

express utter nonsense. How could anyone ever go sixty miles an hour? He would not be able to draw his breath if he should go so fast! So greatly has technology advanced that today Voltaire's own statement sounds to us like nonsense.

Men travel to and fro throughout the earth in ways never dreamed of before. Less than two centuries ago, when Napoleon conquered most of Europe, transportation was as slow and cumbersome as at the time of the Assyrian conquests, 2500 years earlier. Shortly after Napoleon's death railroads began to be built, and people were able to travel at a rate that had previously seemed utterly impossible. Fifty years ago the fastest commercial means of transportation was by train. It was thrilling to know that a man could cross the United States from ocean to ocean in four days and three nights--a trip that only a century earlier required weeks of hard and tiresome travel. Then the airplane was invented and improved and now jet planes go so fast that one can cross the country in a few hours. Space travelers orbit the earth in an hour and a half, and men have now walked on the moon. How much further can human travel go before our Lord will return?

In these various regards the progress of the last two centuries is almost indescribable. Yet one has no way of knowing how far these processes might still continue before our Lord comes back. Increased violence might become so much worse that we would be back in the dark ages. Travel to the moon might conceivably become as easy as travel across the continent is today. New discoveries might even make those of recent years seem like child's play. Yet the tremendous steps already taken in these regards are quite without precedent, and make us feel that perhaps He will come very soon.

There is one really new sign in recent years, and that is the establishment of the State of Israel. Jesus said that Jerusalem must be trodden down until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled (Luke 21:20). It was destroyed in A. D. 70, and no state of Israel existed for nearly two thousand years. In 1948 the new