

Thus we learn from the Bible many general circum^o that will precede ~~rather~~ the Lord's coming to this earth, and some/~~many~~ specific ones. The ~~gum~~ general ones are occurrences that have happened over and over during the many centuries since the ~~etms~~ ascension of Christ.

In 430 A.D. St. Augustine lay dying on his bed in ~~Hippo~~ Hippo, a town in North Africa. For some centuries N^oA^o had been one of the finest of the Roman provinces. Great amounts of ~~pxmi~~ material produced there was ^{its} shipped to Rome and helped to feed/~~the~~ multitudes. NA^o had universities; it had great centers of culture of every kind. The earliest Chn^o The first great / Chn^o in the Latin language ~~were~~ did not live in Italy but in NA^o. The names of Cyprian, Tertullian and Augustine are among the finest names of early Chn^o history. Augustine had worked for nearly 40 years as a great Chn^o leader, and now he lay on his death bed. During the years ~~latter~~ latter decades of A^o's life things had radically changed. The barbarians had broken through the chain of fortresses on the borders of the empire, and great hordes of them had marched through the centers of the western portion the Roman empire Empire in Europe. The city of Rome itself had been captured and plundered. To many people civilization seemed to be nearing its end. A great horde of vandals, after marching across Europe pillaging and destroying, had taken possession of Spain. Now they had left Spain and crossed to North Africa. ^{Most} /~~in~~-most of NA^o was already in their /hands. From the walls of Hippo one could see 'the ~~vandals~~ burning fires of churches and homes that the vandals had ^{In Hippo one} pillaged and were now destroying. /~~one~~ could hear the cries of the refugees ~~refugees~~ and of those who were being tortured in the surrounding country.

It looked as if civilization was coming to an end. Never ~~since~~ since has NA^o regained anything like the condition of prosperity that it enjoyed during the centuries before Augustine's death.