

LESSON 11

God's Eternal Presence

Revelation 7:9-10

After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb , Revelation 7:9-10.

Class Overview: Heaven's greatest blessing is not its beauty or rewards but the eternal presence of God. From Eden to the tabernacle, from the temple to Christ Himself, Scripture reveals God's desire to dwell with His people. In the eternal city, that longing will be fully realized—no more separation, no more night, no more curse. God Himself will be our light, our security, and our joy. This lesson reminds us that what makes heaven truly heaven is not the place, but the presence of God.

Class Objectives:

By the end of this class, you should be able to:

1. Trace the theme of God's presence throughout Scripture and see its fulfillment in heaven.
2. Explain why God's presence—not material images of heaven—is the greatest blessing of eternity.
3. Identify what "night" symbolizes in Scripture and how its end points to God's eternal light and security.
4. Apply the hope of God's eternal presence to daily life, finding courage, strength, and joy in His nearness now.
5. Deepen their longing for heaven by recognizing that the ultimate promise is to see God's face and dwell with Him forever.

Introduction:

When I was a boy, every few years our extended family would gather in Greenwood, Arkansas for a reunion. It was special. It was important to my grandmother. Twenty years before, her husband passed away in a matter of months after a diagnosis of cancer. This was his family, and she wanted to make sure my uncle, mom, and I would maintain a connection with them. Cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents would come in from all over Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Kansas. The day was filled with laughter, food, and stories that bound us together. But even as good as those times were, they always ended. People had to pack up, say their goodbyes, and head back to their separate lives.

Our experiences of fellowship in this life are always incomplete. Distance, time, sin, and even death eventually interrupt them. But God has promised something better. In heaven, all His people will finally be together—forever. No separation. No conflict. No goodbyes.

The Bible paints a picture of a great multitude gathered before the throne (Revelation 7:9-10). From every nation and generation, they are united in one voice of praise. This is the fellowship of God's sons and daughters in its fullest expression.

When we think about heaven, we rightly focus on being with God. But we should not overlook the joy of being reunited with one another—family, friends, saints across time—sharing in the unbroken communion of Christ's eternal city. That's the fellowship we are longing for.

The Gathering of the Redeemed

After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, Revelation 7:9.

From the Text

John's vision shows heaven filled with the redeemed of all ages, united before the throne and the Lamb. The barriers that divide us on earth—time, language, culture, death—are gone. What remains is one great assembly of God's people, perfected and gathered forever in His presence.

Biblical Themes of God's Gathering

- Hebrews 12:22-23: The assembly of the firstborn, written in heaven, surrounding the throne of God.
- Matthew 8:11: Many will come from east and west to sit with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18: We will be caught up together with them ... and so we will always be with the Lord.
- John 10:16: One flock, one Shepherd.

The Experience of Fellowship in Heaven

- Every believer across time and place will be present: patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and saints.
- Loved ones in Christ, long separated by death, will be reunited.
- A multitude from every nation will praise with one voice, clothed in white robes of victory.
- The redeemed will not just be individuals in God's presence, but one family, one city, one body.

Application

- Heaven is the end of separation. No more death, distance, or division...only eternal reunion.
- Heaven is the end of loneliness. We will belong, fully and forever, to God's family.
- Heaven is the fullness of fellowship. Our worship, joy, and service will be shared with all God's people.

Perfect Fellowship

They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. Night will be no more; people will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, because the Lord God will give them light, and they will reign forever and ever., Revelation 22:4-5.

From the Text

Fellowship on earth is fragile. Sin, pride, misunderstandings, and weakness often strain relationships. In heaven, fellowship will be perfected. We will see God's face and bear His name—fully known and fully belonging. That perfect relationship with Him will overflow into perfect relationships with one another.

Biblical Themes of Perfect Fellowship

- Psalm 133:1: "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony."
- John 17:21: Jesus prayed that His followers "may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you."
- Acts 2:42: The early church devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayers: an earthly glimpse of heavenly unity.
- Ephesians 2:19: In Christ we are no longer strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of God's household.

The Experience of Fellowship in Heaven

- No sin will ever again divide God's people: no jealousy, no envy, no anger, no pride.
- Love will bind us perfectly, reflecting God's own love.
- Harmony will not be fragile or temporary, but permanent and complete.
- Every believer will enjoy unbroken communion with God and one another.

Application

- Heaven is the end of conflict. No more strained friendships, broken homes, or church divisions.
- Heaven is the end of misunderstanding. Our relationships will be pure, transparent, and true.
- Heaven is the fullness of unity. What Jesus prayed for in John 17 will finally be realized forever.

Shared Joy

They sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation. You made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth., Revelation 5:9–10.

From the Text

The picture of heaven is filled with joy expressed in worship. The redeemed lift their voices in a song that never ends, celebrating the Lamb who purchased them by His blood. Joy is not solitary—it is shared. Heaven is a place where God's people rejoice together in their salvation and in the eternal victory of Christ.

Biblical Themes of Shared Joy

- Psalm 16:11: "In your presence is abundant joy; at your right hand are eternal pleasures."
- Isaiah 35:10: God's ransomed will return with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads.
- Luke 15:7: There is joy in heaven over one sinner who repents—a joy multiplied among the redeemed.
- Philippians 4:4: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"

The Experience of Joy in Heaven

- Worship will be a shared celebration: every voice raised in thanksgiving to God and the Lamb.
- Our joy will be multiplied because it is shared with countless others.
- No sorrow, grief, or disappointment will diminish our rejoicing.
- The victory of Christ will be the theme of every heart and song, forever.

Application

- Heaven is the end of sorrow. Tears will be replaced by gladness and singing.
- Heaven is the end of loneliness in joy. We will not rejoice alone but with all the redeemed.
- Heaven is the fullness of celebration. Together, we will forever praise the Lamb who made our joy complete.

Conclusion

Heaven is not only about seeing God face to face; it is about being gathered with His people in perfect fellowship and shared joy. What sin broke apart on earth, God will make whole forever. Every barrier, distance, culture, time, even death will be removed. We will stand together as one family, united by the blood of Christ, rejoicing without end.

Think of what that means: no more goodbyes, no more misunderstandings, no more strained relationships. Only love. Only harmony. Only joy. The fellowship we taste here in the church is but a shadow of the eternal communion that awaits in the heavenly city.

The promise of heaven reminds us to value fellowship now. If we cannot live at peace with one another here, how can we hope to enjoy perfect fellowship there? Let us pursue unity, forgiveness, and love today, knowing that one day we will stand side by side in glory, forever in the presence of our God and with all the redeemed.

For Discussion

1. Revelation 7:9-10 shows a vast multitude before the throne. How does this vision shape the way you think about the church today?

2. What barriers divide people on earth that will be removed forever in heaven?

3. What kinds of sin most often damage our fellowship here on earth?

4. How does the promise of perfect unity in heaven challenge us to pursue unity in the church now?

5. Why do you think joy in heaven is pictured as something shared, not just individual?

6. How does worship here on earth serve as a foretaste of heaven's eternal joy?

7. How does the hope of eternal fellowship with all believers encourage you in times of loneliness or grief?

8. What steps can we take in our local congregation to reflect the heavenly fellowship we are promised?
