

Bible Study

Revelation 7:9-17

To grasp the fuller meaning of this passage we need to appreciate chapter 6, where the first six seals on the scroll are opened. After the sixth seal is opened (verse 12), the physical foundations of creation are rattled. Destruction reaches such a pitch that all people hide. Key is the question found in 6:17. Now that the day of wrath has come, 'Who is able to stand?'

This passage then provides an amazing image of strength and unity, of victory and assurance, of hope that is achieved and received, then expressed by the shouting of praises to Christ for who He is, and what He has done. This crowd is not just shouting praises-they are experiencing them; they are involved as they partake in the worship of Christ. They are overcome with His presence, and in awe as the crowd, angels, and witnesses again fall, prostrate before the Sovereign Lamb

Opening Question:

Revelation 7:9-10 is a vision of the kingdom that has long animated the work of Christians toward embracing believers of all races, languages, ethnicities, and nations.

1. When have you been in a worship setting that reminded you of this vision?

Read Revelation 7:9-17

1. Verse 9 speaks of "*a great multitude*" dressed in white robes and waving palm branches.
 - (a) Who are these people?
 - (b) What is the significance of "*white*"?
 - (c) What about "*palm branches*" (Lev 23:40, Neh 8:15-17, John 12:13)
 - (d) What were they excited about? What is the activity of heaven? Does an endless worship service sound all that much fun to you?

2. What does it mean in V14 when it says 'washed in the blood of the lamb'?
- (a) Why is being "washed in the blood of the lamb" necessary?
 - (b) What would you say to someone who said, "I have lived a pretty good life? I think God will let me in."

(Acts22:16)

3. In 7:11, the angels ascribe to God "*blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honour, power, and strength*"; Why are these listed as attributes of God (Rev5:12)? Which of these is the most meaningful to you & why?

4. Consider the promises made to the multitude in 7:13-17. Why are these important?

5. There are many cultural items that divide us in the world today (economic status, education, nation, gender, language etc)
- (a) Are there divisions of in the picture of heaven given to John?
 - (b) Who is called to be the servant of God in this vision?
 - (c) What does this mean for us and our service of God and worship today?
 - (d) How can our worship at St Lukes continue to stretch us towards this vision of the kingdom?

6. What similar activity do the angels and elders and living creatures and multitude all share?
 - (a) How should this speak to us?
 - (b) How does being sealed for salvation allow you to worship without boundaries?

7. How broad is our responsibility to ensure that others have the opportunity to hear the Gospel? (Mat 28:16-20/Luke24:4-53)
 - (a) How can we increase our impact to “all nations?”
 - (b) What can we do to increase impact locally?
 - (c) What will you do to impact your personal sphere’s?

Personal Reflection:

1. What does your Baptism mean to you?
2. Are you confident that you are sealed for salvation?

(If you are not certain of being sealed for salvation please speak to Rev’d Jen)