

FALSE RELIGION'S END IS NEAR

Note to the speaker:

Present this talk with conviction, reasonableness, and dignity. Help audience appreciate that the Bible foretold the end of false religion. Emphasize contrasting fruitage that the true religion and the false produce. Earnestly encourage truth lovers to get out of false religion now and embrace the truth

ALL RELIGION IS ON JUDGMENT BEFORE GOD TODAY (4 min.)

We live in final part of “the last days.” Soon God will execute his judgments against entire wicked world (Briefly summarize 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 13; then read Jeremiah 25:31-33)

God now separating truth seekers out from false religion. Truth seekers to be practitioners of true religion; God will destroy all false religion (Read Malachi 3:18)

EXECUTION OF FALSE RELIGION—A TIME OF TRIBULATION (5 min.)

“Great tribulation” brings about destruction of false religion, called “the great harlot” because for centuries she has committed spiritual fornication with Satan’s political system (Read Matthew 24:21) (Re 17:1, 2)

Harlot also called “Babylon the Great,” for like ancient Babylon, she is a false religious empire (Re 17:5, 15)

Political elements turn on her suddenly and destroy her, to the astonishment of those not alert to Bible prophecy (Read Revelation 17:16 and a few excerpts from Revelation 18:9-19 showing how quickly she is destroyed and how that shocks many)

But God’s servants rejoice at her end (Read Revelation 19:1, 2)

Finally, at Armageddon, God destroys the rest of Satan’s system. (Re 16:14, 16) Revelation 19 identifies Christ as God’s Chief Executioner, leading vast heavenly armies (Read verses 11, 16-18)

Therefore, it is life-or-death matter to distinguish true religion from false. How? Jesus said: “By their fruits” (Read Matthew 7:15-18)

THE GOOD FRUITAGE THAT THOSE PRACTICING TRUE RELIGION MUST PRODUCE (6 min.)

Must uphold Jehovah’s (1) SOVEREIGNTY (Ps 83:18); (2) NAME (Joh 17:6; Ac 15:14; Ro 10:13); (3) KINGDOM (Da 2:44; Mt 6:9, 10; 24:14); (4) WORD (2Ti 3:16, 17)

Must have genuine love among themselves worldwide; no racism, nationalism, tribalism (Joh 13:35; 1Jo 4:8, 20, 21)

Must be neutral in politics, as Satan controls this world. (Joh 18:36; Jas 4:4; 1Jo 5:19) Cannot participate in wars; would be killing brothers. (Read Isaiah 2:2-4 and 1 John 3:10-12) God’s servants are peaceful, displaying fruit of spirit (Ga 5:22; 1Pe 3:11)

Must be united doctrinally (1Co 1:10)

Must uphold God’s high moral standards; unrepentant immoral persons to be disfellowshipped (1Co 5:11-13; 6:9-11)

THIS WORLD’S RELIGIONS PRODUCE BAD FRUITAGE (11 min.)

They do not champion God’s sovereignty, name, Kingdom, Word. They have no love or unity but are divided racially, nationally, tribally, politically, economically, socially, and doctrinally

As part of Satan’s earth-wide system, this world’s religions reflect his immoral and murderous spirit—produce enmity, strife; mix in politics; kill members of own religion in wars, such as in World Wars I and II and recently in Rwanda over tribal hatreds (Ga 5:19, 20; refer again to 1 John 3:10-12; read Revelation 18:24)

In book *Preachers Present Arms*, author said: “In the history of civilizations . . . , two forces have ever been joined together in a dual alliance. They are war and religion. And, of all the great world religions, . . . none has been more devoted to [war] than has [Christendom]”

The Sun of Vancouver, Canada, stated: “It is a weakness of perhaps all organized religion that the church follows the flag . . . What war was ever fought in which God wasn’t claimed to be on each side?”

The New York Times: “The massacres in Rwanda have caused many Roman Catholics there to feel betrayed by the church hierarchy. . . . The church was often divided along ethnic lines, between Hutu and Tutsi.”
National Catholic Reporter: “Rwanda and Burundi are the two most Catholic nations of Africa and the most bloody”

Gross immorality tolerated among clergy and laity: adultery, fornication, homosexuality, pedophilia, dishonesty; but not excommunicated for violating God’s laws

The General Assembly for the Presbyterian Church in the United States admitted: “We are facing a crisis terrible in its proportions and implications. . . . Between 10 and 23 percent of clergy nationwide have engaged in sexualized behavior or sexual contact with parishioners, clients, employees, etc.”

The president of the U.S. Business and Industrial Council confirmed this, saying: “Religious institutions have failed to transmit their historic values, and in many cases, have become part of the [moral] problem”

U.S. News & World Report notes that Catholic Church has paid hundreds of millions of dollars in settlements to Catholic families because of priests’ immorality with their children

It is as Danish theologian Søren Kierkegaard once said: “Christendom has done away with Christianity without being quite aware of it”

India Today concluded: "Religion has been the banner under which the most hideous crimes have been perpetrated. . . . It unleashes tremendous violence and is a very destructive force"

God's inspired Word denounces hypocrisy of false religion (Read Matthew 15:7-9 and Titus 1:16)

Jesus declared that leaders of false religion are "blind guides" leading blind followers; both to fall into pit (Mt 15:14) (See w90 2/1, pp. 17-20, pars. 10-24, if more details desired)

WHICH RELIGION PRODUCES GODLY FRUITAGE? (11 min.)

Who produce fruitage God requires? Well, who uphold Jehovah's sovereignty, name, Kingdom, Word? Who show love on global scale? Who are neutral in politics, not involved in any national or tribal warfare? Who are united doctrinally? Who uphold God's high moral standards? The facts of this century show that only one religion produces such fruitage—Jehovah's Witnesses

Regarding close adherence to God's Word, a university instructor in the Philippines said: "The Witnesses practice religiously what they learned from the Scriptures"

Regarding Witnesses' refusal to participate in wars of nations and kill fellowmen, Catholic nun wrote in Italian church magazine *Andare alle genti*: "How different the world would be if we all woke up one morning firmly [determined] not to take up arms again, . . . just like Jehovah's Witnesses!"

Regarding their crime-free organization and respect for law, order, and neighbors' property, a columnist writing in *Le Journal de Montréal*, Canada, declared: "If [Jehovah's Witnesses] were the only people in the world, we would not at night have to bolt our doors shut and put on the burglar alarm"

Regarding their unity, Mexican newspaper *Veredicto* said that they have "a praiseworthy unity of faith that seems to distinguish them wherever they are found"

Regarding their morality, a South African man wrote: "I think very highly of Witnesses' morals and behavior. You are the only variety of Christianity I've come across whose members consistently practice what they profess"

Showing that Witnesses stand out as producing required godly fruitage, a Catholic priest wrote in *Time* magazine: "I can no longer distinguish the believer [in this world's religions] from the pagan. I can distinguish the Jehovah's Witness . . . but not the followers of the traditional faiths"

Yes, by their fruits Jehovah's Witnesses are identified as having the true religion, backed by God's spirit (Isa 43:10-12)

GOD WILL SOON DESTROY ALL FALSE RELIGION (4 min.)

Jesus foretold that false religion, identified by bad fruitage resulting from violating God's laws, will be 'cut down and thrown into fire' (Mt 7:19-23)

Describe what happened between Baal worshipers and those who worshiped Jehovah (1Ki, chap. 18; then read verses 36-40)

False religion a broad road leading to destruction. (Mt 7:13, 14) Will soon be destroyed forever (Read Revelation 18:21, 22)

All who want God's approval and future life must heed God's warning to "get out of her" (Read Revelation 18:4)

Must do what God's angelic messenger urges (Read Revelation 14:7)

TRUE RELIGION SURVIVES THIS WORLD'S END (4 min.)

Jehovah preserves his true worshipers (Pr 18:10)

Be part of "great crowd," who worship Jehovah and survive world's end. (Re 7:9, 10, 13-15) Even if they die before the end, from illness, accident, old age, they are assured of a resurrection (Ac 24:15)

Faithful ones look forward with confidence to life everlasting in righteous new world and to enjoying perfect health, peace, and security on Paradise earth, forever free of false religion and Satan's unrighteous system (Ps 37:10, 11, 29; Joh 17:3; 2Pe 3:13; Re 21:4, 5)

(Scriptures cited without being preceded by "Read" need not be read in their entirety, but the key part that supports the argument may be either read or alluded to as time permits)