

## “Pray with the End in Mind”

### Revelation 7

9 After this 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 before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

11 All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying:

“Amen!

Praise and glory  
and wisdom and thanks and honor  
and power and strength  
be to our God for ever and ever.

Amen!”

13 Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”

14 I answered, “Sir, you know.”

And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

- Scripture says there will be a Great Multitude of faithful followers of Jesus in Heaven who have come out of the Great Tribulation.
- It is debated whether these are those who are raptured or another group who follow after the rapture...
- Can I tell you, either way this follows a common theme through out Scripture...

### Perseverance...

This is what it says:

## **Vs. 9**

...there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.

## **Vs. 14**

These are they who have come out of the great tribulation

- A Great Multitude of People People Persevered in their Faith...
- A multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language...
- When it says they came out of the Great Tribulation
- Perhaps many were martyred
- Perhaps many endured persecution their entire life
- Perhaps many were forsaken by their families and friends
- The list goes on and on

## **A Great Multitude Persevered in their Faith**

### **Revelation 6:9-11**

9 When he (Jesus) opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar **the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.** 10 They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?” 11 Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, **until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.**

These are the souls of those who are Martyred for Jesus...

When I read this it is very sobering to me...

- “the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained... called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord... until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?””
- they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.

It causes me to ask myself, Josh are you willing to die for Jesus?

- This is a number who will be given white robes in heaven... a very special, precious number to Jesus who served Him even to the point where they layed down their lives for him...

It makes me think of what Leonard Ravenhill once said “We have flimsy Christians, in flimsy Churches because they’ve preached a flimsy Gospel.”

## **And they Wore White Robes**

### **Vs. 14**

“These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

- Robes are a symbol of a persons life
- What’s on the robes tell you a lot about where they’ve been and what they’ve done...
- And it says they washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb
- That means they took responsibility for their own deeds
- They found an alter and made their hearts and lives right before a Holy God.
- They washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb...

### **1 Corinthians 6:9**

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. Can I tell you on the Eve of 2021

To God Sin is still Sin:

God doesn’t care what the Media says

God doesn’t change his mind because of what the Universities or the Politicians say

God doesn’t even care what Hollywood says

To God Sin is still Sin...

It is still the thing that separates Man from God... Isaiah 59:2

Fornication: Sex before Marriage is Sin  
And God made Marriage to be between a Man and a Woman...  
And Sex is reserved for the Marriage Bed Only...  
And we are called to keep the Marriage Bed Holy...

### **Hebrews 13:4**

“Marriage *is* honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”

If you haven't been, today is the day to consecrate these things to God, out of the Fear of the Lord...

Stealing is a Sin  
Lying is a Sin. Liars will find their place in the lake of fire. Rev. 21:8  
Covetousness is a Sin  
Drunkenness is a Sin  
Revilers: Abusive criticism, angry insults is sin  
Extortion: The practice of obtaining something through force is a sin

Oh I fear God with this; The Bible says, the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God  
How many Churches still preach this clearly today?

Why do I? Because I Fear God and I will stand and give an account one day...

“You preach a soft Gospel if you want a big church today.  
You preach the real Gospel if you want a real church tomorrow.”

“We have flimsy Christians, in flimsy Churches because they've heard a flimsy Gospel.”

### **We Hear mostly a Self Serving Gospel:**

That Jesus loves you...  
That Jesus forgives you, and that is all very true...

But once that is understood, Perhaps the better question is not how much does God love us, but how much does we love Him?

## The Great Multitude Persevered and Wore White Robes

### Vs. 15-17

15 Therefore,  
“they are before the throne of God  
and serve him day and night in his temple;  
and he who sits on the throne  
will shelter them with his presence.

16  
‘Never again will they hunger;  
never again will they thirst.  
The sun will not beat down on them,’  
nor any scorching heat.

17  
For the Lamb at the center of the throne  
will be their shepherd;  
‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’  
‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’ ”

The Ranks of Heaven are filled with a Great Multitude  
they are before the throne of God  
and serve him day and night in his temple.

- They Serve Him Together.
- They aren't Mavericks, they are Unified.

The Lord will shelter them with his presence  
the Lamb at the center of the throne  
will be their shepherd

Never again will they hunger;  
never again will they thirst.  
The sun will not beat down on them  
And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

- Whatever burden and difficulty you face in this world, now is your chance to carry that to God in prayer, because you won't be able to pray like that in heaven.

- Whatever pain and sorrow you face on earth, this is your chance to Worship God with that now, because you won't be able to offer God that kind of worship in Heaven.

### **Revelation 8**

3 Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all God's people, on the golden altar in front of the throne. 4 The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God's people, went up before God from the angel's hand.

- Incense many times is looked at as symbol of Worship...
- Something rising up from the Altar in the Presence of the Lord in the Temple.
- It is also a picture of prayer rising up to God...

### **Psalm 141:2**

Let my prayer be set before You as incense,  
The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

### **Vs. 4**

The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God's people, went up before God from the angel's hand.

What does this have to do with "Pray with the End in Mind"

As we approach the New Year and our Week of Prayer and Fasting.

- Pray for that kind of Perseverance; that God's people will Persevere...
- Pray for the convicting work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of people; that the hearts of men and women will be impacted by the Holy Spirit...
- Knowing that the Prayers of the Saints rise in heaven as an Incense before God, may we be a people of prayer...