

No. 34 Will You Be Marked for Survival?

PLEASE NOTE: Help newly interested ones to understand what Jehovah views as wicked and why they need to share his view. Explain what actions they must take to be marked for survival. If you wish, you may use the provided artwork to illustrate the points indicated

GOD HATES WICKEDNESS (3 min.)

We live in a morally corrupt world that is filled with violence and injustice (Ec 4:1)

God sees the wickedness on earth, and he hates it [Read Psalm 5:4, 5]

Do you share God's view of what is good and bad?

Those who share God's view can gain the prospect of everlasting life (Ps 37:29)

WHAT CONDUCT DOES GOD VIEW AS WICKED? (10 min.)

The Bible book of Ezekiel helps us to understand what conduct God views as wicked

Consider some of the things practiced in ancient Judah by those who claimed to worship Jehovah

[As you discuss each practice, explain why it offends Jehovah and give modern examples]

Idolatry (Eze 8:5, 9, 10, 16; rr 53-54 ¶7-9; 54-55 ¶11-12; 58-59 ¶15-17) [Image 1]

Religious practices with pagan origins (Eze 8:13, 14; rr 58 ¶13-14)

Exploitation of the vulnerable (Eze 22:6, 7; w12 8/1 27 ¶3-6)

Sexual immorality (Eze 22:11; 1Co 6:9, 10; rr 60 ¶20)

Extortion and bribery (Eze 22:12)

God told Ezekiel that He would "act in rage" against those practicing such things (Eze 8:17, 18)

GOD WILL BRING AN END TO WICKEDNESS (8 min.)

In Ezekiel's day, God executed judgment on ancient Jerusalem (Jer 25:9)

In the near future, God will use his Son, Jesus Christ, to bring an end to wickedness earth wide (Re 16:14, 16; 19:11-16)

Ezekiel was given a vision of God's impending judgment; what can we learn from this vision?

[Read selected portions of Ezekiel 9:1-6, and explain]

Verse 2: "One man . . . with a secretary's inkhorn" [Image 2]

Shortly before Armageddon, Jesus will mark those who will survive (Mt 25:31-33, 46; rr 179 ¶18)

Verse 4: "Men who are sighing and groaning"

Those who are deeply grieved by the wickedness of this world will be marked for survival

Verse 2: "Six men . . . each with his weapon for smashing"

At Armageddon, Jesus will be accompanied by an army of mighty spirit creatures (rr 180 ¶19) [Image 3]

Verse 5: "Go through the city after him and strike"

Jesus and his heavenly armies will destroy this wicked world

As in Ezekiel's day, Jehovah will be fully justified in destroying the wicked (Eze 9:9, 10)

Verse 6: "Do not go near to any man on whom there is the mark"

Jehovah will spare those who are marked for survival (Ps 37:28) [Image 4]

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO TO SURVIVE? (7 min.)

How can you show that you are "sighing and groaning" over world conditions? (rr 178 ¶17)

Learn about Jehovah and his standards of good and bad

Learn to love what God loves and hate what he hates (Ro 12:9)

Learn about Jesus, and imitate his personality (Eph 4:20-24)

Take your stand in support of Jehovah's righteous ways [Read Malachi 3:18]

Progressively bring your thinking and conduct into harmony with God's standards; he will help you to do so (Ps 86:11; 1Jo 5:3)

Dedicate yourself to Jehovah God, and get baptized (Mt 16:24; 1Pe 3:21)

A RIGHTEOUS NEW WORLD WILL SOON BE A REALITY (2 min.)

Soon the earth will be filled with people who love God and his ways (Ps 37:10, 11) [Image 5]

Armageddon survivors will enjoy an "abundance of peace"

You will see this promise fulfilled if you come to know Jehovah and "follow his way" (Ps 37:34)

[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 *Reminders for Those Assigned Public Talks* (S-141)]

TO BE COVERED IN 30 MINUTES

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