**What God's Kingdom Is Doing For Us Now**

*Note to the speaker:*

Present clearly the evidence that God's Kingdom is a real, ruling, active government. Show not only what the Kingdom is doing now but also what is expected of those who would be its citizens.

**Abundant Evidence That Kingdom Rule began In 1914** (6 min.)

Have you ever heard of 'Tax Freedom Day'?

For 2014 the date was May 6.

What that means is this: Up to that date every dollar earned has been to cover the expenses required to run the Federal, State, & Local governments.

That is a mind boggling amount of money. Do you find yourself asking, -What do I get from all of that? Good question! Asked by many today.

Jesus taught us to ask God for a better government. He said we should pray: “Let your Kingdom come”.

Although that heavenly Kingdom would eventually bring paradise conditions earth wide, it would be established while human governments were still ruling the earth.

**Ps. 110:1, 2**

Think of the challenges that poses. He must go out amongst his enemies and establish His rulership for the subjects of that kingdom

Bible prophecy and chronology point to 1914 as the year of the kingdom's establishment.

We will take a few minutes to consider aspects of that evidence, but that is not the point of our discussion today. It will contribute, though, to our appreciation of **THEME.**

Composite sign of Christ's presence in Kingdom authority is being fulfilled

Mt. 24:3, 7 & 2Ti. 3:1-5

Wars, food shortages, & earthquakes.

These scripture name very common events and/or traits that have existed since the time of Adam

When haven't there been wars, earthquakes, disobedient children etc.

So for this truly to be a marker of any sort there would have to be something very distinctive

**\*\*\* w09 3/15 pp. 16-17 “Be Vigilant” \*\*\* (Updated ref)**

**THE AGE OF TURBULENCE BEGAN**

*The Age of Turbulence: Adventures in a New World* is the title of a 2007 book by Alan Greenspan.

“By all contemporaneous accounts, the world prior to 1914 seemed to be moving irreversibly toward higher levels of civility and civilization; human society seemed perfectible. The pace of global invention had advanced throughout the nineteenth century, bringing railroads, the telephone, the electric light, cinema, the motor car, and household conveniences too numerous to mention. Medical science, improved nutrition, and the mass distribution of potable water had elevated life expectancy... The sense of the irreversibility of such progress was universal.”

But... “World War I was more devastating to civility and civilization than the physically far more destructive World War II: the earlier conflict destroyed an idea. I cannot erase the thought of those pre-World War I years, when the future of mankind appeared unencumbered and without limit.

As the events of this century have unfolded who could have imagined the headlines we read today?

Would you say something very distinct is taking place?

Lets consider another verse related to these events

Ride of the four horsemen of Revelation chapter 6 confirms that we live in time of Kingdom rule

Re. 6:4, 5, & 8 (select points)

Fiery colored horse – 'take peace away from the earth' & 'great sword'

Black horse – drastic food shortages and at the same time the 'olive oil & wine' products of the finer things in life are not to be harmed.

Pale horse – untimely death from above factors and other events of the last days

All confirmed by today's news headlines.

Notice what these riders are connected with – vs. 2 (Read)

This is that King that we read about in Ps.110, going forth conquering. This is without doubt the time of the Kingdom's establishment. But the question we are here to answer is **THEME.**

**What The Kingdom Has Been Doing In Our Day** (20 min)

We'll examine 4 areas that are typical of any nation that demonstrate the reality of kingdom rule today

1.) Subjects 2.) System of Laws 3.) Education system 4.) Representatives of that government

It has gathered millions of ***loyal subjects*** (Proverbs 14:28) A multitude of people are a king’s majesty,

Though living in more than 239 different countries, they enthusiastically support God's Kingdom

What does that mean “they enthusiastically support God's Kingdom”

Last service year, they voluntarily spent over 1 ½ billion hours spreading the Kingdom message

**\*\*\*yb 2015\*\*\*** “TOTAL HOURS SPENT IN THE FIELD MINISTRY 1,945,487,604”.

With what results? Jehovah's Witnesses & the message of the Kingdom are know throughout the world.

They even make jokes: Who could find Osama bin Ladin? (Cartoon of him looking out of cave)

Relating to that recognition, here is something to think about – A.T. & T., Comcast, & Verizon spent in 2011 $7.35 billion in advertising. Who have heard of them? Jehovah is know globally.

Speaking of 'globally' if one were to go to the United Nations web site & look up 'Information Centers' in local languages, how many languages do you think you would find? 33!

Jehovah's Witnesses? Web site in over 500. Literature over 700.

Not just handing out Magazines. Over 9.5 million Bible Studies being conducted

In addition to the time spent in the preaching work these people have constructed tens of thousands new Kingdom Halls, on average 5/day (jl 25).

In the area of disaster relief – we have been represented everywhere – commonly among the first on scene and best organized. Repeatedly praised for our work.

What does this mean?

**(Psalm 110:3)**  Review vs. 1 & 2 then read

Let's think about this.

Pr. 14:28 had said that 'a multitude of subjects are a kings majesty'

Consider that while this world around us has become increasingly divided and demonstrates an inability to get anything done, these people are coming together and building and working towards benefiting any who will let them help. Thiat is what it means to have subjects 'who have offered themselves willingly'.

As a heavenly government, it has administered written laws

Any government needs law. It's the basis of social order. We've all seen when that is missing.

Have you ever wondered how many laws the U.S. has? They have.

In 2008 the Heritage Foundation published a report that put the number at a minimum of 4,450. When the U.S. House Judiciary Committee asked the Congressional Research Service to update it's 2008 calculation, they responded that they lacked the manpower and resources to do so. There are 23,000 pages. That's only Federal Statutes. Doesn't include state, county, township, or local ordinances.

What is there to show for all of that? What do we read or see each day? Do you feel secure?

By contrast, Written laws governing those under Kingdom rule are found in God's word

Let's compare how people feel under the legal system we just discussed with **Ps. 19:7**

Does anyone describe the law as 'trustworthy'? Inexperienced wise?

In the 23,000 pages of their laws is one to be found like this? **John 13:34** a law of love

God's word, the Bible, has < 1,600 pages most of which is not law – Yet in it, direction is found that governs every aspect of our lives. What a superior code!

What fruitage has it produced in Kingdom subjects? (Self-serving to say what we feel about ourselves)

A.) The New Catholic Encyclopedia acknowledges that Jehovah’s Witnesses are known as “one of the best-behaved groups in the world.” The Desert News of Salt Lake City, Utah, observed that Jehovah’s Witnesses “promote strong family ties and develop productive and honest citizens.” It added: “Members believe in a strong moral code. They believe smoking, over-drinking, drug misuse, gambling, sexual promiscuity and homosexuality are spiritually damaging practices. They teach honesty and good work habits.”

C.) This Heavenly government produces real and positive fruitage in it's subjects

Biblical laws take into consideration that Christians live under laws of worldly governmental authorities, so they render relative subjection to Caesar

1Pe. 2:12 - “Maintain your conduct fine among the nations, so that when they accuse you of being wrongdoers, they may be eyewitnesses of your fine works and, as a result, glorify God in the day of his inspection.”

God's laws are enforced under Kingdom rulership

Willful, unrepentant violators of God's laws are expelled from the congregation, which is thus kept clean

What characterizes these Kingdom subjects? Recognition of the laws *and* the administration of the King. They desire to adhere or subjugate themselves to the king & His representatives.

**So the question for us is:**

Do we want to be among those people? If so, what should characterize us personally?

Do we take time to acquaint ourselves with these laws and reflect on the life examples recorded in God's word so that we gain a heart appreciation of their value? Do we also value the administration the King has put into place to assist us in applying them? (Congregation) Our lives will be richly benefited.

Considered Subjects, Laws & administration

God's Kingdom has provided an *educational system*

Education today faces many challenges. Affordability, Curriculum, and Availability

As you look at what it's produced as reflected in it's graduates do find this thought to be fitting?:

“Education has produced a vast population able to read but unable to distinguish what is worth reading.” G. M. Trevelyan (20th. Century historian) Easiest job is that of a critic.

What is the Kingdom doing for us now regarding education? For starters, a continuous curriculum on these subjects:

Biology, Chemistry, Geology, History, Archeology, Math, Geography, Health sciences, Phys. ED, Literature, Social Studies, Law, Civics, Diet/Nutrition.

All of those subjects explored right here in these pages – W & G

Beyond that and addressing the observation expressed above, the Kingdom covers:

Y.P.A., Making Your Family Life Happy. Think of the subjects we discuss every week on Sunday and what we have learned by being in attendance and participating in the discussions. How we have benefited.

One of the greatest challenges for School Boards regarding curriculum is uniformity. It varies drastically.

How does the Kingdom's educational system fair?

Our primary text book Bible. Uniformly accepted

By means of the Bible and Bible based publications, such as *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*, the Great Educator 'teaches us how to benefit ourselves'

This is being done by the Kingdom on a global basis. 700 languages. The same curriculum for all.

How much does this cost? Get out your checkbooks. Now put them away, it's provided at no cost, available to all.

This is a full life educational process. Not only here at the Kingdom Hall.

In a family, each one benefits from being taught how to fulfill his God assigned role

Family Worship arrangement deals with needs on a personal level

Are we taking full advantage of that?

Speaking of a full life educational process, did you realize we have probably the only school that nobody has ever graduated from! Theocratic Ministry School!

That is another challenge faced by educators today. Drop out rates. They realize how severely those who drop out limit themselves for further progress.

What about each of us? Are we fully engaged in the Kingdom's education program?

Do we read the Bible every day? Are we current with mags and the educational T.V. programming? Are we enrolled in the T.M.S?

We can take this opportunity to ask ourselves: If not, why not?

Bible-based educational programs promote theocratic education

In addition to all of these opportunities there is specialized classes available to all who are willing to reach out for them:

Kingdom Ministry School, School for Traveling Overseers and Their Wives, School for Kingdom Evangelizers, Watchtower Bible School of Gilead, School for Branch Committee Members and Their Wives, Bethel Entrants School.

Those schools really are only the 'Tip of the Iceberg' as it were. The greatest educational program in the world today is conducted by the King of God's Kingdom. **Ps. 110:2**

By means of the global preaching & disciple making work carried out by J.W.'s today the power of that scepter is being extended into millions of individual lives as they offer themselves willingly in the Kings Service. All of this while 'in the midst of the enemies' of that Kingdom. Powerless to stop it.

God's Kingdom has visible representatives to care for and protect its subjects

**Ps. 45: 1a, 6, 7, 16b**

Song about a King, vs. 6, 7 tell us about that King = Jesus. Notice what He does for His people.

In ancient times the leading men of the community, princes so to speak, would sit in the city gates and were there to assist any who needed help. Could be justice, assistance, advice in matters of law, greet visitors.

(Isaiah 32:1, 2)

Elders serve as shepherds and teachers, providing refreshment for the flock

(Matthew 11:28-30) Come to me, all you who are toiling and loaded down, and I will refresh you. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am mild-tempered and lowly in heart, and you will find refreshment for yourselves. 30 For my yoke is kindly, and my load is light.”