

Jared fell asleep thinking about the time of trouble, and dreamed...

Together they stood in their living room and watched the dawn streak across the sky as they had many times before. But it was different this time; it would be the last time. They had spent most of the night in study and prayer and had come to some very serious decisions. Today, he would not go to work, she would not do her daily chores. It was time to take refuge. It had been a difficult decision. They had each lived their life in relative luxury. Neither of them had ever had to miss a meal or sleep without shelter. They were affluent people in their community, well known and respected. They had a daughter and a new granddaughter.

Now it was time to choose between their world and their beliefs. For the first time they found significance in not becoming too attached to material things. But there was no time for second thoughts. They packed a suitcase with only the simplest necessities and hurried away on foot after pausing a moment to take one last look at their lovely home to which they would never return. It harboured many pleasant memories. They knew it would be looted, maybe burned. With tears in their eyes, they hurried on.

They had known this time was coming, seen it coming for years. First there were heated political debates. Next, the nation was split into warring factions. Their national leaders were forced out of office. Finally, one side – the wrong side – took total power.

Things happened rather quickly after that. Almost overnight it seemed. The sequence of events was alarming in its rapidity. It left no time to ponder or doubt.

As they hurried along some neighbours called out. "Alarmists! Go home and relax!" Others prepared to fight. "We have rights, and we must defend them!" they said.

Still others, like them, were seeking refuge. Some ran in fear wondering what they would eat and where they would sleep. But others trusted the Lord to provide.

As they hurried along they wondered what would become of their daughter, granddaughter, and other loved ones? Would they ever see or hear from them again? Did the place of refuge exist? Could they get there? Was this the Lord's will or panic?

The streets of the city were a scene of mass confusion. Nameless faces milled about, cursing and yelling. Children cried. Stores were looted. They tried to work their way through the crowd and onward toward their destination.

Their initial plan was to get to the coast. As they got closer, the crowd became thicker and more hostile. Suddenly the suitcase containing their last belongings was pulled from his hand. He turned to retrieve it only to see it tossed to the top of a truck where two men tore it open and searched it for valuables. He ran forward to protest, only to be roughly pushed back. They hurried on without it.

By nightfall the coast was in sight, but it seemed impossible to penetrate the churning crowd to get there. They longed for the simple security of their home. They held hands tightly, with the knowledge that if they became separated, they might never find each other. Somehow, they had to make it to the place of refuge.

They did penetrate the crowd, and they did make it to the chosen place of refuge in that terrible month of April 1975. Now Mr and Mrs Phang Chi Tu sat cross legged on the floor of Loma Linda University Gentry Gymnasium, sharing an orange. Besides these once affluent people was all of their material wealth, a few items of donated clothing. They told of their flight from South Vietnam, and their loved ones left behind. Had the time of trouble come? There is no doubt of it in the minds of those Seventh-day Adventists evacuated from South Vietnam. But they know their flight is not done. For now, they pray and ask that the Lord will continue to provide for them, that He will dry their tears and care for the loved ones left behind. They know He will." (Wayne Hibbard, A Time of Trouble, Insight, 27 April, 1976)

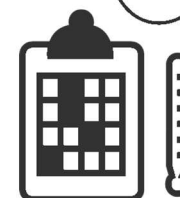
Jared woke up with a start. He realised that the most important question was up to him. How would he have responded if that had been him? Would he be ready for Jesus' return?

The Time is Near

Sabbath

How can you tell when it's Spring, Summer, Autumn or Winter?

SPRING



SUMMER



AUTUMN



WINTER

Year 3, Quarter 2, Week 4, Level: "Pre/Teen"

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Refer Daniel 12:4; Matt 24:1-44; Mark 13:3-23, 28-32; Luke 12:11-12; 17:20-36; 21:7-36; 2 Peter 3:4 NLT; *The Desire of Ages* p630-636; *The Bible Story* vol8 p158-177

Sunday

As Jesus was leaving the temple grounds, one of the disciples pointed to the magnificence of the buildings. Jesus told the disciples that the building would be completely destroyed, with not one stone left on another.

The disciples assumed Jesus was talking about the end of the world. So later they asked Jesus, "Tell us, how will we know when the end of the world is near?"

Jesus of course knew that the destruction of Jerusalem, and the end of the world would occur centuries apart, but rather than upset the disciples with this news, and, knowing that the two events would have many things in common, He told them about both."

Jesus said, "You will hear of wars and threats of wars, nations and kingdoms will fight each other. There will be famines and earthquakes and terrible disasters in many parts of the world. But don't panic, these are only the beginning signs. Many people will say that they are God, or the Christ, or a prophet. They will trick many people.

"You will be arrested and brought to trial. But this will be your chance to testify about Me. Don't worry about what to say, I will give you the right words, the Holy Spirit will speak through you. My followers will be hurt, hated, and even killed. Many will turn away from me and betray each other, even family members, but not a hair of your head will perish! Stand firm and you will win life.

Sin will be everywhere, and people will stop loving each other. But the people who believe until end will be saved. And before the end of the world, the Good News about The Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that everyone can hear it.

"The day that the prophet Daniel wrote about is coming. When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, you will know the time of destruction has arrived. Then those in Judea must flee to the hills, do not stop to get anything, and pray that your flight will not be in the winter or on the Sabbath. The words of the prophets will be fulfilled. Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles, her people killed by the sword or sent away as captives.

"This will be a terrible time, in fact no one would survive, except God will shorten this time for the sake of His people.

"Learn a lesson from the fig tree, when the leaves form, you know summer is near. When you see these things taking place you know His return is near. Heaven and earth will disappear, but My Words, never will.

Friday

Use the clues from yesterday to solve this crossword.

Every single one of these signs has been occurring for some time now and they are increasing. And things will be worse before the end.

Jesus warned His disciples what would happen, God was with them and provided a way of escape from Jerusalem, The same is true for the end of the world. God has told us in the Bible what will happen, He will be with His people and He will provide ways of escape for them.

Psalm 91 is a great Bible promise to memorise to say in times of trouble.

During COVID the rules kept changing, sometimes day-to-day about what we were allowed to do, where we could go, and who and how many we could go with. I found this very stressful so I prayed that God would give me a Bible promise to help at that time. During my Bible reading, soon after, I found Psalm 91. That same week, a book I was reading quoted Psalm 91, and a friend also told me that they had just been challenged to memorise Psalm 91. I learned it as a song and sung it often.

Near the end of the year, restrictions were relaxing, the borders were open, and I prayed about whether to visit my parents in the next state. When I looked, one cheap flight was available there and back, so I booked it and flew with my son.

The day after we arrived, I received a phone call from home, "There's been a case of COVID near the state border and they are thinking of closing the border. Maybe you should come home?"

But I had prayed and felt God's leading to go, so I decided to stay. I spent the week singing Psalm 91 in my head and despite the warnings of possible impending trouble from the TV, I was able to relax and enjoy our holiday. There were, extra border and airport security checks, but we passed through safely, singing Psalm 91 silently, and arrived home safely.



Thursday

Use an NLT or NIV Bible to find the missing words in the signs of the Second Coming. Then write down the most recent fulfillment of these signs in the right column. (Ask your parents if you need help)

Verse 6: "You will hear of _____ (7a) and threats of _____ (7d)..."	
Verse 7: "...There will be _____ (3a) and _____ (4d) in various places."	
Verse 8: Christians will be "arrested, p_____ (10a) and killed."	
Verse 9: Christians will be "h_____ (2d) all over the world because you are my followers."	
Verse 10: "Many will t_____ (1d) a_____ (13 backwards) from the faith and will betray and _____ (6a) each other."	
Verse 12: Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the _____ (12a) of many will grow _____ (11d)	
Verse 14: "The Good News about the Kingdom will be _____ (10d) throughout the _____ (5a) _____ (5d)."	
Verse 24: "False _____ (9d) and false _____ (8d) will appear and perform great signs and wonders..."	

Monday

Jesus continued, "The sun and moon will be dark, the stars will fall from the sky and the powers of heaven will be shaken. Then the Son of Man will appear with the mighty trumpet and will send His angels to gather His chosen ones. But, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven. Only God the Father knows. It will be like before the flood, with people partying and having weddings; they did not realise what was happening until the flood came. It will be like the days of Sodom and Gomorrah, when fire and burning sulphur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. Remember Lot's wife.

Gathering vultures are a sign that a carcass is nearby and when you see these signs you will know the end is near. Stay alert because you do not know when the day of the Lord will come. Do not let your hearts be dulled by partying, or the worries of life. Don't be caught unaware. This day will be like the springing of a trap. If the homeowner knew when the burglar was coming, he would be watching to stop him. Be ready for the Son of Man will come when least expected.

The end of Jerusalem came 70 years after the death of Jesus. Roman soldiers under the leadership of Cestius surrounded the city, but then withdrew, and the Jewish army chased after them. The Christians recognised the signs Jesus had given and obeyed His warning to flee immediately to a place of safety.

The Jewish army triumphantly returned, but not for long. The Romans returned and laid siege to the city, which was full of visitors for the Passover. Many people starved to death, they tried eating their leather sandals and belts. At the same time, others hoarded food, keeping it for themselves. The people had rejected God and God had left them, now they fought like animals, thinking only of themselves, not even caring about their own families.

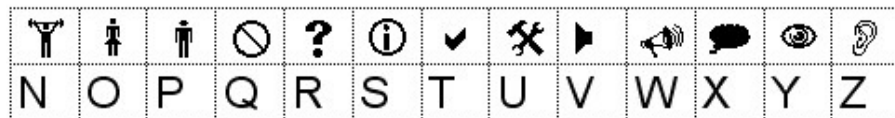
The Roman leaders begged the Jews to surrender, promising to save the city and temple, but the Jews refused and cursed them.

Titus commanded his soldiers to save the temple. But during the night Jews hiding in the temple attacked the Roman soldiers. Someone threw a burning torch into the temple courtyard, and it caught alight. The whole complex went up in flames and smoke as if it was a volcano and the Roman leaders lost control of the army – more than a million Jews died that day and not one stone of the temple was left on another – just as Jesus had warned.



What does Luke 21:31_{NLT} say?

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Arrests, earthquakes,
false prophets, famines,
hate, killing, partying,
threats of wars, wars,
weddings.

S F I G N S O F T W H E E
E A R T H Q U A K E S N D
S L I G A N S O F D T H E
E S N D T S I G N D S O F
T E H E E E N D S I I G N
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A R R E S T S A I G G N S
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G N S O F T H E E N D S I
I G N S O F T H E E N D N
S I G N S O K I L L I N G

Look through Sunday and Monday's story, make a list of the signs and tick or cross if they apply to Jerusalem, the world, or both.

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