

The Appearing of Christ - Past or Future?

"He's already appeared.."—WMB

"when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory."

—1 Peter 5:4

William Branham - END TIME EVANGELISM - 1962-0603 "Now, **we have already seen and are witnessing the appearing of the Lord**. Now remember, appearing and coming is two different words: to appear and then to come. **Now is the appearing; He's already appeared in these last days, right here with us** in the last few years. **Now, it's a sign of His coming. He's appearing** in His Church in the form of the Holy Spirit, showing that it's Him, 'cause people cannot do these things that you see the Holy Spirit doing; so **that's the appearing of the Lord**. Now, you remember, it spoke both places, "**appearing**" and "**coming**."

William Branham - LETTING OFF THE PRESSURE - 1962-0609E

"the appearing of the Lord comes before the coming of the Lord," for it's just two different words altogether. See? **Now's the appearing**, as He promised in the last days that He'd be with us."

What the Bible says:

1 Timothy 6:14 that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach **until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ**,

2 Timothy 1:10 but now has been revealed by **the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus**, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

2 Timothy 4:1 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to **judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom**:

2 Timothy 4:8 in the future there is laid up for me **the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me **on that day**; and not only to me, but also **to all who have loved His appearing**.

Titus 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and **the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Christ Jesus**,

COLOSSIANS 3:4 When Christ, [who is] our life, **shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory**.

Hebrews 9:26 Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages **He has been manifested to put away sin** by the sacrifice of Himself.

Hebrews 9:28 so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, **will appear a second time for salvation** without reference to sin, **to those who eagerly await Him**.

1 Peter 1:20 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but **has appeared** in these last times for the sake of you

1 Peter 5:4 And **when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory**.

1 John 2:28 Now, little children, abide in Him, so that **when He appears**, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at **His coming** [parousia]. [Two aspects of the same event. See 1 John 4:17]

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that **when He appears, we will be like Him**, because we will see Him just as He is.

1 John 3:5 You know that **He appeared in order to take away sins**; and in Him there is no sin.

1 John 3:8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. **The Son of God appeared** for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

Each one had better examine William Branham's words very carefully by what the Scriptures have to say about the second appearing of the Lord, lest they be deceived (or remain deceived). The context of the Scripture is empathic, the Lord Jesus Christ appears twice. He appeared the first time in the body of his flesh to put away sin, and will appear again in his glorified corporal body—a "second time" for salvation to those who eagerly await him. His first appearance was temporal and in humility, his second will be glorious and permanent. His awaited, second and final appearing is the same time the saint appear with him in glory. His appearing is the cause and the occasion of your salvation or being made like him, which means the redemption of your own body. His appearing is the time of his coming (parousia), the revealing of the Son of Man, the day of the Lord, the time of the resurrection when this present age gives way to the age to come—the time the Kingdom of God comes to earth. All these descriptions synchronize in one event.

If one allows William Branham to convince them the appearing of Christ has passed and was in fact him (in him, etc.), then they are robbed of the hope as well as the promise of being made like him that is granted to "those who eagerly await him," which is when the saints are made like him and meet him in the air. To accept "he's already appeared" per WMB, means one is not awaiting him to appear and gives no assurance that one will have part in the first resurrection.

2 Thessalonians 2:8 Then that lawless one will be revealed whom **the Lord** will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end **by the appearance of His coming [parousia];**

Col 2:8 EXB **Be sure [Be careful; Watch; See] that no one leads you away [takes you captive; captivates you] with false [deceptive] and empty [worthless] teaching that is only human, which comes from the ruling spirits [elemental spiritual forces (demons); or elementary teachings] of this world, and not from Christ.**

Deuteronomy 13:1-3 If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,' 3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; **for the Lord your God is testing you to find out if you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.**