

RELIGION'S ROLE IN WORLD AFFAIRS

Note to the speaker:

Clearly outline false religion's role in world affairs and the divine judgment it is to suffer. Contrast this with the role of true Christianity, which is based on Jesus' teachings and example. Conclude by drawing attention to the Kingdom as the only government capable of solving mankind's problems

RELIGION'S ROLE IN WORLD AFFAIRS FORETOLD IN PROPHECY (5 min.)

Both true religion and false religion play roles now: religion God approves in this "final part of the days" foretold at Isaiah 2:2-4; religion God disapproves (called "Babylon the Great") foretold at Revelation 17:1, 5

People are being separated at this time

Those who turn to true religion will survive this system's end

All practitioners of false religion will be included among those who "will depart into everlasting cutting-off" (Mt 25:41, 46)

Can tell true worshipers from false by their fruits (Mt 7:17, 20)

TRUE RELIGION'S ROLE: MUST BE "NO PART OF THE WORLD" (8 min.)

Friendship with Satan's world means being enemy of God (Jas 4:4)

True religion is practiced by people who obey Jesus' command to keep free from world's political affairs (Joh 15:19)

Historian Edward Gibbon wrote regarding early Christians in the Roman Empire: "It was impossible that the Christians . . . could assume the character of soldiers . . . or of princes" (*History of Christianity*, pp. 162-3)

Jesus refused political office, loyally stuck to preaching Kingdom (Joh 6:15; 18:36, 37)

Author Malcolm Muggeridge wrote: "Christendom began with the Emperor Constantine. . . . [But] you might even say that Christ himself abolished Christendom before it began by stating that his kingdom was not of this world—one of the most far reaching and important of all his statements" (*The End of Christendom*, p. 14)

Jesus trained followers to preach Kingdom (Lu 10:1, 2, 8, 9)

True Christians have Jesus as model in preaching Kingdom and keeping unspotted from world (1Pe 2:21)

Kingdom preaching worldwide by Witnesses before system's end is another identifying mark of true religion (Mt 24:14)

TRUE RELIGION MUST OBEY GOD BY PRACTICING LOVE (5 min.)

Must obey commandment to love neighbor (Mr 12:30, 31)

God's servants commanded to have no nationalistic or racist divisions worldwide (Ac 10:34; 1Jo 4:20, 21)

Jehovah's Witnesses obey these commands, further identifying them as having true religion (Joh 13:34, 35)

WORLD RELIGIONS FAIL TO 'OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN' (8 min.)

While Christians must be 'in subjection to superior governmental authorities' and "pay back Caesar's things to Caesar," must also 'pay back God's things to God' (Ro 13:1; Lu 20:25)

Where these conflict, must obey God rather than men (Ac 5:29)

Religions of this world do not obey God as Ruler

Do not show love; instead, support nationalistic and racist wars

Are part of Satan's world because of meddling in politics

Roman Emperor Constantine paved the way for an earthly "theocracy" in fourth century C.E. in which, the magazine *Christianity Today* (Oct. 22, 1990) says, "both church and state were branches of one and the same divine government on earth" (Contrast John 18:36)

Jesuit priest Ignacio Ellacuria said Catholic religion tries "to transform this earth into as close a likeness of [the Kingdom of God] as possible" (*Boston Globe*, Nov. 17, 1989)

He and other priests became Marxists (Again contrast John 18:36)

Writer Robert L. O'Connell said of 16th- and 17th-century wars in Europe: "These wars were fought . . . largely along religious grounds. . . . Of all motives for mass violence except perhaps race, religious differences are most effective in undermining a sense of shared humanity and allowing men to behave as if enemies are . . . of another species" (*Of Arms and Men*, p. 124)

Clergyman Harry E. Fosdick admitted: "With one corner of our mouth we have praised the Prince of Peace and with the other we have glorified war" (*The Modern Use of the Bible*, p. 204)

In this century, religious leaders of all denominations have supported wars, leading Catholic to kill Catholic, Orthodox to kill Orthodox, Protestant to kill Protestant

For example, *The New York Times* (Dec. 29, 1966) said: "Local Catholic hierarchies almost always supported the wars of their nations, blessing troops and offering prayers for victory, while another group of bishops on the other side publicly prayed for the opposite outcome"

Religions outside Christendom are also involved in politics and wars

Indian statesman Nehru said: "Religion, in India and elsewhere, has filled us with horror" (*The Great Quotations*, p. 522)

World's religions bloodguilty before God (Isa 1:15)

However, Jehovah's Witnesses have truly 'beaten their swords into plowshares' (Isa 2:4)

In the book *More About Justifying Violence* (p. 23), authors say: "Jehovah's Witnesses have consistently maintained their stand of nonviolent 'Christian neutrality'"

WORLDLY RELIGION TERMED "BABYLON THE GREAT" IN BIBLE (8 min.)

This world's religion (Babylon the Great) called a "harlot" in Bible because she has "committed fornication," in effect going to bed with every kind of political organization (Re 17:1, 2)

She is world empire in that she "has a kingdom over the kings of the earth" because of her influence over them (Re 17:18)

Why called Babylon the Great? (See *Mankind's Search for God*, pp. 368-70)

Babylon the Great has led nations into murderous wars and crusades, blessed armies, prayed for victory for their nation or religion

Because of her, 'all nations misled' and 'blood of prophets and all who have been slaughtered on earth' is found in her (Re 18:23, 24)

Why responsible for "all" slaughtered? Because of teaching people to be part of world and supporting nationalism and wars

Worldly religion doomed, for her works detestable to God (Tit 1:16)

Will soon be torn to pieces, to the world's amazement (Re 17:16; 18:9, 10)

This will be punishment from God for her sins (Re 18:5)

MANKIND'S ONLY HOPE IS GOD'S KINGDOM, NOT HUMAN RULE (6 min.)

Remedy for world's problems is not to be found in mixing politics and religion, for centuries of false religion's involvement in world affairs has made world not better but worse

Only solution is God's Kingdom by Christ (Mt 6:9, 10, 33)

Kingdom promise will not disappoint, for God cannot lie (Tit 1:2)

Jehovah's Witnesses number more than ____ in over ____ congregations worldwide; they are not involved in politics but teach millions in all lands marvelous hope of Revelation 21:4, 5 (See current *Yearbook* for latest figures)

NOW IS THE TIME TO HEED THE WARNING OF REVELATION 18:4 (5 min.)

False religion soon to be destroyed (Re 18:8)

Urgent need to heed God's warning (Re 18:4)

Still time to learn truth, get divine favor (1Ti 2:3, 4)

Shortly after false religion's end, rest of Satan's world will be cut down at Armageddon (Re 19:17, 18)

Take action now and have prospect of seeing this evil system's end and of entering God's new world (Read Psalm 37:34)

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read. Source material in parentheses need not be mentioned)