

And you also have a great deal of despotism in Rome. I don't think that is what it represents at all. Some have said, the king's power was greater in Babylon. Then it gets less and less. I don't think it works out that way.

I would say the first three are simply different. That is to say we have to be careful about what we draw from the picture beyond what is stated. We have to be very careful about that.

Student: The only one which has a statement of qualification . . . is the one which says, It will crush.

AAM: It says like iron, it has the strength of the iron. Like iron it crushes. Great power.

Student: Eventually that iron and clay kingdom comes to an end. Right? Comes to an end when Christ sets up His kingdom?

AAM: Yes.

Student: We don't know when it will be.

AAM: Yes. We don't know when it will be. It might be tomorrow. It might be 1000 years from now.

Student: In other words we are in the iron and clay kingdom?

AAM: Oh definitely.

Student: It could be tomorrow or anytime. People talk about it in terms of the immanent return of Christ. Do you believe that?

AAM: By immanent I mean that when the Lord says, Watch for you know not when the Lord comes, he meant he wanted us always to be ready and that we do not know that he won't come tomorrow. We can make a guess that since it's 2000 years already that there might be another 1000 years! But he said to always watch and be ready. So the Lord repeated that over and over in the Gospels. So it seems to me that's one thing the NT stresses. This same Jesus shall so come in like manner as you have seen him go. We should always be ready and think if he came now, Am I doing anything I'd be ashamed to have him see when he came? Am I serving Him faithfully so when he comes he finds me serving him faithfully.

That doesn't mean we have to be serving Him every minute. He wants us to live normal lives and bring honor to his name. He wants us as an added spur to our faith to know because he repeated it over and over in the gospels, Be ready for you know not the day nor the hour when your Lord cometh.

The word immanent might seem to mean it's going to happen soon. So I hesitate about the word because some can misunderstand it that way. I don't take it as meaning it's going to happen soon; but that for all we know it could happen soon. Therefore we should be ready.

Student: Some people even say that and (yet) mean something different by it?

AAM: I think in general if you would say, suppose there was ==if you would say, War is immanent== you would mean it is almost certain within the next days or weeks there's going to be war. I would not say that, of course. I would not say we can be at all sure it will be in our lifetime. But I would say we can't say it won't happen in our lifetime or right soon. We should be ready because we don't know when he is coming. I'm a little afraid of that