

Home for Christmas I'm Dreaming...

December 3, 2017 / Jeff Gunn

¹ Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. ² "Do you see all these things?" he asked. "Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."

³ As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"

⁴ Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many. ⁶ You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁷ Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are the beginning of birth pains.

⁹ "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. ¹⁰ At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, ¹¹ and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. ¹² Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³ but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. Matthew 24:1-14, NIV

¹ As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!" Mark 13:1, NIV

...remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. Luke 21:5, NIV

Outward realities sometimes _____ us into false dreams of _____.

¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:18, NIV

No matter how _____ something appears, we live in a world where almost everything is _____.

³⁴ "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man." Luke 21:34-36, NIV

We are living in _____ times. Jesus wants us to have a sense of _____, not of _____.

³ The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the Lord tests the heart. Proverbs 17:3, NIV

²³ Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Psalm 139:23, NIV

We can expect our time to be a time of great _____.

⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 1 John 4:9, NIV

But this is also a time of great _____ for Christ-followers who _____.

MEMORY VERSE

¹³ But the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. Matthew 24:13, NIV

My next step: In shaky times, I will stand firm in the gospel.

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.