



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

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Saturday, 10/23/2021**

**Scripture: Revelation 21:9-14**

**TITLE: What’s the New Jerusalem?**

If you ever want to see something funny, watch news interviews of people who saw an amazing event. People try to find words to convey how amazing the event was. But it never fully captures what happened. It’s like taking a picture of the ocean or the mountains. It’s beautiful, but it never does the real thing justice.

Well, today, we’re going to get a glimpse into the New Jerusalem that God created for us to dwell in. As you’ll see, it will be amazing and indescribable.

Here is what John experienced in Revelation 21:9-14.

“Then one of the seven angels, who had held the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues, came and spoke with me: ‘Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.’ He then carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, arrayed with God’s glory. Her radiance was like a precious jewel, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. The city had a massive high wall with twelve gates. Twelve angels were at the gates; the names of the twelve tribes of Israel’s sons were inscribed on the gates. There were three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. The city wall had twelve foundations, and the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb were on the foundations.”

John is whisked away to a great, high mountain where he is shown “the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” That seems like an odd description of this capital city. Well, the angel refers to it this way because it is filled with the Bride of Christ – the Church. It is full of saints. Forever Christ and His Church are united. The long-awaited marriage ceremony took place in Revelation 19:7.

John describes it as filled with the glory of God. The glory of God is the sum total of God’s attributes and is manifested as blazing light and His Son. In the Garden, Adam and Eve walked with God in the cool of the day. Though glorious, they could be with Him. They could look at Him. Moses couldn’t. We can’t. But we will.

The close thing to think of is a diamond. A pure, brilliant, indescribable diamond reflecting light and prisms and beauty. John describes this glory and radiance like clear jasper. This Jerusalem has shape and size. It is marked with gates and foundations. The twelve tribes celebrate God’s covenant relationship with Israel. The apostles are the foundation of the Church. This is a sight to

be seen, and John is trying to encapsulate it in human terms. It sounds amazing and creates a yearning in me.

So here's my challenge for you today:

Focus on heaven. We should be Paul, who ran the race with heaven as the prize. Our future is glorious. It's indescribable. But what we can describe should take our breath away. So take your eyes off of your ailments, your shortcomings, your deficits, and your suffering. Focus on the glory of God forever.

Our future is incredible. It's brilliant. So let's pursue it each and every day.