



# When He Appears

## 1 John 3:2-3

1 Jn. 3:2-3. *“When He appears...”* This is John talking about the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, isn't it? He already mentioned it in:

**1 John 2:28** *And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.*

**Hebrews 9:28** *so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.*

Earlier (name) read Jesus words, He Himself saying that He would come again and the main thing we needed to know was that **“you must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. Matthew 24:44**

**BASIC TRUTH** - You cannot accept the Bible as the WORD OF GOD unless you accept the stated fact that Jesus Christ is someday going to COME AGAIN.

First Council of Nicea (325 AD) - **The Nicene Creed**

*We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of all things visible and invisible*

*And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father*

*by whom all things were made [both in heaven and on earth];*

*he suffered, died, and the third day he rose again, ascended into heaven;*

*from there (thence) he shall come again to judge the living and the dead*

*And in the Holy Ghost.*

**Acts 1:10-11** *They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”*

**Revelation 1:7** *Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.*

### The church has blown it

Have you ever heard of the story know as **The Boy Who Cried Wolf**. It's a fable attributed to Aesop, written before the New Testament.

The main character of the fable is a bored shepherd boy who entertained himself by calling out "Wolf!". Nearby villagers who came to his rescue found that the alarms were false and that they'd wasted their time.

But then a real wolf showed up and began to attack the flock. Now when the boy cried out "wolf", the villagers did not believe his cries for help and did not respond. As a result the wolf scattered the entire flock and ate many.

The moral is stated at the end of the fable as:

***“Nobody believes a liar...even when he is telling the truth!”***

Like “The boy who cried ‘wolf!’” The church of Jesus Christ has sadly cried “wolf” too many times, with false predictions and claims re: second coming of Jesus. Result? People tend not to believe it is going to happen.

Time after time, in spite of Jesus's clear words to the contrary, groups have made predictions and set dates that Jesus was returning. And each time it

doesn't happen, even more people become skeptical that it's EVER going to happen. That's what happens when people "cry wolf" isn't it?

Just this week on TV I heard about another group, The House of Yahweh, in Abeline, TX who's leader has predicted that this Thursday begins the end of the world resulting in the return of Jesus Christ.

He predicted two other dates, one in 2000 and one the last Sept, 2006, but they didn't happen.....

As you can guess, the 20-20 tv show saw it as a bizarre and wacky group, which it is. But the end result is that, like crying wolf, it causes people to not believe not only this crazy group, but the Biblical teaching on the Second Coming as well.

Here is what I want you to remember today. Remember, although the boy was wrong to "cry wolf" when there was no wolf, in reality **there WAS a wolf** waiting in the wings who came and ate the villager's sheep! Remember, two wrongs don't make a right! Jesus Christ IS returning someday, and although we don't know when he will come, in fact his return is the NEXT event on God's prophetic calendar! It could be any day. Like a thief who suddenly appears. A "thief in the night".

God know people would be skeptical (and the church hasn't helped):

**2 Peter 3:4-9** *They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

Are you saved? Have you come to repentance?

## CALL TO ACTION

**1 John 3:2b-3** ... *But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him*

*as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.*

What's going to happen to us when he returns? It says, "we shall be like him." It's talking about our nature. We are going to become entirely holy, no longer sin. We will be what other passages call "glorified." Entire sanctification.

That's God intent. That's God's heart. That what he wants to most accomplish in us. Lives that reflect His Holy Nature.

**Guess what? That's what He desires from us NOW in an increasing progressive manner.** *Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.* That we would be purified. That we would move toward holiness. Walk away from sin. Choose right actions, right motives, right causes.

Listen. God is giving us a "game plan" here. **Every Christian is supposed to be, in some small or big way, a part of changing this world to look more like Christ's world than it was.**

That's why we're here. That's why we're not in heaven. If you are not more like Jesus in the way you live. In the way you treat your neighbor. In the way you treat your husband or wife or children or parents. In the way you respond to poverty or hunger or lostness.

If you happen to be standing on the side of the road and someone gets mowed down by an automobile, and being a follower of Jesus doesn't affect what you do next in terms of "knowing" that you have a responsibility to your neighbor as Jesus so clearly taught, then you are not being purified, *just as he is pure.*

God is calling us to get going and begin living in a new way today! Don't wait 10, 15, 20 years from now, but get going today. Jesus is returning and you don't know if it won't be tomorrow. Heck, it may even be today! So you can't wait. That's the main point, isn't it? Jesus said "be ready!"

## ACTUAL FABLE

*There once was a shepherd boy who was bored as he sat on the hillside watching the village sheep. To amuse himself he took a great breath and sang out, "Wolf! Wolf! The Wolf is chasing the sheep!"*

*The villagers came running up the hill to help the boy drive the wolf away. But when they arrived at the top of the hill, they found no wolf. The boy laughed at the sight of their angry faces.*

*"Don't cry 'wolf', shepherd boy," said the villagers, "when there is no wolf!" They went back down the hill.*

*Later, the boy cried out again, "Wolf! Wolf! The wolf is chasing the sheep!" To his naughty delight, he watched the villagers run up the hill to help him drive the wolf away.*

*The boy just grinned and watched them go grumbling down the hill once more.*

*But later, he saw a REAL wolf prowling about his flock. Alarmed, he leaped to his feet and sang out as loudly as he could, "Wolf! Wolf!"*

*But the villagers thought he was trying to fool them again, and so they didn't come. And the wolf then killed many sheep and attacked the boy.*

*At sunset, everyone wondered why the shepherd boy hadn't returned to the village with their sheep. They went up the hill to find the boy. They found him weeping.*

*"There really was a wolf here! The flock has scattered! I cried out, "Wolf!" Why didn't you come?"*

*An old man of the village said, "**Because nobody believes a liar, even when he is telling the truth!**"*