

13 R

a dozen tremendous tribulations before the final great tribulation. No one can say it isn't. We don't know about that. I heard someone say that it was "rocking-chair Christianity" to say that the Church wasn't going to go through the last tribulation. Well the Church has certainly gone through plenty of tribulation and may yet go through plenty before the last, so that it doesn't prove a great deal one way or the other whether it goes through the last or not as far as any "rocking-chair" attitude is concerned, but is it that we must say, "The Lord might possibly come today or tomorrow", or that we can say, "The tribulation is not yet here," and therefore we know the Lord won't come now, for He will not come until the end of it." That is the real determining question and we didn't really get into evidences today one way or the other but I think we saw that this passage doesn't enter into it definitely, and that as far as this passage is concerned you might argue for a space of time between the dead in Christ rising and then between the rapture, the resurrection and the rapture but I think you would have a rather tough job doing it. At least I did, and while we are inclined to think that there would seem to be an immediate rapture after the tribulation, I mean after the resurrection, but when they meet the Lord the thing that is stressed is not a return, it is being with the Lord and so whether there is an interval there or not, the present passage doesn't decide. Well, now I think I have mentioned to you I would like to look at those passages of watching. Did I give the references last time? And see what those mean, and do they through any light on this particular question? I think we have to look at the ones in Luke first and then look at the others, and do we meet two weeks from today then, for two hours? Two weeks from today. That is, my present plan is to meet at intervals of two weeks through February and then not in March at all, and then to meet in April and in May.