



SERIES: October “Back to the Future”

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

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Scripture: Revelation 20:1-3

NC0282

TITLE: Jesus’ Return: Who Has It Right?

There is probably not a more passionately debated topic than the return of Christ. Has He already returned? If not, will He return before the tribulation? During it? After it? Are we in the tribulation now?

Today and tomorrow, we’re going to look at the differing options. But I want you to know this: there is one thing you can be sure of. What is that? For that answer, you’ll have to wait.

So let’s turn back to Revelation 20 as we go back to the future. Revelation 20:4-5 (CSB) says:

“Then I saw thrones, and people seated on them who were given authority to judge. I also saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and who had not accepted the mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed.”

Okay, this passage is kind of heavy. What is going on? Well, after Jesus returns, he sends the Antichrist to the lake of fire, destroys all rebels, and binds Satan in the abyss for 1,000 years.

But this now begs the question, just what is the millennium?

In verses 4-5, we see the millennial kingdom of peace and righteousness established. The King is Christ, and we will reign with Him. The people who were martyred for their faith are resurrected. This resurrection is for the saints and not the unsaved.

But throughout church history, there are 3 major views of the millennium. Amillennialism, postmillennialism, and premillennialism. I’m going to summarize the first two today. Tomorrow, we’ll look at the pre-mil position.

Amillennialism literally means “no” millennium. It’s not that there is not a millennium. It’s just that there is not a literal 1,000 years. Instead, it’s an unspecified, long period of time where Christ establishes his rule over the earth. In fact, according to amillennialists, we are living in it. Revelation 20:1-6 is now. When this reign and binding is over, Christ returns, and we will have a resurrection of both believers and non-believers. There are specific reasons that this may be the correct view, but it also has a lot of problems.

The second view is called postmillennialism. This means that Christ will come “post” or after the millennium. The major tenant of this position is that the Gospel will spread to all parts of the world, and Christianity will overtake the globe. The world will get better and better. This position has continually lost steam because the world is not getting better.

Two views down and one more to go. But this is enough for today.

So here’s my challenge for you today: find hope. Revelation 6-19 reminds us that God is serious about sin, and in a fallen world, we will feel the effects of it. This means suffering and persecution. But in the end, Jesus wins, and we rule with Him forever. What hope does that provide you? Share it in the comments below.

Jesus loves you and is waiting to come back to make all things new. I’m ready. Are you?