With regard to the vision of things that are far away, whose eventual coming to pass we find hard to believe, the prophet Habakkuk gives us a good rule: “I will take my stand at my watch post and station myself on the tower, and look out to see what He will say to me.” Here is the rule: be at the lookout, that is, in an elevated place, up in a tower from which you can see a very vast country. Instead we find ourselves at the bottom, “settled in our complacency” as the prophet Zephaniah says (1:12). We are always absorbed in our more or less mundane matters, and it is not important to us to look into the distance.

What’s more, we try to find ways to look at what is nearer to us in a more favorable light; we look for something we can easily reach out and take hold of in order to take possession of, be it people or things. With this mindset, we certainly can’t be attentive to what the Lord tells us in His Word, illuminated by His Spirit, who from time to time (and more often than not) whispers to us. Therefore we miss the possibility of knowing that which should really concern us, that which is indispensable for us, like, “Where are we headed?” and “Where is the world headed?” It is true that what is told to us usually refers to a future time that is not always far off. But while we are waiting for the answer to our problems we shouldn’t be impatient. What is time? The important thing is that it takes place. The answer comes when it can, when it should, but it “will not be late”, because God’s time, the time when it must happen, is “established”. And “if it is late, wait for it”, (Hab 2:3). We wait for it with the certainty that what we don’t yet see will come to pass. We wait for it without doubting, without escaping to things that seem more concrete, more tangible, because “the righteous will live by his faith,” (Hab 2:4).