

COMMUNITY

Don't Do Life Alone

“Leaning INTO The Lamb” | CommUNITY: Don't Do Life Alone

Revelation 7:9-17

Why do we lean into The Lamb?

Most of us...have given our stuffies to our kids or grandkids...or they got lost along the way. But we still need to be stabilized in a world that is JOLTING. We still need to be comforted in a world that is scary. We still need to express deep joy in a world that is stuck in depression. We still need to be hugged in a world where...hugs aren't always just hugs. God desires to be that close to us...to meet our deepest emotional and spiritual needs. And...it just so happens that he describes Himself as a Lamb. And we read about that Lamb in Revelation.

John is writing a revelation from God (Αποκάλυψις Ἰωάννου = unveiling or revelation) contains apocalyptic literature describing visions, symbols, and prophecies about the end times, the return of Jesus Christ, the final judgment, and the establishment of God's kingdom.

In the midst of the chaos of their reality...suffering, persecution, and real life consequences for choosing to follow Jesus...the author of Revelation paints a picture of the Throneroom of God...RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THE HARD STUFF. Why? So we can have the HOPE of Heavenly worship in our hearts while living through the tough stuff of Earth. We were made to be close to God in worship!

Revelation 7:9-17:

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 **worshipped 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. **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.’”

1. **The Lamb unites humanity.** → The Anti-Christ will TRY and unite humanity but will fail. The Lamb will succeed.
 - **Diversity = 9:** *“a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before **the Lamb.**”*
 - **White robes** = United in purity, righteousness, divine glory, forgiveness...Angels...
 - **Palm branches** = United in victory.
 - **We are part of a multitude of diverse peoples...gathered around the Throne of the Lamb.**

2. **The Lamb provides salvation.** → We try and save ourselves (pride) by saving others...or medicating ourselves...
 - **Passover Lamb** = The story of the Exodus in Exodus 12:1-14 // John 1:29
 - **12:** *“Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to **the Lamb.**”*
 - *“Father, make of me a crisis man. Bring those I contact to decision. Let me not be a milepost on a single road; make me a fork, that men must turn one way or another on facing Christ in me.”* - Jim Elliot
 - **We clearly point people to Jesus...so they can ACTUALLY be saved.**

3. **The Lamb is The Shepherd who is worthy of worship.** → We focus our entire lives onto God...
 - **11-12:** *“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, “Amen! (Jesus uses the word Amen/Truly) Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”***
 - **17:** *For **the Lamb at the center of the throne** will be their shepherd;*
 - *“Worship is the strategy by which we interrupt our preoccupation with ourselves and attend to the presence of God.”*
- Eugene H. Peterson
 - **We worship the Lamb of God, Jesus who sits at the CENTER of the Throne by attending to His Presence.**
 - *“Wow” = A one word prayer. AND...wow is WORSHIP!*

4. **What is our response?** → We loosen our tent pegs so more can worship...
 - **WE LIVE LIVES WITH LOOSE TENTPEGS!**
 - We unite with people who are different than us.
 - We proclaim the Good News to anyone who will listen.
 - We live our lives as worship: humble, Jesus-centered, & dependent.
 - **WE LIVE LIVES WITH LOOSE TENTPEGS!** → Read prophecy.

→ Let's LEAN IN to the Lamb through worship so our hearts can be stabilized in the chaos of our world.

TALK ABOUT IT - Questions to GROW through with family, friends, & myself.

1. Did I have a “stuffie” or a comfort blanket when i was small? How has that evolved in my life?
2. What are the reasons we LEAN IN to the Lamb according to the message? Which resonated with me the most?
3. Do I believe Jesus has provided salvation? I have accepted His salvation? Why or why not?
4. What is my definition of worship? Would we worship the Lamb? Why or why not?
5. **PRAYER:** “Father, help US to LEAN IN to the Lamb though worship so our hearts can be stabilized.”

QUOTES / SONGS:

- *"Father, make of me a crisis man. Bring those I contact to decision. Let me not be a milepost on a single road; make me a fork, that men must turn one way or another on facing Christ in me."* - **Jim Elliot**
- *"Worship is simply about value. It's about what we value most. Therefore, worship happens when we give God His rightful place of honor in our lives."* - **Louie Giglio**
- *"Worship is the strategy by which we interrupt our preoccupation with ourselves and attend to the presence of God."* - **Eugene H. Peterson**
- *"Worship is the occupation of the heart, the soul, and the spirit with God Himself. Therefore, worship is the most pure, the most holy, the most powerful activity of which man is capable."* - **A.W. Tozer**
- *"Worship is the fuel for discipleship. It's the engine that drives the Christian life."* - **Matt Redman**
- *"Worship is the glad shout of praise that arises to God the creator and God the rescuer from his creation, especially from humanity, made in his own image, for his mercy endures forever."* - **N.T. Wright**

Where is Jesus? Theme study:

- **Matthew 26:64:** "Jesus replied, 'You have said it. And in the future you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God's right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven.'"
- **Mark 16:19:** "When the Lord Jesus had finished talking with them, he was taken up into heaven and sat down in the place of honor at God's right hand."
- **Acts 2:33:** "Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God's right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today."
- **Acts 7:55-56:** "But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed steadily into heaven and saw the glory of God, and he saw Jesus standing in the place of honor at God's right hand. And he told them, 'Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing in the place of honor at God's right hand!'"
- **Romans 8:34:** "Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us."
- **Ephesians 1:20:** "that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms."
- **Colossians 3:1:** "Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand."

SCRIPTURES: New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

- *"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look! The **Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world!'"* - **John 1:29**
- *1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. 2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." 5 **And the one sitting on the throne said**, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true." 6 And he also said, "It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. 7 All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children. - **Revelation 21:1-7***
- *22 I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light. 24 The nations will walk in its light, and the kings of the world will enter the city in all their glory. 25 Its gates will never be closed at the end of day because there is no night there. 26 And all the nations will bring their glory and honor into the city. 27 Nothing evil will be allowed to enter, nor anyone who practices shameful idolatry and dishonesty—but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.." - **Revelation 21:22-27***

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