



SERIES: LOOKING BACK – MOVING FORWARD

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Friday, August 5, 2022

Scripture: Revelation

TITLE: Is Jesus Coming Back?

Every early fall, the predictions come out across Nebraska. We throw out how many wins the Huskers are going to win. Who will they beat? What are the factors that drive these predictions, and so on? It's probably the same for you and your local team.

We love making predictions. It can provide us hope and excitement. That's why horoscopes, lotteries, and fantasy sports are so popular. Yes, there is the money aspect, but it's about getting the predictions right.

Well, we are going to dig into another peek into the future during the month of October. We are going back to the future. We are going to look at the book of Revelation and topics related to the return of Christ, judgment, rewards, heaven, hell, and eternity.

As we work through the last 4 chapters of Revelation, I ask for mercy and grace with me and with each other. There is not a more debated and a grey area of study than eschatological or final times studies. So as we interact online and on our platform, please be kind, courteous, and flexible.

The book of Revelation was written by the apostle John on the island of Patmos. It is not a series of revelations. It's one Revelation comprised of many visions. There are different ways of interpreting the book of Revelation. The historicist approach prerecords the course of history from the time of John forward. Most of the events have already been fulfilled.

The preterist approach sees the majority if not all prophecies already fulfilled. There is a futurist approach that sees the majority of events yet to be fulfilled. And there is the spiritual approach which sees the book of Revelation as symbolic.

I think there is some strength to the historicist approach, but I lean towards the futurist approach. But even there, as you'll see in the coming days, many elements are up for grabs. But today, I want to look at two passages of things we can be sure of: Jesus is coming back.

Jesus said in John 14:3, [“If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also.”](#) Jesus promised to prepare a place for us in heaven. We, who are saved, will share eternity with Christ forever. He has left the light on for us.

Then in Acts 1, after Jesus was resurrected, He returned to the Father. Acts 1:9-11 (CSB) says,

[“After he had said this, he was taken up as they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going, they were gazing into heaven, and suddenly two men](#)

in white clothes stood by them. They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you have seen him going into heaven.’”

Jesus will return in His resurrected body. We believe in the imminent, physical return of Christ. This is one of the sure things we know about the future.

So this is my challenge for you today: Celebrate. Jesus’ return is real and sure. He is coming back to get you. He has prepared a place for you. So celebrate this! Find hope and comfort in it.

Put in the comments below what Jesus’ return means to you and share it!

Jesus loves you and is coming back for His bride the church. Celebrate this while you win the day.