

that wars and rumors of wars would come and that kingdom would rise against kingdom. There was a picture of a long period ahead. Here is a contradiction then for these disciples: the Lord is coming at such a time as you think not, and yet these many things are going to happen before He comes. Well, all of them have happened. No one can say that there is something specifically predicted in the Scripture that must yet come before the Lord will come. However, there are some who say, Yes, we can learn from the Scripture certain things that are yet to happen and until these things happen we don't need to think of the possibility of the Lord coming back. He will not come back until after these events. When we see these events, then we are to begin to watch. And to know we do not know the day or hour but we do know then that it will be soon while previous to that all these many emphases on being watchful and ready for the Lord's coming have really no direct ~~apix~~ application to this.us.

Well, that is a very interesting suggestion. We have perhaps a duty to investigate whether it is a correct suggestion. The suggestion is that all these statements are given in an eschatological complex context and have application only after the coming of the eschatological situation. Otherwise they have no relevance to us.

Well, we look at Luke 12 and there the Lord is speaking about what the disciples are to do, how they are to live their lives, how they are to acknowledge God before men. They are to be brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities. He discusses the man who wanted the inheritance. He discusses the man who wanted him to say how the inheritance should be divided. He discusses how God will take care of His people. The chapter as a whole ~~has no eschatological context~~ has very definitely no eschatological context in it. The subject of the chapter is, What are the Qualities He Wants His Followers to Show. In the midst of this one subject He deals with is that of being wide awake and alert and watching for His coming. We find in verses 35ff, "Be dressed ready for service. Keep your lamps burning like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet so that when He comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when He comes. I tell you the truth he will dress himself to serve and have them recline at the table and come and wait on them.