

Truth Matters!

**Confronting Faulty Expressions Against The
Biblical End-Time Theme of *Ready Expectancy***
(We're calling this phenomenon the "Wolf! Wolf! Syndrome")

In my limited research to date, I have discovered two main versions of this moral story:

The Boy Who Cried Wolf

By Aesop

A shepherd-boy, who watched a flock of sheep near a village, brought out the villagers three or four times by crying out, "Wolf! Wolf!" and when his neighbors came to help him, laughed at them for their pains.

The wolf, however, did truly come at last. The shepherd-boy, now really alarmed, shouted in an agony of terror: "Pray, do come and help me; The wolf is killing the sheep;" but no one paid any heed to his cries, nor rendered any assistance. The wolf, having no cause of fear, at his leisure lacerated or destroyed the whole flock.

There is no believing a liar, even when he speaks the truth.

Adopted as "A Children's Story Classic"

There was once a shepherd-boy who kept his flock at a little distance from the village. Once he thought he would play a trick on the villagers and have some fun at their expense. So he ran toward the village crying out, with all his might, "Wolf! Wolf! Come And help! The wolves are at my lambs!"

The kind villagers left their work and ran to the field to help him. But when they got there the boy laughed at them for their pains; there was no wolf there.

Still another day the boy tried the same trick, and the villagers came running to help and got laughed at again. Then one day a wolf did did break into the fold and began killing the lambs. In great fright, the boy ran for help. "Wolf! Wolf!" he screamed. "There is a wolf in the flock! Help!"

The villagers heard him, but they thought it was another mean trick; no one paid the least attention, or went near him. And the shepherd-boy lost all his sheep.

That is the kind of thing that happens to people who lie: even when they tell the truth no one believes them.

Allow me to tell the story in such a way as to better fit—from a biblical perspective—our

current cultural context, one which especially addresses the dangerous view: *It will all pan out in the end ... so don't concern yourself with biblical data on this topic of "end times."*

Once upon a time, certain prophetic shepherds kept watch over the flock of God. Trained in sundry end-time perspectives, they, on various occasions, over a course of many centuries, emphatically declared the end of the age. Included in their mantras were some which we find especially familiar—even in our day: “Jesus is coming!” “The end is near!” “The Kingdom of God has arrived!”

As the decades of false announcement fostered *n u m b n e s s* to their cries, one day **it** finally did take place. One day, as truly declared by the Shepherd, the end did indeed come. But a profound piece of the cultural puzzle brought great sadness to the Shepherd. Because His flock had grown so used to the familiar appeals—“Jesus is coming!” “The end is near!” “The Kingdom of God is present!”—the people stopped looking for the signs foretelling the Shepherd’s soon return. Great sorrow unfolded as the Shepherd’s people rejected signs preceding that for which they longed—the Shepherd’s glorious return ... or was it actually not so important to them after all? The Shepherd, too, was grieving, for some of those who were waiting did not, in utter shock and amazement, make it to the Great Banquet.

We live in a day where many *villagers* are no longer heeding the Counsel of the soon-returning Lord. (Mark 13:28-37; Phil. 3:20, 21; II Peter 3:3-9) Frankly, having become embarrassed by the many failed declarations of the false prophets*, some act as if they now scorn the fact that one day the Lord will indeed return. They have allowed the false, unrealized prophetic cries and the charges of the anti-God culture to turn them in a direction where they are no longer: 1. interested in biblically discerning the day; 2. eagerly awaiting the return of the Savior; or, 3. modeling the patient enduring of the saints.

Please embrace wisdom and say “NO” to the many poor reasons the deceivers are giving the world to disregard the posture the Lord has called His end-time people to take: **ready expectancy**. Please heed the counsel of our Lord by staying true to this fact: Our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. As we see end-time themes begin to unfold, may we look up, yes, let’s lift up our heads, because our redemption draws near!

A Question: Are you finding yourself quickly rejecting the main emphasis of this simple appeal? Had you already begun *deconstructing* this message even before you finished reading the short address above? If so, **why**? Is it possible we have been so conditioned to reject the Truth that we run into a defensive posture against what could possibly be a warning from Almighty God—one most consistent with His revelation to us?

A Request: Please lay aside for just a moment the uncalled-for rejection of this appeal in order to give it fair consideration. Ponder, for just a bit, the possibility of one who, in a very different way than the *shepherd-boys* who preceded him, shouts an *in-fact* warning concerning eschatological wolves in our midst ... ones immediately preceding the return of the Great Shepherd and Overseer of our souls. Try to avoid what may be a faulty association with the false prophetic *shepherd-boys* of the past who have incorrectly cried, “*Wolf! Wolf!*”

* Harold Camping’s Rapture prediction on May 21, 2016 was an example of this.