

## **No. 93      Natural Disasters—When Will They End?**

PLEASE NOTE: Assure listeners that God is not to blame for natural disasters, and speak consolingly to any who have suffered the effects of natural disasters. If you wish, you may use the provided artwork to illustrate the points indicated

### **MANY SUFFER THE EFFECTS OF NATURAL DISASTERS (3 min.)**

Our world is experiencing natural disasters on a scale never seen before

Disasters often cause the suffering and death of innocent people

Many try to make sense of such catastrophes and wonder, 'Why?'

Some say that God uses natural disasters to punish people (w11 12/1 3; g 9/07 3)

Is God to blame for natural disasters? Will they ever come to an end?

### **GOD IS NOT THE CAUSE OF NATURAL DISASTERS (7 min.)**

The Bible foretold that our time would be marked by natural disasters (Lu 21:11)

Although natural disasters are sometimes called acts of God, he is not the cause of these events (1Jo 4:8; w13 5/1 4; w08 5/1 30 ¶1-3)

Natural disasters often strike without warning and take the lives of people indiscriminately

Jehovah God would never act in such a way [Read Job 34:10-12]

Why are so many affected by natural disasters?

Humans have contributed to the increase in natural disasters (Jer 10:23; w08 5/1 30 ¶4-5; g 9/07 5 ¶2-7)

Some ignore warnings and are then overcome by natural disasters (Pr 22:3)

Some suffer because of simply being in the wrong place at the wrong time (Ec 9:11)

### **HOW TO RECOGNIZE WHEN A DESTRUCTIVE ACT IS FROM GOD (6 min.)**

God has at times performed destructive acts of judgment; unlike natural disasters, these acts of God are controlled, purposeful, and extremely rare

The global Flood in the days of Noah was a genuine judgment from God

The world of Noah's day was extremely immoral and violent (Ge 6:1-7)

God destroyed the wicked by using the natural forces of floodwaters (Ge 6:17)

God's acts of judgment recorded in the Bible follow a pattern:

(1) God provides a warning

Noah warned people of the coming Flood (2Pe 2:5; w19.10 6 ¶3-5) [Image 1]

(2) Destruction is selective

The wicked perished in the global Deluge; the righteous did not (Ge 6:9-14; 7:1)

(3) God provides instructions for survival

Righteous Noah and his family obeyed God and survived (Ge 6:17-21; Heb 11:7)

### **PREPARE NOW FOR A GREAT ACT OF GOD'S JUDGMENT (7 min.)**

A great act of God's judgment is soon to come [Read Revelation 16:14, 16]

Like the world of Noah's day, today's world is extremely immoral and violent

God will bring relief to the righteous by removing the wicked

Like other genuine acts of God's judgment, this event follows the Bible pattern:

(1) God's warning message is being proclaimed earth wide (Mt 24:14) [Image 2]

(2) Only those who refuse to heed the warning message will perish (Mt 24:37-39; 2Th 1:7-9)

(3) God has provided instruction for survival (Zep 2:3; mwb17.12 2)

How can you prepare for the fast-approaching end of this system of things?

Now is the time to learn about Jehovah, his purposes, and his standards (Joh 17:3)

Apply what you learn (Mt 7:24, 25)

**GOD WILL SOON BRING AN END TO NATURAL DISASTERS (7 min.)**

After God removes the wicked, there will be an abundance of peace (Ps 37:10, 11)

Natural disasters and all other causes of suffering will soon be eliminated under the rule of God's Kingdom (Re 21:3, 4) [Image 3]

Jesus will perfectly control earth's natural forces (Mr 4:39, 41; c/ 95 ¶22)

The Kingdom will undo the damage that man has done to earth's environment (Re 11:18; 21:5; c/ 82 ¶14-15)

Jesus will resurrect those in God's memory, including many who perished because of natural disasters (Joh 5:28, 29; c/ 84 ¶22)

How comforting it is to look ahead to these future blessings from our loving God, Jehovah!

[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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S-34-E No. 93 9/22