

*"We, according to his promise,
look for new heavens and a
new earth." 2 Peter 3:13.*

Note: Men and women are now presenting the solemn last warning message of Christ's second coming in over 900 languages. Nearly 99 percent of the world has access to it. That He wants all to have ample opportunity to prepare for His Son's return demonstrates God's great love for us.

14. What will scoffers in the religious world be saying at that time? 2 Peter 3:3, 4 (NT 207).

The Bible says: _____?

Communist China's first space satellite proclaimed to the world a message filled with foreboding, "The East is Red." All of us wondered as the Chinese proclaimed Mao Tse Tung the savior of the human race just what it meant to us. But more startling events still lie ahead. Jesus said, "There shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, *they shall deceive the very elect.*" Matthew 24:24.

Jesus has elected *you* to be with Him. Just as surely as He has predicted so accurately conditions in our world today, He is coming again. Mao's proclamation was just another indication of it. Make your decision now to stand with Christ. Never let go.

I want to be prepared when Jesus comes. ☐

Name _____

Address _____

How will Christ come? What happens to the earth? the wicked? the saved? In Lesson 3 your Bible will answer these questions as you study the topic, "What Happens When Jesus Comes?"

This Maranatha Bible Reading Guide comes to you with the compliments of your friends in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. You can receive further information by writing or phoning the address nearest to you.

P.O. Box 99, Strathfield, N.S.W. 2135. Ph. 747 5655
P.O. Box 129, Hamilton, N.S.W. 2303. Ph. 61 2531
P.O. Box 800, Canberra City, A.C.T. 2601. Ph. 49 6822
19 Eagle Terrace, Brisbane, Qld. 4000. Ph. 221 7972
P.O. Box 51, Townsville, Nth Qld. 4814. Ph. 79 3988
P.O. Box 120, Prospect, S.A. 5082. Ph. 269 2177

P.O. Box 41, North Hobart, Tas. 7002. Ph. 34 2344
P.O. Box 44, Hawthorn, Vic. 3122. Ph. 818 1513
P.O. Box 118, West Perth, W.A. 6005. Ph. 321 5154
P.O. Box 10-018, Balmoral, Auckland, N.Z. Ph. 689 039
P.O. Box 25-085, Victoria St., Christchurch, N.Z. Ph. 62 899

SIGNS PRINT

No. 2

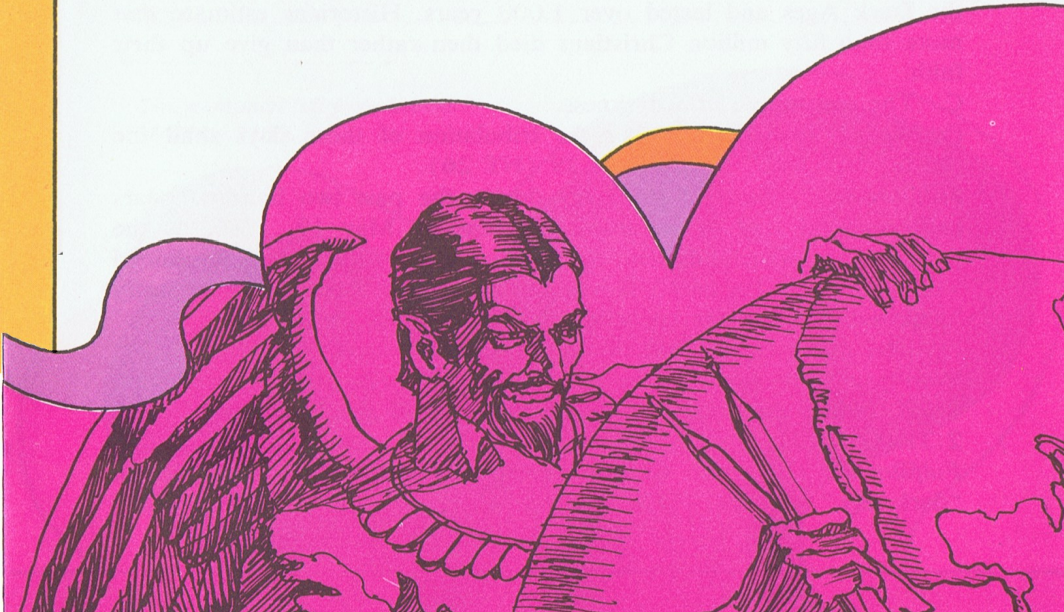


the end of the world

In Lesson 1 we saw God direct Daniel in giving an amazingly accurate sketch of world history. Our attention now turns to the last part of the prophecy, the establishment of God's kingdom on earth. (Daniel 2:44.)

We are engaged in a warfare far more serious and deadly than that between hostile nations. It is a conflict for men's minds, which will determine the destiny of not only all who now live, but all who have ever lived on earth. The Bible says the struggle began in heaven and continues on earth. (Revelation 12:7-9.) Who are the antagonists? What are the issues?

On one side struggles a pretender to the throne of heaven, the



7. What problems will crop up in the financial or economic world? James 5:1-8 (NT 201).

The Bible says:

Verses 1-3: A few men have gathered

Verse 4: Working classes face

Verse 8: These things show

8. What message will the nations proclaim, and what will actually happen? 1 Thessalonians 5:3, 4 (NT 181).

The Bible says: "When they shall say,; then cometh upon them."

9. What are some of the varieties of moral deterioration in the final days? 2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NT 187).

The Bible says:

Verse 1: "In the last days"

Verse 2: "Men shall be"

Verse 4: "Lovers of pleasures"

Verse 5: "Having a form of"

10. What did Daniel say would happen at the time of the end? Daniel 12:4 (OT 708).

The Bible says: "Many shall, and knowledge shall"

Note: Our space age makes one aspect of the completion of this prophecy all too obvious. It is said that man has discovered 80 percent of the world's total knowledge in the last decade and that 90 percent of all the scientists who have ever lived are alive today.

11. The Bible compares the final stage of human history to the time of what man in Biblical history? Matthew 24:37 (NT 26).

The Bible says:

12. What word described world conditions in Noah's day just before the destruction of the Flood? Genesis 6:11, 13 (OT 13).

The Bible says: "And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me: for the earth is filled with"

Note: These verses picture a world all too familiar to us. The preoccupation of people with violence through the mediums of entertainment, on our streets in riots and soaring crime rates, and on our campuses needs no verification other than today's news.

13. What must Christ's followers proclaim in all the world before the Lord can return? Matthew 24:14 (NT 25).

The Bible says:

E. The stars appeared to fall from heaven in a spectacular display. *Prophecy*: "And the stars shall fall from heaven." Matthew 24:29 (NT 26).

Fulfillment: The greatest recorded meteor shower took place on the night of November 13, 1833. The meteor trails were so bright that a person could read a newspaper on the street. Men thought the end of the world had come. The meteors belonged to a shower that took place every 33 years, but it has never occurred as spectacularly as in the 1833 display.

F. Jesus comes in the clouds.

Prophecy: "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Matthew 24:30 (NT 26).

Fulfillment: This is the next great event.

4. What will the nations be doing just before Christ's coming? Matthew 24:6, 7 (NT 25); Joel 3:9-12 (OT 717).

The Bible says: _____.

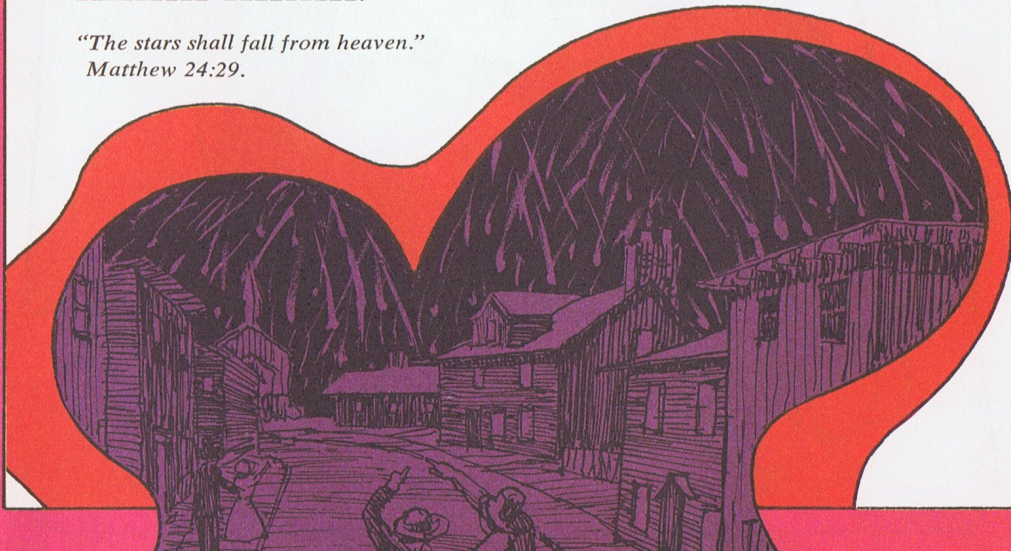
5. What things in the natural world herald the coming? Luke 21:11 (NT 76).

The Bible says: _____.

6. What terms does the Bible use to describe the anxiety and trouble that will exist among people just before the end? Luke 21:25, 26 (NT 77).

The Bible says: "Upon the earth _____,
with _____; . . . _____."
_____."

"The stars shall fall from heaven."
Matthew 24:29.

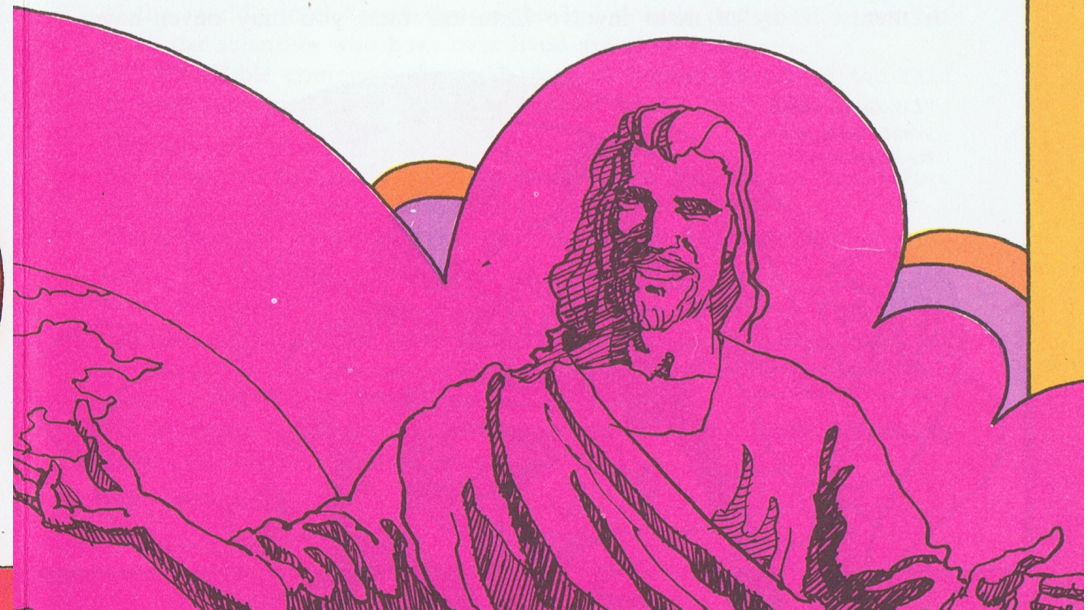


rulership of the universe. He has many aliases: Satan, the devil, dragon, "that old serpent." (Revelation 12:9.) Before his fall from heaven, he had the name Lucifer, which meant "son of the morning." It expressed the mighty angel's beauty and exalted nature. But notice the accusation brought against him: "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer. . . . For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: . . . I will be like the most High." Isaiah 14:12-14.

On the other side stands God, whose rule of love Satan has questioned and attacked. Man joined the spiritual war in his first home, the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:8), when the serpent, Satan, or the devil (Revelation 12:9), deceived Adam and Eve (Genesis 3). The first human beings broke their allegiance to God. Evil, or sin, became part of the human race as men chose to follow Satan rather than God: "Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Romans 5:12.

God did not leave us doomed to eternal death. He sent His Son to live with us and die for us. "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." Romans 5:19. By believing in Jesus Christ, we stand on God's side in His battle with Satan.

The battle lines stand drawn up. The war is a part of each person's life. Whom shall we choose to serve? The choice grows more critical as the approach of Christ as Judge of men draws nearer: "When the



Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: and before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats." Matthew 25:31, 32. How soon will He appear? What will indicate that His coming is near?

THE BIBLE SAYS

1. What has Christ promised His followers? John 14:1-3 (NT 97).
The Bible says: "And if I go and prepare a place for you, -----."

2. Who only knows the exact time of Christ's coming? Matthew 24:36 (NT 26).
The Bible says: -----.

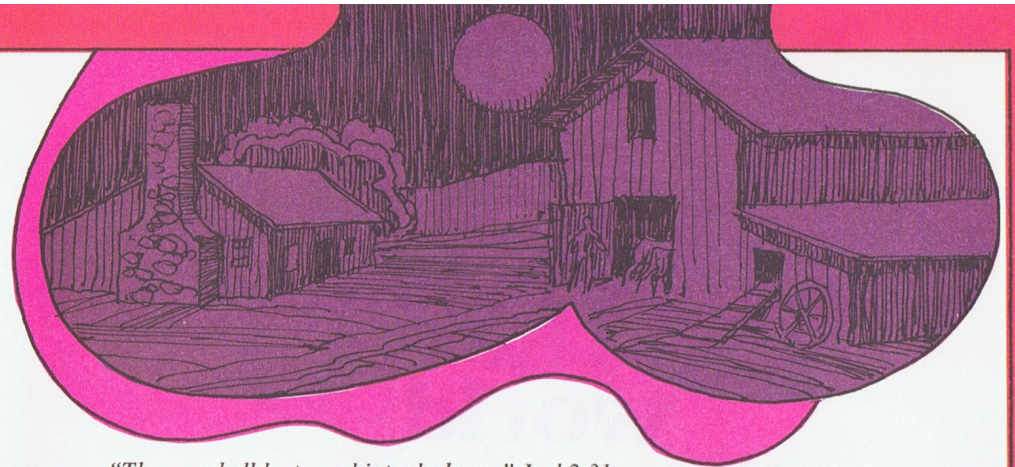
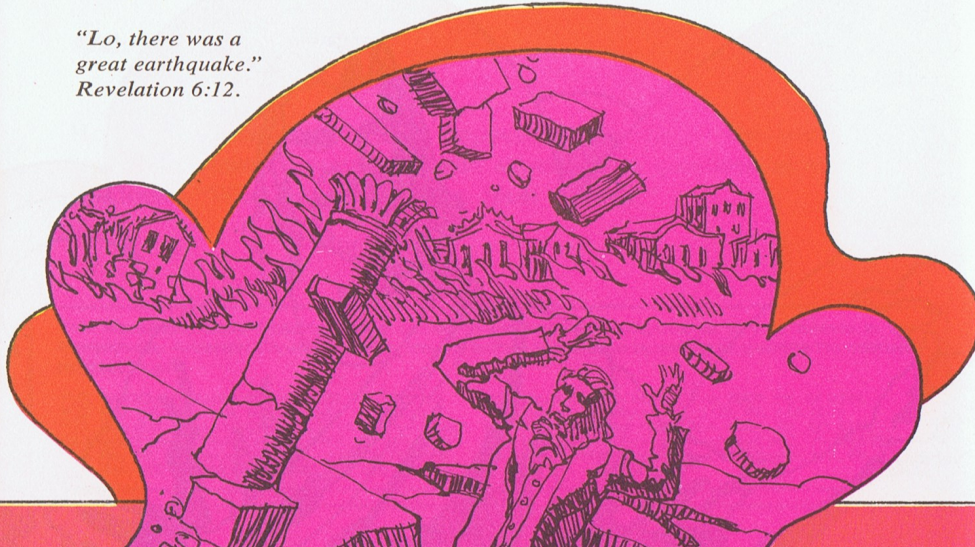
Note: The Scriptures plainly state that only God the Father knows the day and the hour of His Son's appearance again on earth. To many Christ will come as unexpectedly as a burglar. 1 Thessalonians 5:2 (NT 181). They will not be looking for or expecting His return. But to His followers Christ sends the instruction, "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are the children of light. . . . Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober." 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6 (NT 181).

3. Has God left in His Word definite indications of the approach of His coming? Matthew 24:33 (NT 26).

The Bible says: -----.

Note: The signs that Christ referred to are listed below with their fulfillments. Many of them involve historical facts you may never have

"Lo, there was a great earthquake."
Revelation 6:12.



"The sun shall be turned into darkness." Joel 2:31.

read before. Study them carefully.

A. The destruction of Jerusalem.

Prophecy: "There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." "Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains." Matthew 24:2, 16 (NT 25).

Fulfillment: The Roman warrior Titus destroyed Jerusalem in A.D. 70. Recent archaeological excavations have uncovered evidence of the great destruction and fire which obliterated the city.

B. A great persecution or tribulation.

Prophecy: "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world." Matthew 24:21 (NT 25).

Fulfillment: This long period of religious oppression took place during the Dark Ages and lasted over 1,000 years. Historians estimate that more than fifty million Christians died then rather than give up their faith.

C. The sun turned into darkness.

Prophecy: "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened." Matthew 24:29 (NT 26).

Fulfillment: Students of prophecy during the past two hundred years have seen the day of unnatural darkness on May 19, 1780, as the prophecy's logical fulfillment. Science has never satisfactorily explained what caused the darkness. It was not an eclipse. Look it up. It really happened. Many older encyclopedias had articles on it.

D. The moon turned into the appearance of blood.

Prophecy: "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come." Joel 2:31 (OT 717).

Fulfillment: The moon became as red as blood on the night of the "dark day," May 19, 1780.