

Peace Part IV: Endgame

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Nathaniel Bronner: Are you willing to give up what you want to do in your flesh to do what God has asked you to do in the Spirit?

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And now, for 5823, Peace Part IV: Endgame.

Nathaniel Bronner: Welcome to Brothers of the Word, because, brother, you need the word. And today we're still in the midst of a series simply entitled "Peace". And for the last few messages, I have taken each of the letters of the word "peace" and dealt with a particular aspect that brings peace into our soul. First was the letter P, which equals prosperity. Basically, this simply means you need sufficiency of things in life, often times, to have peace. When you're running short, that can disrupt your peace.

The second one, the letter E, expectation. When we are expecting good things, it brings peace into our lives. God is good and something good is going to happen to me today.

The last message was the letter A, which dealt with acceptance. In order for us to have peace, we have to learn to accept some things that we cannot change. Today, instead of dealing with the next letter, which would be C, I'm actually going to deal with the last letter today, and I'll deal with the letter C on next week.

Last week, as most of you know, we experienced the Super Bowl. Last week, right after church, was the Super Bowl. It is the most watched television event in America. Most of the people who left church last Sunday, they went and they watched the Super Bowl. Then the Super Bowl, it is the clash of the two titans, those of the American Football Conference and that of the National Football Conference, and it's the last game of the season, and these two best teams end up in one final game for the season called the Super Bowl.

Now, I want AV. If you would, just play video 1, and this is a clip from last week. The final thing of what you cannot change, perhaps the biggest one of all, this is major, you cannot change

who's going to win the Super Bowl. Now, I know some of you said, "Pastor, what has that got to do with anything? What has that got to do with peace?" Do you know what happened when the Falcons played in the Super Bowl, and Falcons was winning all the way up almost to the last few minutes? Do you know, folks, I almost had to go to psychiatric care because of that? No, I'm serious. Folks, I really had to go to psychiatric care because the Falcons lost the Super Bowl.

Now for those of you who are listening to me on the internet, I'm in Atlanta. I'm talking about the Atlanta Falcons football team when they went to the Super Bowl. Got to the last few minutes, had a big lead a whole while, got to the last few minutes and lost the Super Bowl. It sent some folks in Atlanta into a spiraling depression. That was serious. You cannot change who wins the Super Bowl. You want to know who is going to win the Super Bowl? I'll tell you right now, so you don't have to worry about it. The Rams are going to win, and they'll win about 12 points. You said, "Pastor, how do you know that?" "Well, I'm going to tell you how I know, it's deep. I analyzed all the stuff."

You see the ram is actually a sheep. It's a male sheep. In slang term, it's called a buck. A male goat, the slang term. It's also called a buck. So, a male ram is a buck, a male goat is a buck. My sign is Capricorn, and that's a buck. That's why. Now, that was last week and as all of you know the Los Angeles Rams did not win the Super Bowl. Not only did the Los Angeles Rams did not win the Super Bowl, they definitely did not win about 12 points. Let me explain it.

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Today's message for the letter E, the final letter in the word "peace" stands for "endgame". If you know who wins the final game and if you're on the side of the winner who wins the final game, you have peace in life. If you watch a rerun of the Super Bowl from last week, now, you wouldn't be excited because you already know who's going to win. You wouldn't be sitting on the edge of your seat. It wouldn't disappoint you. It wouldn't upset you. Your adrenaline wouldn't go through the roof because you already know who is going to win.

I want to reach you from Genesis Chapter 22, this is the NIV version. This is the story of Abraham and Isaac and the sacrifice.

I'm going to jump around just a little bit in the chapter just for the sake of time. Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about. Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father, Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied, "The fire and the wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son."

The two of them went on together. He bound his son, Isaac and laid him on the alter, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the Lord called out to him from Heaven, "Abraham, Abraham." "Here I am," he replied. "Do not lay your hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram, caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as burnt offering instead of his son. Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day, it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord, it will be provided."

The angel of the Lord called Abraham from Heaven a second time and said, "I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies and through your offspring, all nations on earth will be blessed because you have obeyed me."

Now, here is Abraham, went up to the mountain to sacrifice his son as God had commanded. Here, was one of the earliest representations of the lamb sent for our sins. There, Abraham saw a ram caught in the thicket and he did not have to sacrifice his son. He took the ram and use the ram as the sacrifice. This was one of the earliest representations of the coming of Jesus. Just as Abraham was sent the ram, we have been sent Jesus.

The Old Testament was that was one of the representations of Jesus in the Old Testament and the New Testament, John 1:29.

The next day, John seeth Jesus coming unto him and saith, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” A lamb is a generic term for the male and female of that species. But the male of the lamb is called a what? It’s called a ram. When Jesus was in the earth, there was Jesus and who? The 12 disciples.

In the final endgame between Jesus and Satan. If you know who wins, you don’t have to worry about the outcome. You see I know who’s going to win and it’s going to be the ram, and the ram with his 12 disciples. Sometimes you don’t understand how God will send a prophetic word but it’s cryptic, and you can’t see it until you look back on it. The Rams are going to win by 12 points in the final game between the last two teams, and then the season will be over. The Rams are going to win by 12 points. He wasn’t talking about man’s football, he was talking about Super Bowl.

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He was talking about that final game when it makes a real difference who he is. Didn’t make much difference whether the LA Rams or the New England Patriots won. It makes a real difference when you get to Jesus and say, Revelation 5:6, “Then I saw a lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne. He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the 24 elders fell down before the lamb and they sang a new song, “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.”

Next chapter, Revelation 6:1, “I watched as the lamb opened the first of the seven seals.” The next chapter, Revelation 7. It talked about as the lamb opened the seals, there were 12 tribes. Each tribe had 12,000 people sealed. “And I looked, and there, before me, was a great multitude that no one could count from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne and to the lamb, and to the ram.” Jesus sealed 12 tribes with 12,000 each, with 12 disciples when he walked the earth and the Rams will win by 12 points.

See you're called often -- if you are in a school, you're called by the symbol of the team. I graduated from Eckerd College. Their symbol was the trident, so, "Hey, man, you're a Triton?" "I'm Triton." You were called a Triton. James, he graduated from Georgia Tech. Georgia Tech symbol is what? The yellow jacket. So James is a yellow jacket. See, Elijah graduated from Morehouse. The Morehouse's symbol is the Tigers. See, Elijah is a tiger. So you're called by what the symbol of your team. And if you're on Jesus' team, you're a lamb. And the rams will win by 12 points.

As the revelation begins to open, it begins to change your understanding. See, that's why even Jesus said, "My sheep know my voice." A sheep is a lamb and a male sheep is a ram. A female sheep is a ewe, not why Y-O-U, it's E-W-E. But a female sheep is a ewe and a male sheep is a ram. "My sheep know my voice," and the Rams will win by 12 points. I plan on being sealed, with that seal on my head. I plan on being in one of them 12 tribes with 12,000 folks or I'll be in the sea that no man could number, there were so many. It didn't matter which group I'm in, it just matters that I'm in pack.

See, I just need to be on the winning team. I just need to be one of the Rams. I don't need to be on the losing side and it says, "In the end, after the thousand years --" When you're going to read all of the stuff in Revelation, "Jesus will conquer hell and he will conquer death." All that stuff is going to be cast in the lake of fire. I don't want to be in the lake of fire. I want to be on the team of the Rams. And the Rams will win it -- I didn't know about a Super Bowl, but I do know about the Rams. I do know that the Rams in the final analysis is going to win. That's the only real game that matters.

They said, "Well, Pastor, what did you say about the other team? Because you said something about the other team." I sure did. Play the second video. This is from last week.

"Well, Pastor, suppose the Patriots win by 50?" Well, did the Patriots win by 50? I am standard American patriot. So, whatever the case is, I am not going to lose any peace over who wins or loses the Super Bowl.

Now, let me give you the revelation on this. Because some of you said, "Pastor, you mispronounced that. You said patriarch." The word is patriot. Say patriot that ends in I-O-T is actually a lover of follower of a country that's highly dedicated. Whatever country you're in or whatever organization you belong, when you are faithful to a country or an organization, they call you a patriot. But when you are a patriarch, it is a male head of a family land. I want you to listen carefully to what I said. I didn't say patriarch, I said patriot. Play it one more time, that second video.

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Listen carefully to exactly what I said. "Well, Pastor, suppose the Patriots win by 50? Well, did the Patriots win by 50? I am a standard American patriot. So, whatever the case is, "I am not going to lose any peace over who wins or loses the Super Bowl."

So I was talking about a patriarch. Now, when Abraham went on that mountain to sacrifice his son -- and this is a key point. God sent the ram, but he also told him, as he was faithful, at the end of it, he said, "Because you have obeyed me, I'm going to bless your seed." And he gave him the number of his seed. The number of his seed, he said, "You're going to have seed so much, you won't be able to count it like the sands on the seashore." As I dealt with that verse and God spoke to me, this is what he said, he said, "50 is the number of your seed at the time of your transition." Guess how many seed I am going to end up with. I got to live to 116, my mother right now is 85, and I called my mother, I said, "Mother, how many seed do you have? I know you have six sons and you got 30 grandchildren." I said, "How many great grandchildren do you have?" My mom said, "I don't even know." She said, "I've got so many great grandchildren that I don't even have an accurate count of how many seed I have." So, we did a rough count. Mama, at 85, now has somewhere between 45 to 50 seeds that came from her body.

So, when God speaks to you, he actually gives you not just the overall global, but there's something for you. Now I've got a target. Number one, I want to make sure that I'm on the right team. I want to make sure that when the endgame come, I'm counted among the rams. I'm counted among the disciples. But also, he gave me an indication of the patriarch that you're going to have 50 seeds. I've got another 53 years to go. I got 53 years, nine months and some more days. So, I have got enough time for

my seed because see, my mother is -- at the time of when my mother was my age, my mother's youngest child was as old as my oldest child, but I got more time. So, God gives you not just for your eternal life. He gives you stuff that's going to be for your world right here, right now.

When you are obedient to God, it just didn't translate to just heaven, that stuff translates here on earth. There were two things that were spoken. The Rams will win by 12 points and the Patriots, if they win, they will win by 50. I am going win, I'm going win both sides today. It talked about my eternal life and it talked about my earthly family. It talked about both of them.

When God sends a word, his word will be for your eternal life, but he will send a word for your current life on this earth because God is concerned about your current life on this earth. He blessed Abraham to the hilt, but Abraham had to take some serious risks to be able to sacrifice his only -- well, it wasn't his only son because he had Ishmael -- but it was his chosen son. That was his favorite son. And normally, if when you're a parent, you don't really have favorites, but the real rule is you're not supposed to have favorites. That's the real -- you're not supposed to have favorites.

But often, we have children, and each child will have a particular gift or specialness about them. Sometimes, there is a favorite among the children. Here, Isaac was the promised child, and yet God told Abraham, "Give me your chosen, your special, the one you love, your promised, give it back to me." Often, when God speaks to us, he will first ask us, are we willing to part with that which he has given us in the first place? See, first place, Isaac was a miracle child to start with. Abraham was 100, his wife was 90 and his wife just left when the angel said, "She was going to have a baby." She said, "Can I have this pleasure at this age?" Which meant Abraham wouldn't work and she wasn't working.

God can do miracles in your world, but for the miracles that he has done for you, are you willing to give that back to God? Are you willing to sacrifice that which is special, that which is precious, that which you love? Are you willing to give your time? Are you willing to give your talent? Are you willing to give your treasure? Are you willing to give up what you want to do in your flesh to do what God has asked you to do in the Spirit?

And when Abraham did this, God says, “Because you have obeyed, not only will I bless you, I will bless your seed.” See, some of us need our seed blessed. We’re doing okay, but we need our seed blessed.

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Some of us need even our bodies to where they had a different level of fertility to even produce fruit and to produce seed. But yet, if we are obedient, God will take us to a whole different level of where we didn’t even realize what’s possible.

Now I know some of you said, “Pastor, that’s some nice revelation you had down to rams and the 12 points. Yeah, I could hear that you did say patriarch, not patriot.” But I’ll tell you people when I said I didn’t know it. I didn’t realize what it meant until two days later. Often, God will speak some things and just put some stuff in your spirit. When I pray the prayer every Sunday before I speak, “Lord, take control of my words.” Sometimes you don’t really mean all that. He just took control in what flowed out. I didn’t even understand until days later.

Are you willing to give God control? Are you willing to let go and do what God leads you to do? Or are we often just so stuck on what we want to do that we will not do what God wants us to do? There’s only one game that matters. You can have peace in this life when you know who’s going to win the endgame. And when you know you’re on that team. I know which team I’m on, do you? And if you know the team that you’re on, you just do not have to worry about the endgame.

Bow your heads. Dear heavenly Father, I just even thank you for leading me, guiding me. Often times, I don’t even know what you’re doing but I trust you. And, Father, when we can trust you even in the midst of something when it looks like we’re about to kill something that we love, something that you have given us, but we trust you, Lord. Father, I just pray that everyone under the sound of my voice that you give them more ability to trust you, even when it didn’t look right, even when it doesn’t feel right. But yet and still, it is by your word and by your will, just give them the ability to trust and obey. And as we trust and obey, you will take us to a deeper level within you and even take us in higher heights in the world that we may let our light shine and we may prosper and we may be at peace, and we may know that as long

as we trust and obey you, everything is going to come out good. And thy son, Jesus' name and the Lamb of God and the Ram of God and for all of the patriarchs of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and for the patriarchs in my line, for James and Nathaniel Sr., Nathaniel Jr. and all down throughout the blood line, for that I pray that we are rams and that we remain on the right team. And as long as we stay on that right team, we shall not worry about winning. And thy son Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

I thank you for joining us today at Brothers of the Word because, brother, you need the word.

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