

YOU CAN ENJOY LIFE IN PEACE NOW—AND FOREVER!

Note to the speaker:

Although you point to the disruptive problems we all face, emphasize that peace is possible even now. Help all to appreciate that there are requirements we must meet and maintain in order to enjoy life in peace at present and for eternity

LIFE IS JOYLESS FOR MILLIONS (4 min.)

Instead of finding joy in life, increasing numbers of people face hardship, insecurity, and fear (Job 14:1; *w05* 2/1 4)

Many live in lands ravaged by wars and political unrest (*w04* 1/1 3-5)

Most developing countries are troubled by economic problems, food shortages (*w05* 5/15 3; *g05* 9/22 7-8)

Even in prosperous lands, people are afflicted by crime, drug problems, violence, unemployment; thousands are homeless (*w05* 10/15 8; *g03* 7/8 3-8)

Terrorism is now a destabilizing force, creating further tension and insecurity (*g01* 5/22 3-10)

More and more are affected by pollution and diseases, such as AIDS (*g05* 2/22 28)

PEACE AND SECURITY TAKEN AWAY FROM THE EARTH (4 min.)

God's Word foretold problems we face, including the lack of peace

Prophecy in Revelation chapter 6 is undergoing fulfillment since 1914 [Read verse 4] (*w05* 9/1 19-20; *w98* 9/15 7; *w93* 3/1 4-5; *re* 93-4)

The horsemen that follow bring food shortage, disease, and death (Re 6:5-8; *w05* 2/15 32; *re* 95-8)

Woes increase as Satan, now confined to vicinity of earth, knows that his time is short (Re 12:7-9, 12)

Misrule by worldly rulers, influenced by Satan and his demons, contributes to lack of peace and security on earth (*g05* 7/22 12-13)

We can expect problems to worsen despite efforts of sincere people (Ps 146:2, 3)

Although world situation is grave, we can enjoy a relative measure of peace and happiness (Ps 146:5)

IT IS POSSIBLE TO ENJOY LIFE IN PEACE NOW (5 min.)

Jehovah is a God of peace (1Co 14:33)

Right now, Jehovah is blessing his people with peace (Ps 29:11; *w05* 1/1 6)

Note some examples of how Jehovah's Witnesses live in peace

In Israel, Witnesses of Arab and Jewish origins live and worship in peace, displaying love despite tensions felt in world (Joh 13:35; *w97* 8/1 16; *w94* 1/15 6)

When violence erupted between Hutu and Tutsi in Rwanda, Witnesses from both tribes continued to enjoy peaceful relations (*w98* 4/1 18-19; *w94* 12/15 26, 29)

In Eastern Europe millions have suffered from divisive warfare, but Jehovah's Witnesses maintain true unity (*w96* 3/1 28; *g00* 4/22 9-10; *g93* 12/22 6-13)

Upon becoming Witnesses, former Catholics and Protestants in Ireland have overcome their hatred and now work peacefully with one another (*w99* 12/15 9-13)

No police needed to maintain peace among Witnesses at their conventions (*w02* 7/15 25; *g97* 3/8 22-4)

Each year thousands of peace-loving people find out how to live in peace and happiness in a troubled world (*g02* 5/8 9)

REQUIREMENTS TO ENJOY LIFE IN PEACE NOW (14 min.)

The opportunity to enjoy peace now is available to you

First, take in knowledge of Jehovah through his Word (Joh 17:3)

Then build a personal relationship with Jehovah as you learn his commands and keep them (Pr 3:1, 2)

Associate with those who observe God's laws and are blessed with peace (Ps 119:165; Ga 5:22; Heb 10:24, 25; *w98* 4/1 18-19)

Servants of God must actively pursue peace (1Pe 3:11)

Such pursuit will result in life that is far happier than anything the world can offer (Pr 3:13, 17, 18)

World's so-called happiness is based on greed, jealousy, selfishness, 'earthly wisdom' (Jas 3:14-16)

Christians must reject worldly wisdom and display godly wisdom, which brings peace (Jas 3:17, 18)

With spiritual security and godly peace, God's servants avoid much of the anxiety concerning the problems that plague mankind (Mt 6:31, 32)

They see need to put spiritual interests first to enjoy true peace (Ps 119:36; Mt 6:33)

Never give up in your pursuit and enjoyment of peace

As far as it depends on you, pursue peace with all men (Ro 12:18)

For continuous enjoyment of godly peace, maintain a good personal relationship with Jehovah through obedience and regular communication with him in prayer (Ps 119:93, 97; Php 4:6, 7)

FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR LIFE IN PEACE—FOREVER (3 min.)

Enjoying life in peace is not limited to the present

Bible promises future perfect life and total peace eternally for those serving Jehovah (Ps 37:10, 11; Isa 9:7; 1Ti 4:8; 6:19)

Grand blessings await those who love the God of peace and cherish the peace he gives (Re 21:3, 4)

Act with urgency so as to receive blessings of enjoying life in peace now and forever (Ps 37:37; Zep 2:3)

(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. 52-4, 116-19)

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TO BE COVERED IN 30 MINUTES

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