

Dr. Allan MacRae
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roaring lion but also made into an angel of light with his wiles that we could never possibly detect except for the Lord's care for us and for the Lord's help.

How long then is this period of witnessing to go, this period when we must keep witnessing and know that we will still continue from time to time to be harassed by satan. Well this is a question which the disciples had in mind in Matthew 24. At the beginning of Matthew 24 we read that the disciples said to Jesus, "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming?" And Jesus answered that there were going to be many events before he would return. He said "nation shall rise against nation," in verse 7 "and kingdom against king: and there will be famines and pestilences and earthquakes." "Then they deliver you up to be afflicted and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake." There was a period of witnessing, a period of difficulty before Jesus would come back. How would that period last? I think we can say it would have to last at least 20 or 30 years, but after 20 or 30 years had gone, nobody could tell whether it would continue longer or not. They just wouldn't know and so the Lord here after giving this that there is to be a period - this actually has lasted 2,000 years, but it wouldn't have to as far as what he says is concerned - then he goes on to say in Matthew 24, verse 36, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." In verse 42 he says, "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." In verse 44 he says, "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

A man met three Christians and he said to one of them, do you think the Lord will come today. He said, No, I don't think so. He said to the second, do you