

In Hollywood and Our Hearts as It Is in Heaven

Revelation 21:22–27; 22:1–5

Big Idea

The nations are gathered, the nations are wounded, and the nations are being healed through the reign of Christ.

Introduction: The Nations Have Come to Hollywood

This week the world is in our backyard.

The nations are gathering around South Florida.

Flags are flying.

Languages are being spoken.

Songs are being sung.

Bagpipes and bag-piping.

People are celebrating.

But beneath the celebration is something else:

Anxiety.

Fear.

Division.

Questions about welcome.

Questions about belonging.

Questions about what kind of people we are becoming.

Revelation gives us a lens for understanding all of it.

Not through the headlines.

Not through politics.

But through heaven.

I. The Nations Are Gathered

Revelation 21:24–26

“The nations will walk by its light...”

John’s vision is vivid.

The nations don’t disappear.

They arrive.

The kings bring their glory.

The peoples bring their cultures.

The treasures of humanity are carried into the city of God.

Here’s the truth, God doesn’t hate the nations.

God created the nations.

God loves the nations.

God intends to redeem the nations.

This is why Christians don’t fear diversity.

We don’t worship it either.

We recognize it as part of God’s design.

The nations are not a problem for God to solve. They are a promise God intends to fulfill.

But if that's true, then why does Revelation immediately speak about healing?

II. The Nations Are Wounded

Revelation 22:2

"The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."

This is one of the most important verses in this entire sermon.

Because it tells us something is wrong.

Yes, the nations are present.

But they're not yet whole.

Think of it this way,

The same streets that host celebration also carry fear.

The same communities welcoming visitors also wrestle with division.

The same region hosting the world also debates immigration, detention, belonging, and justice.

Here's the thing, the problem isn't that nations exist.

The problem is that sin infects every nation.

America.

Brazil.

Mexico.

Haiti.

Venezuela.

Israel.

Palestine.

Every nation.

Every people.

Every tribe.

And what's true of nations is true of us too.

Fear.

Pride.

Suspicion.

Self-preservation.

The wounds of the nations are ultimately the wounds of our hearts.

That means the healing of nations cannot begin in Washington.

It can't begin in Tallahassee.

It can't begin at FIFA.

It had to begin somewhere deeper.

III. The Nations Are Being Healed

Revelation 22:1–5

John sees:

A throne.

A Lamb.

A river.

A tree.

And healing.

Notice what heals the nations.

Not stronger governments.

Not better borders.

Not bigger economies.

Not global events.

The presence of God through the Lamb.

Jesus died for sinners.

Jesus rose for sinners.

Jesus reconciles people to God.

And reconciled people become the beginning of reconciled communities and nations.

That family, is the churches calling to become what some have called a “beloved community.” A community of invitation, welcome, and love.

The Church becomes a preview of heaven.

A place where:

- strangers become neighbors
- enemies become family
- fear gives way to faith
- hospitality overcomes suspicion

God heals the nations one transformed heart at a time.

Conclusion

Over the next couple of weeks Hollywood is welcoming the nations.

But one day Christ will gather the nations, finally and forever.

This week the nations will wave flags.

One day the nations will bow before the Lamb.

This week we will see the beauty of humanity.

One day we will see humanity fully healed.