

## RELIGION'S TIME OF JUDGMENT

### *Note to the speaker:*

Help the audience to appreciate that religion is accountable to God. Show clearly why false religion deserves God's adverse judgment and execution

### **SOBERING TO KNOW THAT A FINAL JUDGMENT FACES ALL RELIGION** (6 min.)

To some, this may seem strange. Religion has played major role in every civilization. Through union of Church and State, religion's representatives have crowned or dethroned kings, instigated crusades, and blessed wars. Significantly, a wave of godlessness is now sweeping the world, affecting religion's position.

Its exemptions and privileges are increasingly questioned as clergymen become involved in politics, sexual misconduct, and financial scandals.

Religion also involved in ethnic conflicts and terrorist acts (*w94 12/15 28; g94 12/22 18-20*)

Surveys show growing apathy toward religion (*w91 12/1 6; g89 2/8 29; g89 1/8 3*)

Robberies of churches show lack of godly fear (*g92 11/8 29; g92 1/8 28*)

These attitudes and actions are portents of what is in store for religion in the near future.

Religion is facing the stormiest period of her long history.

Christendom, which claims to represent God, stands before God's judgment seat as first to be judged.

All other religions judged next.

### **TRUE RELIGION AND FALSE TO MEET CONTRASTING JUDGMENTS** (6 min.)

Bible shows that not all religions are equally acceptable to Jehovah.

First prophecy points to conflict between true worshipers and false worshipers (*Ge 3:15*)

Jesus speaks of those who worship with spirit and truth and of those who worship 'what they do not know,' and he warns against false Christs, prophets, and apostles (*Joh 4:22, 23; Mt 24:5*)

Paul warns against trying to partake of the table of Jehovah and of the table of demons (*1Co 10:21*)

Disciple James describes form of worship that is futile and that which is clean and undefiled (*Jas 1:26, 27*)

Religion will have to answer to Jehovah and his Son, who has been appointed to do the judging (*Joh 5:22; 2Co 5:10*)

It will be determined plainly who is obedient to his teaching and practicing true religion.

Judgment will depend on fruitage produced (*Mt 7:17-20*)

### **GENUINE WORSHIPERS WILL RECEIVE FAVORABLE JUDGMENT** (10 min.)

What fine fruits is true religion expected to produce?

Since God is love, his people would practice and reflect this marvelous quality (*Mr 12:29-31; 1Jo 4:8*)

Genuine disciples of Jesus Christ identified by manifesting self-sacrificing love for one another (*Joh 13:34, 35*)

This fruit, along with other godly qualities, proves they have God's spirit (*Ga 5:22, 23*)

True worshipers respect God's Word, apply its principles in their lives, and use it as basis for teaching others (*2Ti 3:15, 16*)

Jesus came in name of his Father, glorified him (*Joh 5:43, 44; 7:16-18; 17:4*)

His followers glorify, sanctify and walk in Jehovah's name (*Mic 4:5; Mt 6:9; Joh 15:8*)

As followers of Jesus, true worshipers zealously preach Kingdom good news as Christ commanded (*Mt 24:14; Lu 8:1*)

Keep themselves separate from world (*Joh 15:19; Jas 4:4*)

Persecuted, but merit God's approval (*2Ti 3:12; 1Pe 3:14*)

Such fine fruitage is produced by Jehovah's people worldwide.

Anointed footstep followers of Christ know from Bible prophecies regarding them that judgment has started with house of God (*1Pe 4:17, 18*)

Christ will soon begin judging people who have his favor (*Mt 25:31-33*)

### **WHY ALL FALSE RELIGION WILL RECEIVE ADVERSE JUDGMENT** (10 min.)

Constitutes part of this wicked system of things under Satanic control, friends of the world and so enemies of God (*Jas 4:4*)

Have turned their backs on God's Word and made his commandments of no effect by their traditions and vain philosophies (*Mt 15:7-9*)

They have refused to recognize the only supreme God, Jehovah, but raised up gods of their own, even a triune god.

Jehovah cannot put up with their formalism and insincere prayers, like those of prophetic Sodom and Gomorrah (*Isa 1:10-15*)

They have ignored God's judgment message and have ill-treated and killed his messengers (*Compare Matthew 23:29-36*)

Under symbol of a great harlot, world empire of false religion responsible for shedding blood, taking sides in numerous wars (Re 17:3-6)

Clear then that all Babylonish religions of East and West have been weighed in Jehovah's judgment balance and found wanting

Only until completion of the proclamation of the judgment message is Jehovah's sword of execution of false religion withheld (Re 14:6-8)

**PROPHETIC FORECASTS OF FALSE RELIGION'S EXECUTION** (10 min.)

Ancient Babylon, in which cruelty and false religion went hand in hand, came to sudden end when it fell in one night to Cyrus the Persian

The mixed forces of the Medes, Persians, and Elamites under Cyrus shattered the boasted invincibility of Babylon

Bible foretells a sudden, complete devastation of Babylon the Great by the "ten horns" (Re 17:15-18; 18:8, 10, 17, 19; *re* 256-8)

Even now, godless, antireligious elements in the United Nations are prevailing. There is growing apathy toward promoting religious freedom, in contrast with other concerns (*g*86 1/8 29)

According to prophecy those feelings and attitudes will one day escalate into drastic measures against all false religion

Godless forces will thereafter concentrate their hatred on and war against the representatives of true religion on earth, but the enemies will come to their end in the "war of the great day of God the Almighty" (Re 16:14; 2Th 1:6-10)

Thus true religion will triumph while false religion will disappear forever, like a millstone hurled into the sea (Re 18:21)

**LOVERS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS NEED TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES WITH TRUE RELIGION** (3 min.)

Approaching judgment hour and tribulation for false religion require worldwide warning to be sounded (Re 18:4, 5)

Separation from the world empire of false religion is essential if we are to be hidden in the day of Jehovah's wrath (Zep 2:1-3)

True meekness and righteousness are not to be found in any section of Babylonish religion

Seek safety with the people of Jehovah, who are sounding out the warning of the fast-approaching end of all false religion

(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)