end nears

We will never quit speaking about God and his purposes

Forever we will recount his deeds and talk about his purposes (2Ch 20:21)

Should now be "intensely occupied with the word, witnessing" (Ac 18:5; *w76* 345-6)

STRENGTHEN YOUR CONFIDENCE NOW (12 min.)

At some periods in their history, Israelites let trust in God slip; never may that be so with us (Isa 30:15)

Work now to fortify your confidence

Outworking of things between now and new world may not be just as we personally expected

If our confidence is strong, we will not be stumbled

Hardships that develop may have impact on us (Hab 3:17; *w73* 758-9)

Could be things that naturally would produce agitation and anxiety

Need to be loyal and patient, 'standing still' with confidence in God (2Ch 20:17, 20; Hab 3:16, 18)

With confidence in success of God's purposes—including purpose to have great crowd survive—we will not be stumbled if unexpected things occur

Nor will we be pressured out of relationship with Jehovah (Heb 10:37-39)

Today and in future we need strength we can draw from being in association with fellow Christians

Ancient Jews under Jehoshaphat marched out as a congregated people (*w84* 7/1 18 ¶16)

Are you part of congregated worshipers now? (Heb 10:24, 25)

Realize that God is even now saving his people (Ga 1:4)

He is helping us to be no part of wicked system

Even if enemy took a Christian's life, God can safeguard that one's everlasting prospects (Mt 10:28)

We need to be on Jehovah's side; do not delay making decision

Includes not only dedication and baptism but imitation of God's ways and obedience to his commands (Jas 1:22)

We will thus be prepared to be among his obedient people, who will apply 2 Chronicles 20:17 during great tribulation

Such ones will see salvation of Jehovah and bless him forever

(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)