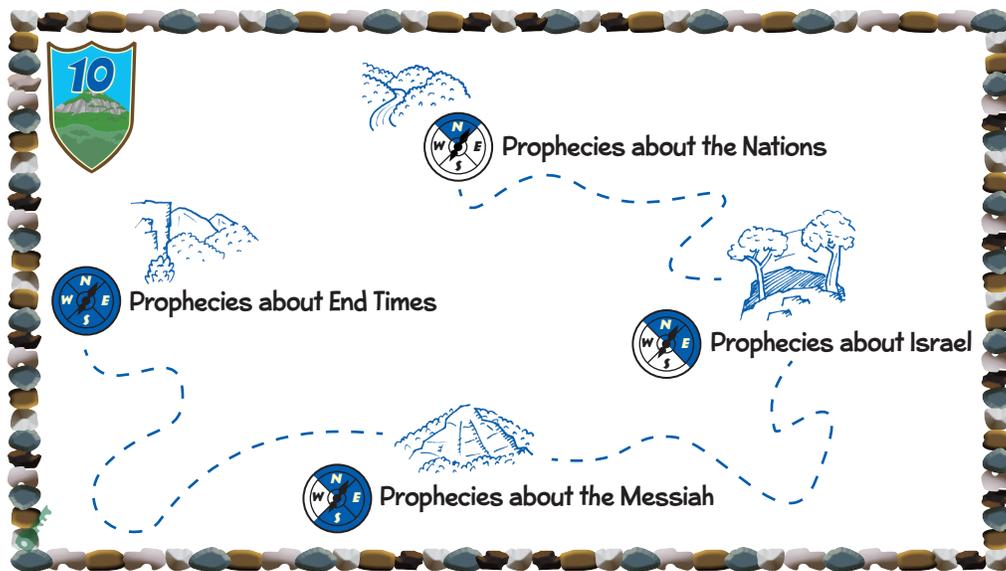


TRAIL 10 • BIBLE PROPHECY

Decoding Things to Come

Throughout Bible history, God communicated to people through prophets—messengers who spoke for the Lord. God sent many prophets to His own people, the Jews. He sent other prophets to speak to the leaders of surrounding nations. Many of God’s messages described future events.

God's people welcomed and heeded some prophets; they spurned and mistreated many others. Several prophets explained God’s plans through object lessons or symbolic drama. God even enabled some prophets to perform amazing miracles that confirmed the truth of their messages.



"Fulfilled prophecy is evidence that the Bible really is God's Word. Only God can foretell the future. Since the Bible accurately foretells the future, we can trust it as God's Word and know that what the Bible teaches is true."—Lawrence O. Richards



PROPHECIES ABOUT THE NATIONS



BIBLE PROPHECY

▼ Name some Bible prophets who delivered God’s messages:
(Hint: Start with **Isaiah** on your Bible “contents” page.)



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Sometimes, self-appointed prophets delivered false messages that they claimed came from God. It wasn’t always easy to tell which messengers were true and which were false.

▼ How could God’s people determine whether or not a prophet’s message came from the Lord (**Deuteronomy 18:20-22**)?

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* *Would you like God to speak His messages through you?*



► People who lived in the seacoast city of Tyre became enemies of God’s people.

About BC, God gave the Prophet Ezekiel a message about His plans for Tyre.

PROPHECY: Read **Ezekiel 26:1-14**. God promised to:

- send many nations against Tyre
- turn the city into a bare rock
- break down the city walls
- make it a place to spread nets

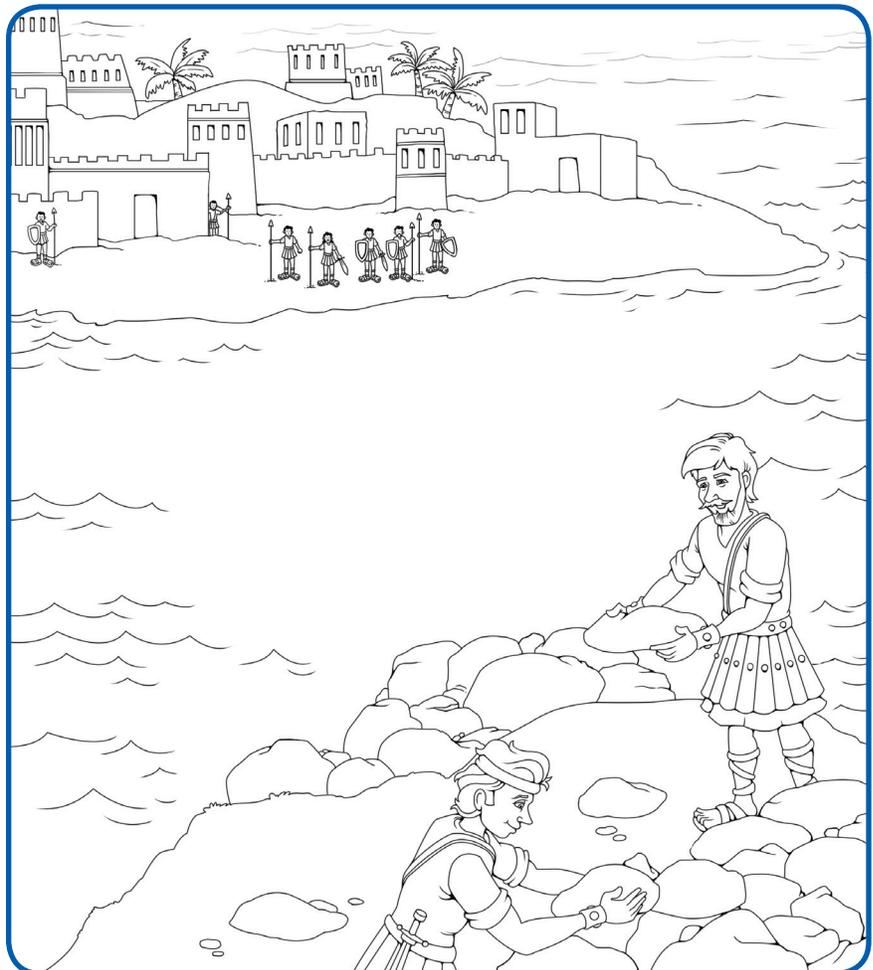
HISTORICAL FULFILLMENT:

(26:6-11) In 572 BC, Babylonian forces destroyed Tyre after a long siege. Survivors retreated to the nearby island.

(26:12-13) In 332 BC, Alexander the Great led his Greek army against Tyre’s island city. He used rubble from the mainland city to build a roadway and capture the island.

(26:14) Tyre was eventually rebuilt, but Muslim Mamluks came and destroyed it again in AD 1291. Today, fishermen dry their nets there.

▼ Draw a picture to show what Alexander’s workers did to defeat the people of Tyre.



* Why did God send messages to people from other nations?

Babylon was the capital city of the mighty Babylonian Empire. The outer walls spanned the Euphrates River and circled 50 miles around the city. The walls were 300 feet high and 85 feet thick. Babylon appeared to be invincible!

➤ In BC, Babylonian forces defeated God’s people. Many of the Jews who survived were exported to Babylon. Years later, proud King Belshazzar offended the Lord, so God sent him a hand-written message.

PROPHECY: Read **Daniel 5:1-29**. God warned King Belshazzar:

- (5:26) MENE: (NUMBERED) God has numbered the days of your reign
- (5:27) TEKEL: (WEIGHED) God has weighed your wrong deeds
- (5:28) PERES: (DIVIDED) God will divide Babylon between the Medes and Persians

HISTORICAL FULFILLMENT:

➤ How long did it take for Daniel’s prophecy to come true (5:30-31)?

Greek historians confirm that Darius the Mede besieged Babylon. His engineers worked upstream and diverted the Euphrates River to a nearby lake. On the night of October 12, 539 BC, soldiers entered the city under the sluice gates. Because the Babylonian leaders were at a big drinking party, Darius conquered Babylon without a fight!



* Why does God judge nations who disobey Him?

▼ If God wanted to send a message that predicted something about you, what would you like that prophecy to be?

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 God describes international events before they take place.

 *Ask God to send messengers to leaders of your own country as well as Middle-Eastern nations today. Also, pray that God will help you listen to His voice and do whatever He says.*

 **Trail 10 Key Verse**—God Knows the Future: Isaiah 46:9-10
Trail 10.1 Verse—God Knows the Future: Isaiah 46:9-10

Your initials: Adult initials: Date:

FAMILY TIME

Play a “prophecy game.” The leader will make true and false statements about things that God promises to do in the future. See who can respond to all the statements correctly.



PROPHECIES ABOUT ISRAEL



God promised the Jewish people that their Messiah will someday reign in Israel. Then they will live in peace and safety. But this prophecy has not yet been fulfilled.

TIMELINE:

1. God sent prophets who encouraged Israel (the ten northern tribes) to return to Him. They refused to listen, so in BC God sent the Assyrians who scattered the Jewish people throughout the empire.

2. God sent other prophets who urged Judah (the two southern tribes) to repent and follow Him. They rejected God's messengers, so in

BC the Lord sent the Babylonians who destroyed Jerusalem and took captives to Babylon.

3. In BC, God's Prophet Daniel explained the "handwriting on the wall." That same night, the Medes and Persians invaded Babylon. Soon after the Persians came to power, the Jewish captives were allowed to return home.

4. God sent His Son to live among the Jewish people (4 BC to AD), but they rejected Him. The Romans crucified Jesus, but He rose from the grave and promised to return.

▼ Show where each event about Israel fits on the timeline below.



* If God sent a prophet to your community today, what might he say and do?

➤ Read **Jeremiah 29:10**. God predicted His people would be servants in Babylon for years.

➤ About BC, God made another amazing prediction.

PROPHECY: Read **Isaiah 44:24–45:6**. God promised to:

- allow Jewish captives to return to Jerusalem (44:26)
- rebuild Jerusalem through “Cyrus” (44:28)
- help Cyrus defeat the surrounding nations (45:1-3).

HISTORICAL FULFILLMENT:

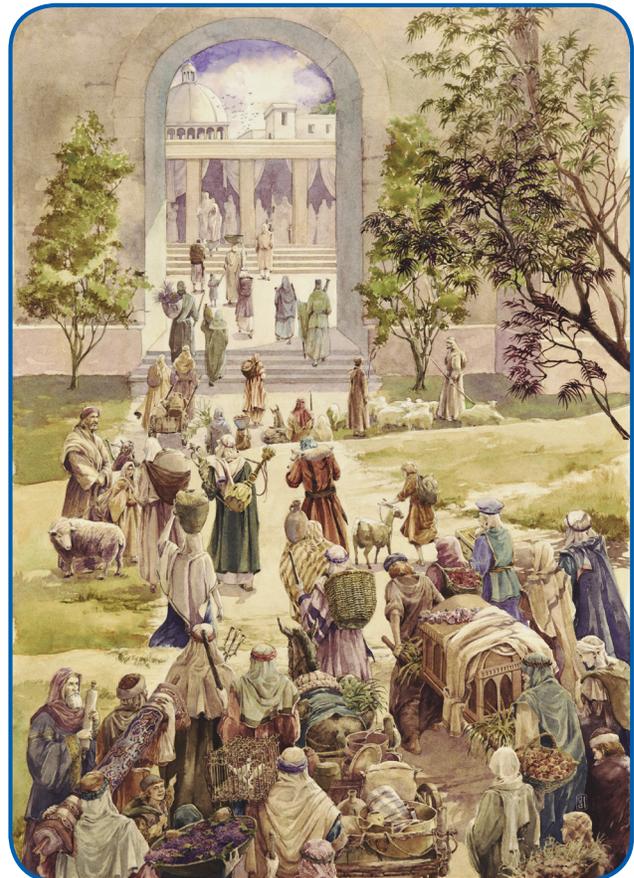
➤ Read **2 Chronicles 36:21-23**. How many years were the Jewish people exiled from their land?

✓ 150 years after Isaiah’s prophecy, a man named

rose to power.

In BC, he authorized:

- government funding to build the Jerusalem Temple
- the Jewish people’s return to their homeland



* How does God know what will take place in the future?

➤ About BC, the Prophet Ezekiel predicted future events regarding God’s people.

PROPHECY: Read **Ezekiel 37:15-28**. God promised to:

- reunite Israel and Judah as one nation (15-20)
- bring God’s people back to the Promised Land (21-23)
- establish the eternal reign of David’s Descendant (24-28).

HISTORICAL FULFILLMENT:

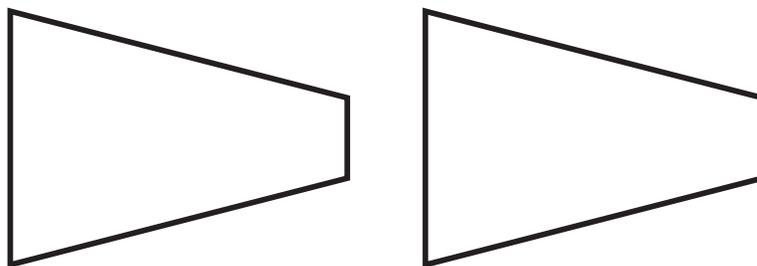
God is fulfilling Ezekiel’s prophecy in stages:

Ancient: In BC, 50,000 Jewish people returned to their homeland (Cyrus’ decree).

Recent: After a United Nations recommendation, on May 15, , the nation of Israel was officially established.

Future: The Messiah will reign from Jerusalem over all the people on earth (37:24-28).

▼ Draw the flag code to show how many years ago Israel became a nation:



* *What have you heard recently in the news about the nation of Israel?
How do you see God at work in that region of the world?*



▼ If God sent a message that predicted the future of your country, what do you think that prophecy might be?

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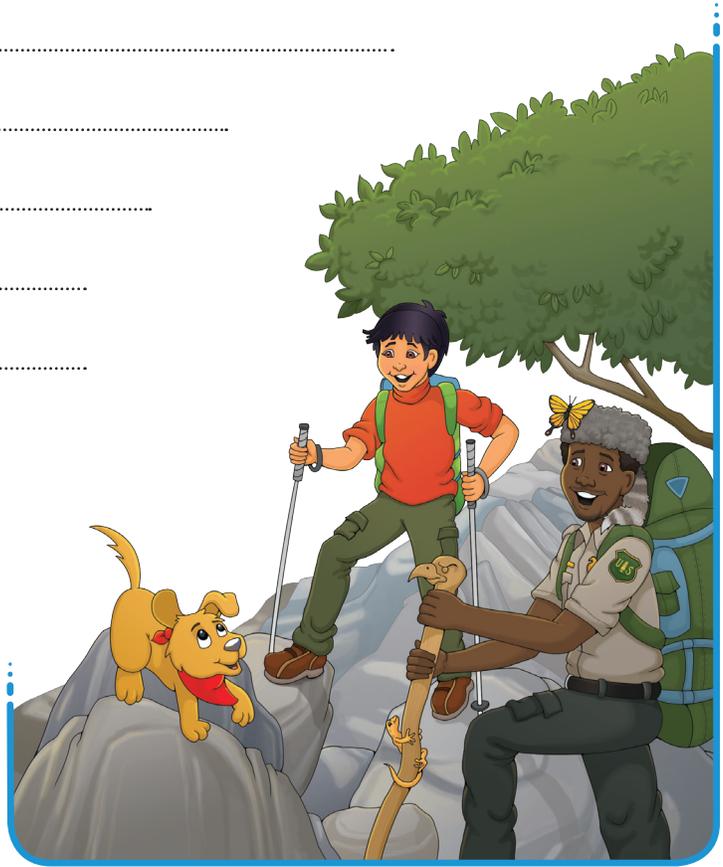
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 God foretells the future of the Jewish people.

 Ask God to make His presence known to the Jewish people today.
Pray for peace in Jerusalem and the Middle East.

 **Trail 10 Key Verse**—God Knows the Future: Isaiah 46:9-10
Trail 10.2 Verse—God Loves His People: 1 Kings 10:9

Your initials: Adult initials: Date:

FAMILY TIME

Keep abreast of recent news events in Israel and the Middle East. Discuss how you see God working in each situation.



PROPHECIES ABOUT THE MESSIAH



God promised King David that his family would reign over His people forever (2 Samuel 7:16). Ever since then, Jewish people have awaited their “Anointed One” or “Messiah.” (The equivalent Greek term is “Christ.”)

▼ Old Testament prophecies predicted many things about the Messiah. Match these Bible verses with the statement that it describes.

BIBLE PROPHECY

The “Son of Man” will rule people from all nations.	Zechariah 6:12-13
The “Shepherd/Prince” will care for the sheep.	Ezekiel 34:23-24
The “Priest/King” will build the Jerusalem temple.	Jeremiah 33:14-16
The “Branch” will bring righteousness and safety.	Daniel 7:13-14

* Why do you think many Jewish people refused to consider that Jesus might be their Messiah?

▼ Read the Old Testament prophecies about the promised Messiah. Then learn from the Gospel of Matthew how Jesus fulfilled each one.

OT PREDICTION	EVENT	NT FULFILLMENT
Micah 5:2	Was born in _____	Matthew 2:1-2
Hosea 11:1	Moved to _____ for safety	2:14-15
Zechariah 9:9	Rode a _____ into Jerusalem	21:1-7
Zechariah 11:12-13	Was betrayed for _____ pieces of silver	27:3-7
Psalms 22:18	Soldiers gambled for His _____	27:35
Psalms 16:9-10	Arose from the _____	28:5-6

* Do you believe that Jesus is the Messiah that God promised? Why or why not?

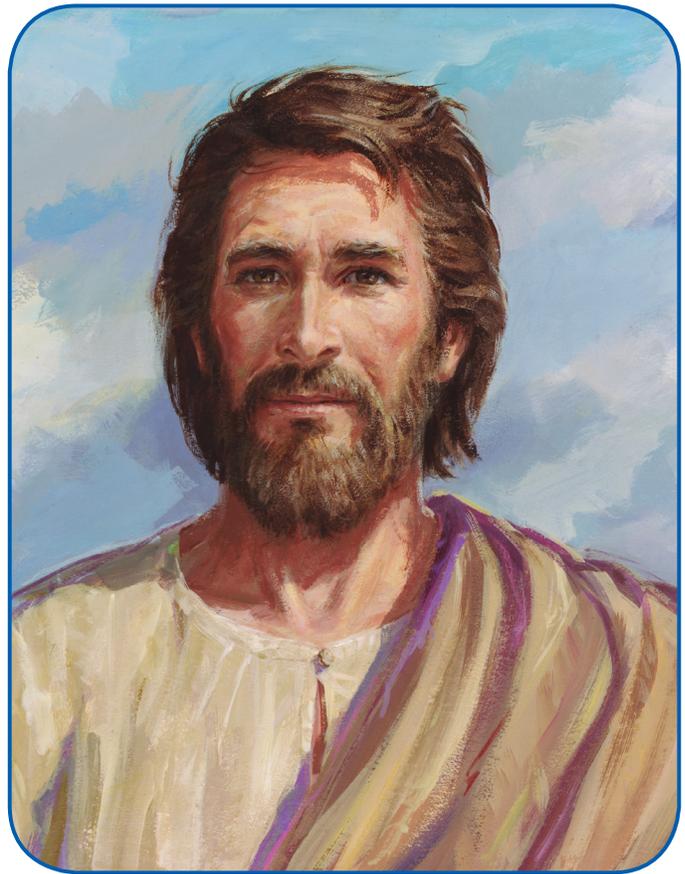
➤ Nearly years before Jesus' birth, the Prophet Isaiah wrote



about a future, "suffering servant." Jewish scholars traditionally believed that this passage referred to the anticipated Messiah.

▼ As you read **Isaiah 53:1-12**, write phrases that remind you of Jesus.

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* *What impresses you most about this passage?*

▼ All 66 Bible books tell one complete story about God’s love and forgiveness. Jesus’ life—His birth, ministry, death, and resurrection—ties the whole Bible together. Create a short message that you would like everyone in the world to hear about Jesus:

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 **Jesus fulfills many Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah.**

 *Pray that many Jewish people will hear and respond to Jesus’ message of salvation. Ask God for boldness to tell others why you believe that Jesus is God’s “Anointed One.”*

 **Trail 10 Key Verse—God Knows the Future: Isaiah 46:9-10**
Trail 10.3 Verse—God Sends His Son: Isaiah 9:6

Your initials: Adult initials: Date:

FAMILY TIME

Research other Bible prophecies that Jesus fulfilled. Talk about those that most amaze you and encourage your faith.



PROPHECIES ABOUT END TIMES



The Prophet Daniel lived between 620–530 BC. God gave Daniel an alarming vision of four bizarre-looking beasts (**Daniel 7:1-8**). An angel explained that the beasts symbolized leaders of future world empires (**7:16-26**).

▼ Match the beast image to its appearance in Daniel's vision:



BEAST #1: (Daniel 7:4) **BABYLON**—was destroyed in 539 BC
(King Nebuchadnezzar)



BEAST #2: (7:5) **PERSIA**—539 to 333 BC
(King Cyrus “devoured” Babylon, Lydia, Egypt)



BEAST #3: (7:6) **GREECE**—333 to 063 BC
(Alexander the Great and his four Generals)



BEAST #4: (7:7-8) **ROME**—27 BC to AD 476
(Caesars and Antichrist)

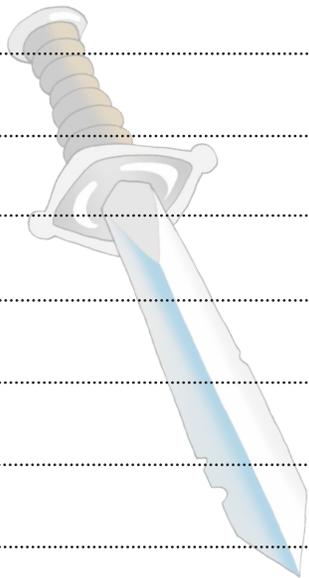
* What is your idea of a beast-like person?

Today, much of the book of Daniel is ancient history! But when Daniel wrote, he described things that would take place in the future. A wicked man named Antiochus IV ruled Syria from 175 to 164 BC. He hated the Jews and killed many of God’s people—just as God predicted in Daniel's prophecy.

Antiochus IV was like another evil world leader yet to come—“Antichrist.” In the end times, Antichrist will be the most powerful ruler on earth. During many months of intense tribulation, he will blaspheme God, persecute God’s people, and change Jewish festivals and laws.

▼ Complete the chart (see p. 191) to reveal the dramatic differences between Jesus Christ and Antichrist:

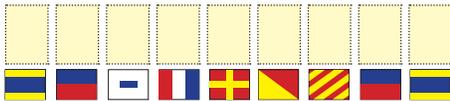
ANTICHRIST
<p>Plases and exalts himself (Daniel 11:36-37)</p>
<p>Prosper greatly (11:36)</p>
<p>Rejects traditional faith and values (11:37)</p>
<p>Embraces military power and wealth (11:38)</p>
<p>Opposes and attacks other nations (11:39-43)</p>
<p>Is cruel, hateful, and inhumane (11:44)</p>
<p>Will finally meet his end (11:45)</p>



* Why will God allow Antichrist to do so much evil?



Daniel's vision was about kings and kingdoms that came to power during the next 400 years. He also saw an even greater power—God's kingdom!

▼ All earthly kingdoms will be  (Daniel 7:26).

▼ What will happen to God's kingdom (7:27)?

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JESUS CHRIST

Humbles Himself and obeys God (Philippians 2:8)



(Matthew 27:29-31)

Does the will of His heavenly Father (John 5:30)



(John 6:15)

Invites people to find rest in Him (Matthew 11:28-30)

Offers peace and love (John 14:27, 15:13)



(Luke 1:33)

* Why would you rather serve Jesus than Antichrist?



Though difficult days lie ahead, Christians need not fear the future. In the end, God will overcome all His enemies and rule the entire earth.

▼ What do you think God’s kingdom will be like?

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▼ What would you like to ask God about when you get to heaven?

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 **God knows the future, so He explains in the Bible what will take place in the last days.**

 *Thank God that His kingdom will ultimately prevail over evil. Pray that the Lord will prepare you to faithfully serve Him—no matter what the future may bring.*

 **Trail 10 Key Verse—God Knows the Future: Isaiah 46:9-10**
Trail 10.4 Verse—God Reigns Forever: Daniel 7:27

Your initials: Adult initials: Date:

FAMILY TIME

Read Revelation 21:1-8 to get a preview of what life will be like in heaven. What do you look forward to the most?



MARITIME FLAG DECODER

The code puzzles in this *Guidebook* use **International Maritime Signal Flags**. Ships at sea raise these flags, which individually represent letters and numbers, to send messages based on the **International Code of Signals**. With this visual code, ships in the same fleet can “talk” to each other while remaining “radio silent.”

As you use the **decoder** to solve word puzzles, you'll quickly learn the entire Signal Flag alphabet!



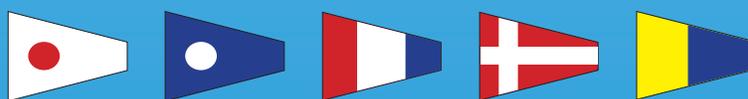
A B C D E F G H I



J K L M N O P Q R



S T U V W X Y Z



1 2 3 4 5



6 7 8 9 0