



SERIES: October “Back to the Future”

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Tuesday, 10/26/2021

Scripture: Revelation 21:22-27

TITLE: Forget World Peace

A common question for beauty pageant contests has been, “what do you desire most or what do you hope to see in your lifetime?” What’s the number one answer? World peace. People would love to see world peace, but I’m convinced it’s only on their terms. In other words, it will never happen.

Now, I believe God desires world peace, but it is on His terms. And thankfully, the peace He offers in eternity isn’t world peace. It’s universal peace. What will this look like? Let’s turn back to Revelation 21:22-27 (ESV).

And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Oh, how I wish we had more time to unpack the uniqueness of our eternity.

John writes that he saw no temple. Today, we see temples everywhere. We see churches, mosques, Hindu temples, synagogues, and so on. We even see reference to the temple of God in heaven in the earlier chapters of Revelation. But in eternity, God needs no temple; He is the temple. He will dwell with us. We don’t go to Him. He comes to us and with us.

There is no moon or sun in the new earth. It is unnecessary. God’s glory will shine so all can see. I wonder what the sky would look like without them.

Then in verse 25, John begins to describe this universal peace. Though there will be gates in the new capital city, they are never shut.

It’s like living in many rural communities today. They never lock their doors. They are peaceful neighbors. These gates are never shut or locked because, according to verse 27, nothing unclean or detestable will be around. Only glorified saints will dwell with God. And there is no going back to our old ways. Our desires and our flesh have been glorified and unchangeable. It will be real, unchanging, and universal peace.

So this is my challenge for you today: how can you show this future peace with someone far from God? It may be by living peacefully with the body of Christ. It may be spending quality time with someone who would typically be rejected or ignored. It may be showing hospitality to someone whose lifestyle is celebrated by the culture but rejected by God's standard.

There are so many ways to deliver peace as a sampling of what's to come. God's peace can be experienced in our lives today, but that universal peace won't be experienced until the end of time.

So let's deliver a taste of that peace today.