

before the Lord could come back. Yet in spite of these pictures showing a considerable stretch of time the Lord had repeatedly given the urging that they must always be ready ~~for~~ "for ye know not the day nor the hour when your

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in Script? Lord will come back." It is hard to imagine that the vista given in Matthew 24 to 2 (nc) could possibly be completed in less than a few decades. Yet a century after the time of Christ one could easily imagine that this long period had passed. There had been wars and rumors of wars, nation had risen against nation, there had been persecutions, there had been real tribulation and suffering and martyrdom. Peter had been ~~an~~ martyred. There would be now no obvious ~~xxxx~~ reason why the exhortations of Christ should ~~not~~ have full effect.

Thus it would seem that Christ desired His disciples always to act as if He might come at ~~anytime~~ any time, and to be ready because they did not know when He would come, but that ~~after a~~ a few decades after his ~~life~~ death they would have no reason to think that /it might not be at any time. If there were certain clear premonitory signs of His coming what would be the point of these ~~of~~ frequent statement to always be ready "for ye know not the day nor the ~~hour~~ hour."

Earlier in this we should have mentioned that John continued to live long after Peter's death. However, John's life would not in any way interfere with the expectation for a ~~xxxxxxcomingxxxx~~ soon coming of the Lord. ~~Jesus~~ The rumor was spread that John would not die, but Jesus said ~~that~~ He did not say that John would not die, but "if I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee, Peter?" Thus there was at least the? a possibility that Jesus would come before John's death. The disciples were not told one way or the other.

So we would seem to have a clear teaching in the Scripture that the attitude of people is to be ready because they don't know when the Lord is coming back.