

REAL PEACE AND SECURITY—WHEN?

Note to the speaker:

While acknowledging that many sincerely strive to achieve peace, explain why worldwide peace will come only through God's Kingdom and why true peace involves more than the absence of war. By use of Scriptural reasoning, help all to see that real peace and security is at hand. When discussing 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 3, do not make any speculative remarks. Please follow carefully what is stated in the outline

WHY REAL PEACE AND SECURITY ARE SO ELUSIVE (3 min.)

For centuries, men have sought peace and security

At best, they have achieved only a few short periods of temporary coexistence with neighbor nations

They do not understand the real reasons why peace and security are absent in this world

God's Word gives two basic reasons why attaining real peace is so elusive

(1) Mankind is not at peace with God, the Source of love and peace (2Co 13:11; *w97* 1/15 12)

(2) The world is ruled by Satan, the source of hatred and war (Joh 12:31; *w90* 4/1 6)

Let us consider these reasons

REAL PEACE AND SECURITY DEPENDENT ON BEING AT PEACE WITH GOD (5 min.)

Man was created to depend on Jehovah and to obey his laws (Jer 10:23)

When Adam rebelled against God's rule, he lost the peaceful relationship he had enjoyed with God (Ro 5:12)

Since then, man's history has been filled with hatred, war, and disobedience to God's laws

Today, people may equate peace and security with absence of war, protection by police, safety of high-security buildings

Such conditions do not constitute true peace and security

To restore peace with God, we must recognize our spiritual need and submit to God's laws (Mt 5:3; Isa 48:18)

Love for God and deep respect for his righteous principles are essential to having peace and security (Isa 57:21; *w99* 10/1 11)

SATAN'S REMOVAL OPENS THE WAY FOR REAL PEACE AND SECURITY (13 min.)

The world today, more than ever, is influenced by Satan (1Jo 5:19)

Shortly after God's Kingdom began ruling in heaven in 1914, Satan was hurled to the earth (Re 12:9; *w06* 3/15 13)

Since then, Satan has intensified his efforts to mislead man, and hatred, warfare, and other woes have increased (Re 12:12)

Satan's superhuman evil influence dooms all human efforts to bring about peace (*w85* 10/15 5)

Jehovah assures us that it is still his purpose to have lasting peace on earth (Ps 37:9, 11)

He will do so by means of Jesus, the "Prince of Peace" (Isa 9:6, 7)

We have reached the time when significant developments and earthshaking events prophesied in the Bible are to occur (Da 2:33-35, 41-45; *dp* 57-62)

One development that has yet to take place is foretold at 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 3 [Read]

The cry of "peace and security" may be one event or a series of events involving political leaders

Possibly, religious leaders will join them in saying this (Jer 6:14)

As to the complete fulfillment of this prophecy, it is wise to wait and see what develops on the world scene

God's Word assures us that false religion will be attacked and destroyed by "the wild beast" and "the ten horns" (Re 17:15, 16; *re* 255-258)

Many people feel that religion blocks their efforts to achieve peace

After the destruction of false religion, God's Kingdom will crush all human governments at Armageddon (Da 2:44; Re 16:16; 19:19-21; *w90* 5/15 6-7)

Thereafter, Satan the Devil will be removed, opening the door to a millennium of real peace and security (Re 20:1-3)

THE MANY FACETS OF REAL PEACE AND SECURITY (5 min.)

God promises real peace and security for those who will live on earth after Satan has been removed

Peace with fellow men and with wild animals (Isa 11:6-9)

Paradise conditions (Isa 35:1)

Good health and plenty of food for everyone (Ps 72:16; Isa 33:24)

Satisfying work (Isa 65:21-23)

No more death and sorrow (Re 21:4)

ACT NOW, AND LEARN HOW YOU CAN BENEFIT YOURSELF! (4 min.)

Micah describes how Jehovah is bringing about peace and security [Read Micah 4:3, 4] (*w07* 11/1 15)

Today, Jehovah's servants already conform to his requirements by 'not learning war anymore' and dwelling in peace with one another (Isa 32:17)

You too can enjoy peace and security

Acquire knowledge of Jehovah, and develop a close relationship with him (Joh 17:3; Jas 4:7, 8)

Studying the Bible with Jehovah's Witnesses will help you to do so

By obeying God's laws, you will enjoy peace with Jehovah God and fellow humans even while living in this turbulent world (Ps 119:165; 2Pe 3:14)

Soon real and lasting worldwide peace and security will arrive

Now is the time to put your full trust in Jehovah! (Pr 3:5, 6)

(Not all cited texts need to be read)