

There would be much preparation. Now suppose you knew that a loved one, one very close to you whom you had not seen for many years, was coming next week but you didn't know when. You would be prepared just as much as possible every minute next week. You would be constantly ready, and yet constantly thinking if I only had another hour to get ready how much more prepared I would be.

Well, the NT teaches us that Jesus Christ is coming back to earth. The NT very clearly teaches us that the time when he'll come is something he did not reveal to His people. He told them that ~~x~~ they should always be ready because they did not know when he might come back. We read in Mark 13:32-34 a very clear statement on this: No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven nor the Son but only the Father. Be on guard. Be alert. You do not know when that time may come. It's like a man going away. He leaves his house in charge of his servants, each with his assigned tasks. And tells the one at the door to keep watch. Therefore keep watch, because you do not know when the owner of the house may come. Whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the roosters crow, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: Watch!

There are at least a dozen times in the NT where our Lord tells us that ~~w~~ we should always be ready; we should be prepared for his coming. It should not take us unawares. Now I do not=== it is not my purpose this morning to enter into details the discussion of details of eschatology. There are those who can tell you every little detail of the end of this age. They can tell you how this is going to happen, that is going to happen, and right at a certain point the Lord is going to come. I am not one of those. I find that in most such discussions, there are matters that are very clear and there are matters that are highly questionable.

It is a natural tendency for us to try to twist everything in to fit with a particular plan that we make for the details of the end of the age. Personally I think that much of such effort is a waste of time. Because the Lord has revealed something to us very very definitely and I believe we should stand on this. There are other things He has not chosen to reveal to us, and often they are necessary points in the puzzle of trying to work out details. Because it was never the Lord's purpose to satisfy our curiosity about what is going to happen. It was His purpose to prepare us to be able to serve Him most effectively. Therefore he told us certain things. I think whatever he told us it's ~~important~~ important that we stand strongly on that. When it comes to fitting together details on matters where there are details he has not used ~~revealed~~ revealed to us, I personally prefer to withhold judgment, knowing that it all will be made clear to me sometime.

We find that there are those ~~w~~ who make up such definite details and plans of what God is going to do in the future, they are able quite cleverly to explain away almost any particular detail that doesn't fit into their system. Personally I want to stand firmly on what I find clearly taught in Scripture, and where I do not know simply to say, I do not know.