After a few centuries a large portion of the Christian church forgot the promises of Jesus' return. Much of the church sank into worldliness and indolence. The Lord wants us constantly to have the spur that can come from realizing that, although we do not know when He will return, it is an event that is sure to occur, and it might come very soon.

Although we do not know when the Lord will return, many indications suggest that His coming may be drawing near. These include not only the great increase in violence throughout the world, but also the tremendous advances in human technology, the knowledge explosion, and the remarkable increase in travel.

The Vietnam war is the longest in American history. It is probably one of the most brutal in the history of the world. The Viet Cong and their allies respect no laws of civilized warfare. They do not conform to the rules of the Geneva Convention for the treatment of prisoners of war. Rarely do they even give information about their prisoners. They ruthlessly shoot down innocent civilians if they happen to get in the way. People whom they merely consider as politically unreliable are apt to be tortured and killed. A third of the world lives in constant fear, never knowing when the secret police will knock at one's door.

In areas where we could feel comparatively safe only a short time ago there is today constant danger. In our own cities violence, burglary and drug-abuse increase every year. One wonders how much longer this trend can continue before the Lord returns to set matters right.

During the past two centuries human technology has advanced at a staggering rate. Sir Isaac Newton, one of the greatest scientists who ever lived, once declared, on the basis of his study of Bible prophecy, that the time would come when people would travel as fast as sixty miles an hour. Voltaire, the French anti-Christian philosopher, declared that this showed how even a great scientist like Newton, if he spent time studying the Bible, might become so mixed up that he would