

No. 153 Keep Close in Mind the “Awe-Inspiring Day”!

NOTE: The purpose of this talk is to build up the sense of urgency in the brothers. Be sure to prepare well and to present the material with enthusiasm

THE GREAT DAY OF JEHOVAH IS SET ON THE DIVINE CALENDAR (4 min.)

Individuals often commemorate anniversaries

Nations memorialize historical milestones such as the birth or independence of a country

However, there is another “day” we need to be aware of

This day is yet future, but it will affect every individual on this planet and change the course of human history

The Bible describes this important period in human experience as “the great and awe-inspiring day of Jehovah” (Joe 2:30, 31; Mal 4:5)

During that day, Jehovah will act against his enemies and in behalf of his people

This will occur during “the presence of the Son of man,” but the exact “day and hour” are unknown to humans (Mt 24:36-39, 44)

The following evidence shows that we are now living during Christ’s presence

EVENTS THAT MAKE UP THE SIGN OF CHRIST’S PRESENCE (11 min.)

Jesus foretold that during his presence, there would be global conflicts and other notable developments (Mt 24:3, 7, 8; w08 10/1 6-7)

Since 1914 the world has seen World Wars I and II

In addition, international conflicts, civil conflicts, and terrorism affect and displace millions (w08 5/15 13-14 par. 7; g 6/06 4-6; g01 3/22 4)

Misleading religious elements would appear on the scene (Mt 24:11)

These have risen up, but they have provided no comfort for people or hope for the future (w94 3/1 9-11 pars. 7-12)

Lawlessness and crime would be on the increase (Mt 24:12)

The result has been worldwide fear and insecurity

The Bible describes what people would be like in these “critical times hard to deal with”

[Consider appropriate points from 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 13]

Wicked men and impostors “advance from bad to worse, misleading and being misled”

By whom are they “being misled”? **[Read Revelation 12:9]**

Satan is influencing all those who yield to the spirit of this world (1Jo 5:19)

That Adversary of God and man has but a short time to continue his evil, vicious activities (Re 12:12)

Available evidence points to the nearness of Jehovah’s great and awe-inspiring day for executing his judgments

Jehovah has mercifully arranged for warning of that day to be given worldwide (Re 14:6, 7)

Many pay no heed, just as in pre-Flood world (Mt 24:38, 39)

We should have a sense of urgency about worsening world conditions and what they will lead to

WHY IT IS URGENT AND WISE TO KEEP THAT DAY IN MIND (11 min.)

Words recorded at 2 Peter 3:10-13 are of particular interest **[Read and discuss]** (w10 7/15 3-5 pars. 1-11)

Global devastation of present system of things will occur

Elements will dissolve in fiery destruction of present symbolic heavens and earth

To keep “close in mind . . . the day of Jehovah” means to be keenly aware of what that day will mean for us individually and for mankind in general

True Christians have prospect of surviving that day

For those not awake to the sign of the times, however, that day will come “as a thief”

Peter exhorts us to engage in “holy acts of conduct” and to perform “deeds of godly devotion” (w10 7/15 7-11)

Such acts and deeds are holy and godly because they are in accord with God’s requirements for Christians [Without setting rules, give examples of holy conduct and of specific deeds connected with sacred service]

KEEPING JEHOVAH’S DAY CLOSE IN MIND WILL BRING BLESSINGS (4 min.)

Now is the time to keep Jehovah’s day close in mind and to be found acceptable to him [Read 2 Peter 3:14]

Our hope is to be “concealed on the day of Jehovah’s anger,” to be protected by him (Zep 2: 2, 3)

Having advance knowledge of Jehovah’s day, we should be motivated to enter into and maintain a favorable relationship with God and to be faithful, steadfast in his service (2Pe 3:17, 18)

Doing God’s will now holds out hope of ‘remaining forever,’ of surviving the never-to-be-forgotten day of Jehovah (1Jo 2:17)

[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]