

WILL YOU ESCAPE THIS WORLD'S DESTINY?

Note to the speaker:

Encourage the audience not to ignore the overwhelming evidence that "the great day of Jehovah" is near. Convey the urgency of meeting God's requirements for survival, and stimulate the audience to take action

WHY MANY FEAR THE FUTURE (5 min.)

Onslaught of crime, drug abuse, AIDS, nationalism, ethnic hatred, and deteriorating environment threatens mankind's future (*g93 1/8 4-10*)

The possibility of a nuclear disaster is not a relic of the past

Journalist C. Krauthammer warns: "The end of the Soviet threat does not mean the end of nuclear danger. The real danger is proliferation, and proliferation has just begun" (*w94 8/1 3*)

Thousands of nuclear weapons still exist (*g92 3/22 28*)

Nuclear-reactor accidents and problem of nuclear waste storage pose a serious threat to life

Is annihilation awaiting mankind? What is this world's destiny? If this world's destiny is disastrous, is escape possible?

WHAT JEHOVAH GOD HAS DECREED FOR THIS WORLD (5 min.)

God will not let mankind perish (Isa 45:18)

But God has decreed destruction of *Satan's world* soon in "the great day of Jehovah" (Zep 1:14-18)

Jehovah, a God of love, enlightens his people in advance, and through them others are informed (Isa 42:9; 61:1, 2)

So destruction is not unavoidable (Read Psalm 145:20)

RECOGNIZE YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO ESCAPE (12 min.)

Preservation during the "day of Jehovah" requires that we heed Scriptural warnings

But when disaster threatens, people often ignore warnings (*w86 9/15 3-4; w80 12/1 3-4*)

Donald Robinson wrote in his book *The Face of Disaster*: "Large sections of the population . . . simply cannot accept the idea that a disaster is going to befall them. They know that explosions, conflagrations, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, plane and train crashes do occur. That in wartime bombs will fall. However, they cannot bring themselves to admit that such catastrophes will touch them personally. That they, or the ones they love, may be horribly injured, killed. That their private cosmos may be forever disrupted. It is too awful to contemplate. It would require them to adopt a changed set of values, an entirely new frame of reference, and that is more than many people are capable of doing" (Page 58)

Many now do not think a disaster will befall them and are unwilling to make changes, just as the people would not change their life-style despite Noah's preaching (Mt 24:37-39)

Lot's sons-in-law ignored warning of Sodom's end (Ge 19:14)

In both cases, failure to heed warnings and make changes made escape impossible (2Pe 2:5-7)

Noah, his family, and Lot and daughters escaped by heeding warnings and obeying God; Lot's wife disobeyed and died

Jesus Christ indicated that during his presence people would also ignore warnings (Read Luke 17:26-30)

DO NOT IGNORE THE CLEAR EVIDENCE (8 min.)

Will you pay attention to evidence proving that Jesus now is present as King and the "day of Jehovah" is approaching rapidly?

Note some features of the composite "sign" of Jesus' presence (Mt 24:3; read Luke 21:10, 11)

One feature is unparalleled warfare

Some 69,000,000 died in World Wars I and II; millions more have died in wars since 1945

Another feature of the "sign" is "great earthquakes"

During this century, hundreds of thousands have died in earthquakes (*g91 8/8 28*)

"Pestilences" are still another part of the "sign"

In the global 'Spanish flu' of 1918-1919, about 20,000,000 died; diseases abound today (*g94 4/8 31; w83 5/1 3-7*)

Food shortage stalks the earth as part of the "sign"

The World Book Encyclopedia says: "Most of the developing nations of Africa, Asia, and Latin America have barely enough food for their people. Millions in these countries go hungry. When food production or imports drop for any reason, famine may strike and thousands or millions of people may die."

Global preaching of good news is a chief feature of the "sign" (Mt 24:14)

Jehovah's Witnesses are doing this in ___ lands, with over ____ Kingdom proclaimers (Refer to latest *Year-book*)

They also warn of Jehovah's day and point to way of survival

PERSONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ESCAPE AND SURVIVAL (12 min.)

Jesus gave instructions that we must now heed to escape calamity

We must keep awake and make supplication (Read Luke 21:34-36)

Flight without delay is vital when disaster threatens

So, as Jesus' followers fled Jerusalem, let nothing hinder your flight to safety among Jehovah's people now (Mt 24:15-18)

Personal escape depends on favorable relationship with Jehovah based on Jesus Christ's ransom sacrifice (Ro 3:23-25)

Must learn God's ways, walk in his paths (Isa 2:2-4)

Dedication to God and baptism are essential

Always keep on guard according to Jehovah's word (Ps 119:9)

Eager study of the Bible and Christian publications a must

Associate with God's people regularly; do not isolate yourself

Deliberately isolating self from God's people may lead to wrong ideas, failure to survive the end (Pr 18:1)

Therefore, "do not stay away from the meetings" (Heb 10:25, *The Jerusalem Bible*)

Must show love for God and neighbor by preaching good news and teaching others about "the Provider of escape" (Ps 18:1, 2)

YOU CAN BE AMONG THOSE WHO ESCAPE THIS WORLD'S DESTINY (3 min.)

God will not let all mankind be annihilated

He has purposed an earthly Paradise inhabited by perfect humans

All those not on Jehovah's side will perish in rapidly-approaching "day of Jehovah"

All are now being given the opportunity to escape

Heed Scriptural warnings and counsel and prepare to escape this system's end

If you act now with faith in Jehovah, you can have a bright future with those who escape this world's destiny (Ps 37:37-40)

(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)