

3. Other predictions of 'signs'

- Usually characteristic of the whole age
- Usually not spectacular but normal parts of life
- Usually part of a broader theological schema
- Cannot be used to construct a timetable of return

Typical features of predicting the end:

4. How we are to wait

Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. (Mark 13:33)

Waiting as normal:

They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath. (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10)

Waiting patiently:

For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. (Romans 8:24-25)

Waiting expectantly:

But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. (2 Peter 3:13)

Waiting for the master:

5. Questions for reflection

- Is your tendency to expect Jesus' return or forget about it?
- Do you think of the Christian life as involving waiting?
- How do you find waiting (1) patiently, and (2) expectantly?
- What difference would waiting in these ways make to your life now?