

## WHAT IS RELIGION'S FUTURE?

### *Note to the speaker:*

Tactfully help newly interested ones and Bible students see the need to separate completely from false religion and engage exclusively in true worship of Jehovah

### **JEHOVAH GOD CONTROLS THE FUTURE OF RELIGION** (4 min.)

In many lands, religion has lost much of its influence and support [Describe local circumstances]

Nevertheless, many people are still devout members of religious organizations

Others do not actively practice their religion but view it as an important part of their cultural or family identity

Some wonder if religion will die out completely because of declining support and changing attitudes

The future of religion depends, not on human attitudes, but on Jehovah God

Jehovah distinguishes between true worship and false worship [**Read John 4:23, 24**]

Both true religion and false religion can be identified by their fruitage (Mt 7:15-20; Jas 1:26, 27)

Because of its wicked fruitage, false religion will soon be eliminated by God; true religion will thrive for eternity

### **WHAT HAS BEEN THE FRUITAGE OF FALSE RELIGION?** (10 min.)

False religion has hindered people from knowing the truth about Jehovah God and his purpose

It has rejected Bible teachings in favor of human traditions (Mr 7:7, 8; 2Ti 3:16)

It has often adopted modern skepticism and has undermined faith in God and the Bible

It has failed to make Jehovah's name known and has obscured his identity (Joh 17:26)

It has failed to preach the "good news of the Kingdom" and has frequently opposed the efforts of Jehovah's Witnesses to do so (Mt 24:14; *w16.05* 10 ¶7)

False religion has failed to uphold the Bible's moral standards and has contributed to moral breakdown (1Co 6:9, 10; 2Ti 3:5; 4:3, 4; *w01* 11/1 4-5)

False religion has taken sides in political struggles and warfare

It has ignored Jesus' teachings and example (Mt 26:52; Joh 6:15; 17:15, 16)

It shares responsibility for millions of deaths (Re 18:24)

### **HOW WILL GOD DESTROY FALSE RELIGION?** (10 min.)

Given false religion's wicked fruitage, it is no surprise that the Bible describes it in strong terms

False religion is symbolized by a prostitute called "Babylon the Great" [**Read Revelation 17:1, 2, 4, 5**]

This is a fitting description [Explain by using the box "Identifying Babylon the Great" found on page 13 of the November 2012 issue of *Awake!*]

God will soon execute judgment on false religion and destroy it completely

The Bible foretold that false religion would lose influence before its destruction (Re 16:12; 17:15; *w12* 6/15 17-18 ¶16)

It is Jehovah who will put it into the hearts of the political elements of Satan's system to destroy Babylon the Great [**Read Revelation 17:16, 17**] (Re 18:7, 8; *w12* 6/15 18 ¶17)

### **TAKE YOUR STAND FOR TRUE RELIGION** (6 min.)

If you wish to please God, you need to consider your view of false religion

If God disapproves of a religion that you are associated with, would that not also affect how he views you?

Heed the command to get out of Babylon the Great [**Read Revelation 18:4, 5**]

Reject anything that reflects false religion's spirit or influence (*lvs* 98 ¶23)

The foretold "great tribulation" will begin with the destruction of false religion (Mt 24:3, 21; *w15* 7/15 15 ¶4)

After the destruction of Babylon the Great, only the religion that God approves, true religion, will remain

Now is the time to act decisively in support of true worship

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See Ministry School book, pages 52-55, 166-169]