

I have been particularly interested in the last 10 years in why should the empire fall and what changes took place. It's most interesting to think that perhaps 90% of the people in those parts of Europe were illiterate and they had a very high and advanced civilization at about 400 A.D. And about 500 or 550 and 600 at the very latest you didn't have 5% of the people - - - -

There was a complete change and then you have a very stirring history of the next few centuries of which practically nothing is known. Then gradually they came out of barbarism again. You had a new civilization and then it was given a great impetus forward by the rediscovery of the classical civilizations. That stimulated a lot of people to immitate the writings of an earlier time and we had the Renaissance. Then of cours we had the Reformation in which they got back to primitive Christianity and away from all these superstitions that had developed during all those centuries.

Then you had the nations of Europe reaching out and discovering a new route around Africa that could get them to India and discovering the new world. All of that made a big step forward. Then science began to develop and you have your modern world. Nowadays they give most of their attention to the modern world.

Lady: Yes, and in the social studies courses they seem to be far more interested in the study of other cultures/ rather than history, so that students in one grade have a look at Asian cultures and in another grade they have a look at African cultures. But it reminds me sort of of the products of Indiaian geography. They are just pieces of information that are laid out with no connections or interconnections.

AAM: So it doesn't give them much except the feeling that after all whatever we have is just what we happened to have and the other is just as good. Why bother.

Lady: That seems to be what is being done in Ithica, and since there is no requirement for me to do that, I'm not doing it. We read things that give us insights into other cultures as cultures. but we don't study cultures as cultues.

AAM: When you study cultures as cultures, there is such a tremendous area to select from that what you select can depend a lot upon the philosophy from which you approach it in the first place. I think it is important to have a very good understanding of all that is involved in it. When you were in Ithica last year and spoke in the church you said something that was very striking to me. That was that from human insight you would say there were three possibilities that the Lord would indeed come very soon or there would yet be another great revival, or another dark ages.

Lady: I think as high school students the children need to get an older view of all that has gone before, not just in this country but everything before. The kind of summary you just gave me. I think they should have a very good understanding of all that is involved in it. When you were in Ithica last year and spoke in the church you said something that was very striking to me. That was that from human insight you would say there were three possibilities that the Lord would indeed come very soon or there would yet be another great revival, or another dark ages.