

The End of the Age

Danger of date setting. Our Lord warned against it and urges us to watch (Matt. 24:32-36, 42-51; Mk. 13:28-37; Lk. 21:29-36).

Christ's coming is imminent for there remains no unfulfilled event to precede the rapture of the church, and once that takes place the day of the Lord will follow with the certainty of the predictions of it given in Old and New Testament Scripture.

Frank Gaebelin gives this illustration on the meaning of "imminent." With a little care one may balance a heavy book on the edge of a table. There the book remains poised. Let the room remain absolutely quiet and the book may stay there indefinitely. Yet at any moment a slight jar may cause it to fall. (This illustration is not meant to imply, he says, that the plan of God depends upon any human action or fortuitous circumstance; His impending judgments, though they hover over man, come according to His perfect plan.) No one can predict the precise instant of its drop, for its fall is imminent. So it is with the next event in the prophetic schedule; the rapture may come in our day, or it may linger far beyond our time. Not itself "the day of the Lord," it is the vestibule of that day. Once it occurs, the time of judgment of which Obadiah and the other prophets so unitedly speak will surely begin.