

in the world which should make it very clear to any believers that the coming of the Lord to this earth is very near, but that the great mass of believers must look at the coming of the Lord as something that can happen at any time.

Certainly this was the belief of the Thessalonians whom Paul had taught so ~~explicitly~~ ~~fully~~ fully. They thought that the Lord had already come and they had failed to know of it or to be included in what He had done. Paul wrote them that they should not consider that the return of the Lord had already occurred, that ~~of~~ actually there was quite a time yet before He would come. This was wrote in II Thes°. In I Thes° he had urged upon them that they should always be ready because they do not know when He will come. The apparent contradiction can be easily solved if one recognizes that there are two phases to the Lord's coming. There is a phase in which He comes for believers. This may happen at any time. There is no indication that will tell believers that it cannot happen at a particular time and no indication to tell them that ~~it~~ must happen at a particular time. They are always to be ready.

It has been said that all such statements occur in an eschatological context. ~~This is wrong~~ This, however, is not the case. In the twelfth chapter of Luke the Lord ~~is telling His disciples~~ is telling His disciples what sort of people they are to be. In ~~the course of~~ this discussion He points out to them ~~that~~ how they are to be always on the job, vigilant and active. It is definitely not an eschatological chapter, but a chapter dealing with life of His followers in this world.

2 Then in verse ^{m?} He says that they are to be like men who expect the return of their Master and do not know when he will come. They are always to be ready. "Because in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh."