



**SERIES: October “Back to the Future”**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Wednesday, 10/06/2021**

**Scripture: Revelation**

**TITLE: Can Revelation Be Understood?**

One of my favorite phone calls to make is to my family when I am wrapping up a trip on the road or even at the end of a workday. I will say, “Good news! I will be home soon.” That sparks excitement most days. Of course, if it’s been a rough day, it causes a moment of unease, for judgment is near.

But regardless of the circumstances, the return of dad is exciting and expected. But when I say “soon,” its specificity can change. “Soon” when in Lincoln differs when “soon” is tied to flying from California to Lincoln. Regardless, I’m coming home. Jesus, too is coming soon. But how soon?

Well, find the answer as we continue our study of the book of Revelation in Revelation 1:1-3.

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ that God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testified to the Word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, whatever he saw. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear the words of this prophecy and keep what is written in it because the time is near.”

Yesterday, we looked at the importance of our loving service to Jesus as we await the fulfillment of the events that must soon take place.

John wrote down this vision – this series of visions from Jesus Christ. For what purpose? John writes in verse 3 that the one who reads, keeps, and hears the words of this prophecy is blessed. The book of Revelation is bracketed by promises of blessing to those who read and follow it. This concept of reading and keeping the words of God is found throughout the whole Bible. This is to be the way of life for Christians.

Many Christians today do not engage in God’s Word. This is especially true for the book of Revelation. They think it’s unknowable and impractical. This is not true. The truths are knowable, and Jesus commanded them to be read, heard, and kept. So we should do so today.

Why is this so important to Jesus? Because He said, “The time is near.” What does that mean? Well, it backs up what was said in verse 1. These things must come true soon.

The events in the book of Revelation are imminent. Time, however, does not refer to the time on a clock or calendar but, instead, seasons or eras. The next great era of God’s redemptive history is near. So now we wait with anticipation.

So here's my challenge for you today: keep living for Jesus as you await His return. The church has been waiting for 2,000 years for the return of Christ. This means it's closer than ever. And therefore, we need to live like it. This is not the time to lay down and cruise. It's time to live more intentionally than ever.

So what are you going to do to keep God's Word? What will you do to live intentionally each and every day? The blessings are there for those who read, hear and keep this Word. So let's keep it continually. When we do, we will win the day.