

# DOES DEATH END IT ALL?

## *Note to the speaker:*

Help the audience to understand the truly hopeless condition mankind would be facing were it not for Jehovah's provisions of the ransom and the Kingdom. Highlight the need to exercise implicit faith in the truths discussed at the Memorial

### **“THE END OF ALL MANKIND” (7 min.)**

Earth wide, millions of people die each year

Efforts to comfort mourning ones often reflect the belief that the dead continue living in some way

Such beliefs vary widely (*w99* 4/1 9-10 pars. 1-7)

Even those who claim that death is natural find it hard to accept that death is the final state

Bible speaks of one's dying as 'coming to one's end' (De 2:15; Jos 10:20)

Indeed, death is “the end of all mankind” [Read Ecclesiastes 7:2]

How are we to understand this? Does death really end everything?

### **DEATH DEFINED (7 min.)**

Death reverses the process described at Genesis 2:7 [Read]

Breathing stops; the life force is extinguished; thoughts perish (Ps 146:4)

There is no superiority of human death over animal death; they are the same (Ec 3:19, 20)

Death ends all communication, emotion, thinking, and existence (Ec 9:5, 6, 10)

This fact bothers us for good reason—we were made to live forever (Ec 3:11)

The truths considered at the annual commemoration of Christ's death give us a reason for hope

### **WHY JESUS' DEATH WAS NOT THE END (9 min.)**

Death is the penalty for sin (Ro 6:23)

Jesus committed no sin

Thus, he maintained the legal right to continue living endlessly as a human (Joh 10:18; Ac 2:24; *w09* 9/15 29 par. 15; *w80* 7/15 28 par. 25)

Having been raised to life as a spirit creature, Jesus presented to Jehovah the value of his perfect human life (1Pe 3:18)

Thus the debt that you and I owe to Jehovah for being sinners has been paid (2Co 5:14, 15)

Now there exists a basis for removing the consequences of inherited sin

Does Jehovah offer general amnesty based on the ransom?

No; obedience is required (Joh 3:36)

Continue taking in knowledge of Jehovah God and Jesus Christ, and act in harmony with it (Joh 17:3)

Jehovah's release of Jesus from the grave serves as “a guarantee to all men” of God's future Day of Judgment and provides assurance that there will be a resurrection (Ac 17:31; 24:15)

### **WHAT WILL “THE END” MEAN FOR YOU? (7 min.)**

Does death end it all?

Yes it would if not for God and Christ

Despite nanotechnology, humans can neither create life nor restore it (*w99* 10/15 5 pars. 3-4)

Only Jehovah can do those things

God's ancient servants exercised hope in the resurrection (Job 14:7-15; Da 12:13)

Jesus demonstrated God's desire and ability to resurrect the dead (Lu 7:11-17; 8:49-56; Joh 11:38-44)

Now that sufficient time has elapsed for all to see the results of disobedience to his laws, the appointed hour is fast approaching for God to correct matters on this earth

That includes raising the dead and guiding mankind to everlasting life on earth (*w07* 5/15 26-30)

So sure is Jehovah's purpose to resurrect his servants that they may be spoken of as living (Mt 22:31, 32; *cf* 106-107 pars. 20-21)

Living forever will give us endless opportunities to discover more about Jehovah God and to enjoy friendship with all those who love him (Job 26:14; Ec 3:10, 11; *w11* 5/1 27)

Serve Jehovah loyally, and receive rich blessings now “and the end everlasting life” (Ro 6:22)

(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*, pp. 52-54, 166-169)