

outside all through the countryside the vandals were burning churches and torturing people and destroying and pillaging, and Rome itself had been pillaged 20 yrs. before and the whole civilization was disappearing, I'm sure Augustine must have thought, Well, the Lord must be coming very very soon. And if anybody said, There will be another 1500 yrs. at least before He lives(?) (comes) Augustine would have said, What crazy ideas you have anyway. But we know 1500 more have passed, and there may be another 1500, or He may come today. He does not want us to know when, but He wants us always be ready because we don't know when He is coming.

But these exact periods are not characteristic of the Scripture. And when we try-- to fasten them in we often get into confusion and into mixing things up in a way that does not belong. Thought here, we had the people leaving Sinai and then we find them complaining in the outer part of the camp, and soon we'll find them right in the middle of the camp doing so. And we don't know how soon this was. Perhaps it came 2 or 3 days after Sinai. But I think it unlikely. My guess is that they had gone a few weeks before it happened. But we don't know. We don't know. But it is true that changes can very rapidly come. Everybody can seem very happy and things can be going fine and then all of the sudden you find disaffection breaking out in the outskirts of the camp. A young man, one of our graduates who is well known today, when he graduated from the seminary and took a little church, he found a young fellow in the ch. who was very enthusiastic about him, and he got this young fellow made treasurer of the little ch. And within a wk. this young fellow turned violently against him and began writing letters/saying that this man should be put out of the church, and maneuvering around and criticizing him and attacking him. He went through a miserable time for a couple of months until finally this young fellow and some of the very pillars left. And then he was able to go on and to build a really fine work for the time that he was there, but he had a terrible struggle right there at the start. It can come quickly. But if you are going to pastor of a church, or if you're going to be a leader of any sort of a movement, you are going to find discension in the outskirts, and it is important that you realize this, that you expect it and that you think of how you are going to deal with it. But don't build a