

No. 40 What Does the Near Future Hold?

PLEASE NOTE: Help the audience see why they can trust what the Bible says about the future. Explain key events about to occur, and help new ones see how they can be ready for them. If you wish, you may use the provided artwork to illustrate points where indicated

HOW CAN YOU KNOW THE FUTURE? (3 min.)

People want to know about the future so that they can prepare for it

Many seek information from sources that are unreliable (wp18.2 3; w14 5/1 3)

Only the true God can reveal what the future holds [Read Isaiah 46:9, 10]

THE BIBLE IS A TRUSTWORTHY GUIDE TO THE FUTURE (8 min.)

We can trust the Bible because it reliably foretold events that we see happening now

The Bible foretold the dominant personality traits of people during “the last days” (2Ti 3:1-5)

The Bible foretold world events that would mark Jesus’ invisible presence during “the conclusion of the system of things” (Mt 24:3, 6-8; Lu 21:11; wp18.2 7)

The “good news of the Kingdom” is being preached worldwide (Mt 24:14)

Bible prophecy indicated these events would begin in 1914 (*Iff* lesson 32)

WHAT GOD’S WORD REVEALS ABOUT THE NEAR FUTURE (12 min.)

The Bible foretells key events that are just ahead

(1) Declaration of “peace and security” (1Th 5:2-4; kr 222 ¶3) [Image 1]

(2) Members of the United Nations attack religious organizations (Re 17:16; 18:7, 8; kr 223 ¶5-6) [Image 2]

(3) A coalition of nations attacks those who give God pure worship (Eze 38:2, 11; rr 182-183 ¶3-10) [Image 3]

(4) God defends his worshippers and annihilates his enemies (Eze 38:18; Re 16:14, 16; rr 199 ¶23-24) [Image 4]

(5) Righteous ones survive and see God fulfill his purpose for the earth (Ps 37:10, 11; Re 21:1-4) [Image 5]

PREPARE FOR WHAT THE NEAR FUTURE HOLDS (7 min.)

Jehovah warns us about future events because he wants us to survive (Am 3:7; 2Pe 3:9)

Jehovah explains what we must do now [Read Zephaniah 2:2, 3] (w01 2/15 18-19 ¶5-7)

“Seek Jehovah” by studying his Word and cultivating a relationship with him (1Ti 2:3, 4; Jas 4:8)

“Seek righteousness” by learning and applying God’s standards of right and wrong (Ro 12:9)

“Seek meekness” by humbly obeying Jehovah (Pr 3:5, 6)

You can enjoy an everlasting future if you make Jehovah your stronghold now (Ps 91:2, 14-16)

[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]

TO BE COVERED IN 30 MINUTES

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