

POWER HOUR

4/6/2025

Lesson Text:
Revelation 7:9-17

Background Scripture:
Leviticus 26:9-13; Isaiah 25:1-8

Devotional Reading:
Isaiah 49:8-12; John 12:12-16

“THE GREAT MULTITUDE”

NLT TRANSLATION

Golden Text: *After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. Revelation 7:9 NLT*

Time: about A.D. 96

Place: From Patmos

Revelation 7:9-17 NLT

9 *After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. 10 And they were shouting with a great roar, “Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!” 11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living beings. And they fell before the throne with their faces to the ground and worshiped God. 12 They sang, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and strength belong to our God forever and ever! Amen.” 13 Then one of the twenty-four elders asked me, “Who are these who are clothed in white? Where did they come from?” 14 And I said to him, “Sir, you are the one who knows.” Then he said to me, “These are the ones who died in the great tribulation. They have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white. 15 “That is why they stand in front of God’s throne and serve him day and night in his Temple. And he who sits on the throne will give them shelter. 16 They will never again be hungry or thirsty; they will never be scorched by the heat of the sun. 17 For the Lamb on the throne will be their Shepherd. He will lead them to springs of life-giving water. And God will wipe every tear from their eyes.”*

INTRODUCTION

Thanksgiving is an integral part of worship. In fact, worship is impossible unless one has a thankful heart. Those who consider themselves self-sufficient will see no need for either thanksgiving or worship, for they think they deserve all the blessings they enjoy. When tracing the downward spiral of sinful humans, Paul wrote that when they knew God, “they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful” (Rom. 1:21). This was the first step into idolatry and corruption.

Thanksgiving is the saints' appreciation for the God who created a good world and provides for all His creatures. It is a thread that runs throughout the Bible in the saints' prayers, Israel's offerings and festivals, the book of Psalms, Jesus' example, and the apostles' exhortations. Everything we receive, including salvation, is a gift of God. Even suffering and hardship are proper occasions for thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving is also part of worship in heaven, as God's grace is acknowledged.

1. The crowd worships God (Rev. 7:9-10).

John continued to describe his vision. There were people everywhere thousands and thousands of them. It was the biggest crowd he had ever seen, far too big to be numbered. It was made up of many people of every tribe, race, and language. Picture the diversity involved here.

Notice also the oneness of purpose. These people stood before the throne and before the Lamb of God, who is Jesus. They were there for one purpose only—to praise Jesus for the gift of salvation given to the world. This praise flowed from hearts of gratitude. The people waved palm branches and shouted an acknowledgment that salvation comes from Jesus alone, the Lamb of God. This Lamb, who once was crucified, is now on the throne, salvation having been accomplished for all who believe.

Some people take salvation for granted. If it were not for services around Easter, they would probably not take salvation seriously at all. We are all prone to forget the immense price that was paid, and we tend to not thank the Lord as much as we should for what He has done for us on the cross. Ask yourself the question, “What does your salvation mean for you?” Think about the price—the blood of our Lord Jesus.

2. The angels worship God (Rev. 7:11-12).

It is not just the huge crowd from every part of the world that gives thanks to God in John's vision. The heavenly hosts join in with their chorus of gratitude and worship of God. Notice that worship involves recounting the attributes of God. When we worship God we are to acknowledge that He is the embodiment of all these traits.

Let us look at some of these attributes: glory, wisdom, honor, power, and strength. Note that our God has the right to receive praise for all these characteristics because He truly possesses them and there is no other like Him in heaven and earth. He is unique. Our God is special. We need to let Him know that we recognize all His attributes because He is our God. Think about ways to apply these facts in your private time of worship. He deserves our praises.

Think about what different aspects of this week's lesson include your personal order of worship. Thankfulness is a most important part of worship.

3. The redeemed worship God (Rev. 7:13-17).

When an elder asked whether John knew the identity of the people who were clothed in white, John told him that he did not know. But the elder had the answer.

In verse 17 we see the close relationship between the ones clothed in white and the Lamb on the throne. This is a reminder of the close relationship we can have with the Lamb. The clothed ones are those who will come through the Great Tribulation, a time of great turmoil on the earth. This is a reminder that those who put their faith in our Lord Jesus will have pure white robes, a symbol of being washed in the blood of the Lamb and freed from the stain of sin.

An important part of worship is recognizing what Jesus has done for us in bringing us home, clean from sin. In our passage John goes on to describe what the believers clothed in white are doing. They too stand with the angels around the throne of God. They serve God in His holy temple, His dwelling place. The Lamb will cover these people who will put their trust in Him so that they will be protected. The picture of a tent implies protection from harm.

Notice also that those who put their trust in the Lamb will one day no longer face hunger, thirst, or the heat of the day, for the Lord is now their Protector. When we worship God, we are to give Him thanks for all that He has done for us and to recognize that we too can be part of this company of the protected. We will one day be sheltered from all harm. Think about what it might be like to be in the

presence of God.

John closes this section by helping us see that we can experience this because Jesus is the center of all things. He is our Shepherd. He gives us life-giving water, just as He promised, and He wipes away all our tears and sorrow. He is worthy to be thanked and praised. We must identify various things for which we can thank the Lord.

POINTS TO PONDER

Christ's church includes all races and cultures, so there is no room for bigotry (Rev. 7:9).

The white robes of the multitude remind us that our lives should always reflect God's holiness (vs. 9).

The testimony that unifies the church focuses on God, Christ, and salvation (vs. 10).

One day we will join the celebration around God's throne (vss. 11-12).

Those washed in Christ's blood have suffering in this world but eternal triumph and blessings in the next (vss. 13-14).

As believers, we can rejoice that we will bask eternally in the glory of God (vss. 15-17).

CONCLUSION

Revelation 7:9 says those in heaven are already praising God, and one day all of God's children will praise Him forever. "When I think of the goodness of Jesus and all He's done for us, my soul cries out, Hallelujah, I thank God for saving me" (Patterson, Singing the Old Time Way, vol. 1, Podium Records). These lyrics might well be the victory chant of every Christian brought out of the darkness of sin and degradation into the marvelous light of life. The Christian will be made fit to stand in holiness before a holy God. We need not envy John because God granted him this awesome view of heaven. Every believer will one day have his or her own experience of beholding those scenes in heaven.

When studying Revelation, it can be easy to focus on disagreements. When the Bible is clear, we should speak clearly, and when it is less clear, we should admit it. Even Peter acknowledged some Scriptures are harder to understand than others (2 Pet. 3:15-16). We should be gracious to Christians we disagree with.

Whether figurative or literal, the focus is clear. A multitude stands before God's throne praising the Lamb. God's grace is for people from all nations, tribes, and languages. As believers, we are part of one huge, multicultural family. In a world that divides across

racial and cultural identities, we have unity in Christ. We have more in common with brothers and sisters in Christ around the globe than we do with neighbors who do not know God. We should build relationships with our brothers and sisters who are different from us. All groups have strengths and weaknesses. If we only listen to people who look and think like us, it will be harder for us to recognize the weaknesses of our particular church and culture. But if we listen to Christians who are different from us, we will be exposed to their strengths, which can help us find our weaknesses and grow. Since God's kingdom involves people from all nations, tribes, and languages, we should oppose racism and injustice. All people are created in God's image and are worthy of dignity and respect.

QUESTION(S)

1. How does Revelation 7 relate to the judgments God has begun to pour out on the earth?
2. How did John describe the great multitude before God's throne?
3. For what do the multitude thank God the Father and the Lamb?
4. How are angels related to God's redemptive program?
5. What qualities of God do the angels express in their doxology?
6. What question did the elder ask John? How did John respond?
7. Who are the people in the vast multitude John saw?
8. If the Great Tribulation pours God's wrath on sinners, why has this crowd of saints suffered in it?
9. On what basis are these saints accepted into God's presence?
10. What blessings are promised to these martyred saints?

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Next week's lesson is *"Babylon Is Fallen"*

Lesson Text: **Revelation 14:6-13**

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