

Week Three of Bible Study Book of Revelation.

Revelation 4:1-11 describes the vision of the throne room of God as seen by the Apostle John. Here is a summary of the passage:

- In verse 1, John hears a voice telling him to come up to heaven so that he can see what must take place after these things.
- In verse 2, John immediately sees a throne in heaven and someone seated on the throne. This is God the Father.
- In verse 3, John describes the appearance of God on the throne. He says that there was a rainbow around the throne, which was like an emerald in appearance. This rainbow symbolizes God's covenant faithfulness.
- In verses 4-6, John describes the 24 elders who are seated around the throne. They are dressed in white and have crowns of gold on their heads. These elders are representative of the redeemed people of God.
- In verse 7, John sees four living creatures around the throne. These creatures are full of eyes and have six wings. They are similar to the cherubim described in Ezekiel 1.
- In verses 8-11, John describes the worship that is taking place in heaven. The living creatures and the elders are all singing praises to God, saying "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" The worship is so powerful that the room is filled with smoke.
- Overall, this vision of the throne room of God is meant to give John and his readers a glimpse into the majesty and glory of God. It is a reminder that God is the ruler of the universe and is worthy of all praise and worship.

In his vision of the throne room of God in Revelation 4:2-6, John sees several things:

- A throne: John sees a throne in heaven, which represents the sovereignty and power of God.
- Someone seated on the throne: John sees God the Father sitting on the throne, who is the ultimate authority and ruler of the universe.

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- A rainbow: John sees a rainbow around the throne, which symbolizes God's covenant faithfulness.
- 24 elders: John sees 24 elders seated around the throne, dressed in white and with golden crowns on their heads. These elders are representative of the redeemed people of God.
- Lightning, thunder, and voices: John hears thunder and sees flashes of lightning coming from the throne, along with the sound of voices.
- Overall, John's vision of the throne room of God emphasizes the majesty, power, and glory of God, as well as the redeemed people who worship and serve Him.

What is the significance of the creatures and elders worshiping around the throne (vv. 8-11)?

- The creatures and elders worshiping around the throne in Revelation 4:8-11 are significant because they represent the heavenly host, including angels and the redeemed people of God.
- The worship they offer is a response to the majesty and holiness of God, as expressed in their cry of "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" (v. 8). This worship is an acknowledgment of God's sovereignty and power, and a recognition that He alone is worthy of all honor and glory.
- Furthermore, the worship of the creatures and elders also highlights the unity and diversity of the people of God. The 24 elders, who represent the redeemed people of God, are from different nations, tribes, and languages (Revelation 7:9). Yet they are all united in their worship of God, alongside the angelic creatures.
- In addition, the worship in the throne room of God serves as a model and encouragement for believers on earth to worship God. It reminds us that our worship is not just an individual or private matter, but something that we do as part of a larger community of believers, both on earth and in heaven.

How can we apply this vision of the throne room of God to our lives today?

- The vision of the throne room of God in Revelation 4 can be applied to our lives in several ways:

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- It reminds us of the greatness and majesty of God. When we focus on the problems and challenges of our daily lives, it can be easy to forget the greatness and power of God. The vision of the throne room reminds us that God is sovereign and in control of all things.
- It calls us to worship God. The creatures and elders in the vision are constantly worshiping God, and we too are called to worship Him. Worship helps us to connect with God on a deeper level, and to express our gratitude and adoration for Him.
- It reminds us of our identity as children of God. The 24 elders in the vision represent the redeemed people of God, and as believers, we too are part of this group. This vision reminds us that we are loved and chosen by God, and that we have a secure and eternal future in Him.
- It inspires us to persevere in the midst of trials. The vision of the throne room of God shows us that God is in control, and that He has a plan and a purpose for our lives. This can give us hope and encouragement, even in the midst of difficult circumstances.
- Overall, the vision of the throne room of God calls us to focus on God, to worship Him, and to trust in His sovereignty and plan for our lives.

Revelation 5:1-14 - The Vision of the Lamb Who Was Slain

- Revelation 5:1-14 describes the vision of the Lamb who was slain as seen by the Apostle John. Here is a summary of the passage:
- In verse 1, John sees a scroll in the right hand of God on the throne. This scroll is sealed with seven seals, and no one is found worthy to open it.
- In verses 2-4, John weeps because no one is found worthy to open the scroll. One of the elders tells John to stop weeping, and says that the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed and is able to open the scroll.
- In verses 5-7, John sees a Lamb standing as if it had been slain, in the midst of the throne and the living creatures and elders. The Lamb takes the scroll from the right hand of God, and the creatures and elders worship Him.

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- In verses 8-10, the creatures and elders sing a new song, praising the Lamb for His redemption of people from every tribe and language and nation. They declare that the Lamb has made them a kingdom of priests, and that they will reign on earth.
- In verses 11-14, John hears the voice of many angels around the throne, as well as the living creatures and elders. They all declare the worthiness of the Lamb, saying that He is worthy to receive power, wealth, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and praise.
- Overall, the vision of the Lamb who was slain emphasizes the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, who is the only one worthy to open the seals of the scroll and bring about the end of the age. It also emphasizes the worship and praise that is due to the Lamb, who has redeemed people from every tribe, language, and nation and made them a kingdom of priests.

What is the significance of the scroll with seven seals (v. 1)?

- The scroll with seven seals in Revelation 5:1 is significant because it represents the unfolding of God's plan for the end of the age. The seven seals are symbols of the judgments that will be executed upon the earth during the Great Tribulation, as described in later chapters of Revelation. The scroll is described as being in the right hand of God, indicating that only He has the authority and power to bring about the events that will be revealed through the opening of the seals.
- In addition, the fact that no one is found worthy to open the scroll (v. 3) highlights the need for a Redeemer who is able to overcome sin and death. This sets the stage for the entrance of the Lamb who was slain (v. 6), who is the only one found worthy to open the seals and bring about the end of the age.
- Overall, the significance of the scroll with seven seals is that it represents God's ultimate plan for the redemption and judgment of the world, and the need for a Redeemer who is able to bring about that plan. The Lamb who was slain, Jesus Christ, is the only one who is able to open the seals and bring about the fulfillment of God's plan.

Who is worthy to open the scroll (v. 5)?

- In Revelation 5:5, one of the elders tells John that the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed and is able to open the scroll and its seven seals. The identity of this Lion is made clear in the following verses, where John sees a Lamb standing as if it had been slain (v. 6), and the creatures and elders worship Him (v. 8). This Lamb represents Jesus Christ, who is both the Lion of the tribe of Judah and the sacrificial Lamb who was slain for the sins of the world.

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- The fact that only Jesus Christ is found worthy to open the scroll emphasizes His unique role as the Redeemer and Judge of the world. Through His death and resurrection, He has triumphed over sin and death and has the power and authority to execute God's plan for the end of the age. The Lamb who was slain is the only one worthy to open the scroll and bring about the final judgment and redemption of the world.

What is the response of the creatures and elders to the Lamb who was slain (vv. 8-14)?

- In Revelation 5:8-14, the creatures and elders respond to the Lamb who was slain with worship and praise. Here is a summary of their response:
- The creatures and elders fall down before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints (v. 8).
- They sing a new song, saying that the Lamb is worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because He was slain and has redeemed people for God by His blood from every tribe, language, people, and nation (vv. 9-10).
- They declare that the Lamb has made them a kingdom of priests to serve God, and that they will reign on the earth (v. 10).
- The creatures and elders join with the voices of angels, numbering thousands upon thousands and ten thousand times ten thousand, who encircle the throne and the living creatures and elders. They all sing with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" (vv. 11-12).
- Every creature in heaven and on earth, and under the earth and on the sea, joins in saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" (v. 13).
- The creatures and elders continue to worship and praise God, saying, "Amen!" (v. 14).
- The response of the creatures and elders to the Lamb who was slain is one of complete adoration and worship. They recognize the Lamb as the one who has redeemed people for God by His blood, and as the one who is worthy to receive power, wealth, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and praise. Their response demonstrates the greatness of the Lamb and His role in the redemption and salvation of humanity.

How can we apply this vision of the Lamb who was slain to our lives today?

- The vision of the Lamb who was slain in Revelation 5 has several applications for our lives today:
- We can be assured of our salvation: The Lamb who was slain has redeemed people for God by His blood from every tribe, language, people, and nation. This means that anyone who puts their

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faith in Jesus can be saved and have eternal life. As believers, we can be confident in our salvation through the sacrifice of the Lamb.

- We can worship and praise God: The response of the creatures and elders to the Lamb who was slain is one of worship and praise. As Christians, we are called to worship and praise God for who He is and what He has done for us. The Lamb who was slain is worthy of our worship and adoration.
- We can have hope for the future: The Lamb who was slain has the power to open the scroll and bring about the final judgment and redemption of the world. As believers, we can have hope for the future because we know that Jesus has triumphed over sin and death and will one day return to make all things new.
- We can serve God as a kingdom of priests: The creatures and elders declare that the Lamb has made them a kingdom of priests to serve God. As Christians, we are called to serve God and share the good news of the gospel with others. We are called to be a light in the world and to reflect the love of Christ to those around us.
- Overall, the vision of the Lamb who was slain reminds us of the central message of the gospel and the importance of faith in Jesus Christ. We can apply this vision to our lives by trusting in Jesus for our salvation, worshiping and praising God, having hope for the future, and serving God as a kingdom of priests.

Revelation 6:1-17 - The Opening of the Seals

- In Revelation 6:1-17, John describes the opening of the first six seals, which reveal various events and catastrophes that will occur on the earth before the final judgment. Here is a summary of the events described in each seal:
- The first seal: A white horse appears, and its rider carries a bow and is given a crown. He goes out to conquer. (v. 2)
- The second seal: A fiery red horse appears, and its rider is given a large sword. He takes peace from the earth, causing people to kill one another. (vv. 3-4)
- The third seal: A black horse appears, and its rider carries scales in his hand. He announces a time of scarcity, where a day's wage will only buy enough food for one person. (vv. 5-6)

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- The fourth seal: A pale horse appears, and its rider is named Death. Hades follows him, and they are given power over a fourth of the earth to kill with the sword, famine, pestilence, and wild beasts. (vv. 7-8)
- The fifth seal: John sees under the altar the souls of those who have been slain for their testimony. They cry out for justice and are given white robes. They are told to wait a little longer until their full number is reached. (vv. 9-11)
- The sixth seal: There is a great earthquake, and the sun turns black, the moon turns blood red, and the stars fall from the sky. The sky recedes like a scroll, and every mountain and island is moved from its place. People hide in caves and beg for the mountains to fall on them to hide them from the wrath of the Lamb. (vv. 12-17)
- The opening of these seals reveals the chaos and destruction that will come upon the earth before the final judgment. The first four seals depict various forms of war, famine, and death, while the fifth seal shows the souls of the martyrs crying out for justice. The sixth seal reveals cosmic upheaval and people's fear and recognition of the wrath of God.
- The opening of the seals also emphasizes the importance of living a faithful and righteous life, as the martyrs are promised justice and white robes, and those who are not faithful will face the wrath of God. It is a reminder that we should always be prepared for Christ's return and the final judgment, as it could happen at any moment.

What are the events that take place when the first four seals are opened (vv. 2-8)?

- The opening of the first four seals in Revelation 6:2-8 reveals events that will take place on the earth before the final judgment. Here is a summary of each seal:
- The first seal: A white horse appears, and its rider carries a bow and is given a crown. He goes out to conquer. This symbolizes a time of conquest and warfare on the earth.
- The second seal: A fiery red horse appears, and its rider is given a large sword. He takes peace from the earth, causing people to kill one another. This symbolizes a time of widespread conflict and violence on the earth.

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- The third seal: A black horse appears, and its rider carries scales in his hand. He announces a time of scarcity, where a day's wage will only buy enough food for one person. This symbolizes a time of famine and economic hardship on the earth.
- The fourth seal: A pale horse appears, and its rider is named Death. Hades follows him, and they are given power over a fourth of the earth to kill with the sword, famine, pestilence, and wild beasts. This symbolizes a time of widespread death and destruction on the earth.
- These four seals reveal various forms of chaos and destruction that will come upon the earth before the final judgment. They emphasize the importance of living a faithful and righteous life, as those who are faithful will be spared from God's wrath. It is a reminder that we should always be prepared for Christ's return and the final judgment, as it could happen at any moment.

What are the events that take place when the fifth seal is opened (vv. 9-11)?

- When the fifth seal is opened in Revelation 6:9-11, John sees a vision of martyrs who have been killed for their faith in Jesus Christ. Here is a summary of the events that take place:
- John sees under the altar the souls of those who have been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.
- These martyrs cry out with a loud voice, asking how long it will be until their deaths are avenged.
- They are each given a white robe and told to rest a little while longer until the number of their fellow servants and brethren who would be killed as they were is completed.
- This vision of the martyrs emphasizes the reality of persecution that believers face for their faith in Jesus Christ. It also reveals that God is aware of their suffering and will ultimately bring justice and vengeance for their deaths. The white robes symbolize the righteousness of these martyrs and their faithfulness to Christ, despite the cost. This vision provides comfort and encouragement to believers who face persecution, reminding them of God's ultimate victory and their eternal reward in heaven. It also serves as a warning to those who persecute believers, that they will ultimately face the judgment of God.

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What are the events that take place when the sixth seal is opened (vv. 12-17)?

- When the sixth seal is opened in Revelation 6:12-17, John sees a vision of catastrophic events that will occur on the earth. Here is a summary of the events that take place:
- There is a great earthquake that shakes the entire earth.
- The sun becomes black as sackcloth, and the moon becomes like blood.
- The stars of heaven fall to the earth.
- The sky recedes like a scroll when it is rolled up.
- Every mountain and island is moved out of its place.
- The kings of the earth, great men, rich men, and every slave and free person, hide themselves in caves and among the rocks of the mountains, crying out for the mountains and rocks to fall on them and hide them from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb.
- These catastrophic events symbolize the coming judgment of God on the earth. The shaking of the earth, the darkening of the sun, and the falling of the stars all point to the cosmic upheaval that will occur during the end times. The reaction of the people on the earth, hiding in fear and calling for the mountains and rocks to fall on them, is a sign of their recognition of the power and authority of God, and their fear of His wrath. This vision serves as a warning to those who do not believe in Jesus Christ, that they will ultimately face the judgment of God if they do not repent and turn to Him.

How can we apply this vision of the opening of the seals to our lives today?

- The vision of the opening of the seals in Revelation 6 serves as a warning to us as believers that we need to be ready for the coming judgment of God. Here are some ways we can apply this vision to our lives today:

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- We should take our relationship with God seriously: The opening of the seals reveals that God is a holy God who judges sin. As believers, we should take our relationship with God seriously and strive to live a life that honors Him.
- We should be ready for the return of Christ: The vision of the opening of the seals reminds us that Christ will return one day to judge the earth. As believers, we should be ready for His return and live our lives in light of that reality.
- We should be witnesses for Christ: The vision of the opening of the seals also reminds us that there are people who are lost and will face judgment if they do not turn to Christ. As believers, we should be witnesses for Christ and share the gospel with those who do not know Him.
- We should trust in God's sovereignty: The vision of the opening of the seals can be terrifying, but as believers, we can take comfort in the fact that God is sovereign over all things. We can trust that He is in control and that His plans will ultimately be fulfilled.
- In summary, the vision of the opening of the seals reminds us that God is a holy God who will judge sin, and that we need to take our relationship with Him seriously. It also reminds us to be ready for the return of Christ, to be witnesses for Him, and to trust in His sovereignty over all things.

Revelation 7:1-8 - The Sealing of the 144,000

- In Revelation 7:1-8, John sees a vision of the sealing of 144,000 people from the tribes of Israel. Here is a summary of what takes place:
- Four angels stand at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth so that no wind would blow on the earth, sea, or any tree.
- Another angel comes from the east, carrying the seal of the living God.
- The angel cries out to the four angels who are holding back the winds, telling them not to harm the earth, sea, or trees until the servants of God are sealed on their foreheads.
- John sees 144,000 people from the tribes of Israel who are sealed on their foreheads, 12,000 from each tribe.

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- The sealing of the 144,000 symbolizes the protection and preservation of God's people during the time of great tribulation that is to come. The number 144,000 is symbolic and represents the complete number of God's people who will be preserved and protected during this time. The sealing on their foreheads indicates that they belong to God and are under His protection. The holding back of the winds indicates that God is holding back the judgment and wrath that is to come until His people are sealed and protected.
- The sealing of the 144,000 also serves as a reminder that God is faithful to His promises to Israel, and that He will preserve a remnant of His people during the time of tribulation. It is also a reminder to us as believers that God is able to protect and preserve us during difficult times, and that we can trust Him to do so.
- In summary, the sealing of the 144,000 is a symbolic vision that represents the protection and preservation of God's people during the time of tribulation that is to come. It is a reminder of God's faithfulness to His promises to Israel and to us as believers, and a testimony to His power and ability to protect His people.

Who are the 144,000 that are sealed (v. 4)?

- In Revelation 7:4, John sees 144,000 people who are sealed from the tribes of Israel. The sealing of the 144,000 is symbolic and represents the preservation and protection of God's people during the time of great tribulation.
- The number 144,000 is symbolic and represents the complete number of God's people who will be preserved and protected during the time of tribulation. The fact that they are sealed on their foreheads indicates that they belong to God and are under His protection.
- It's important to note that the 144,000 are specifically identified as being from the tribes of Israel, with 12,000 from each tribe. This has led some to believe that these are literal descendants of the twelve tribes of Israel. However, others interpret this symbolism as representing the spiritual descendants of Israel, which includes both Jews and Gentiles who have faith in Jesus Christ.
- Regardless of how we interpret the identity of the 144,000, the important message of this vision is that God is faithful to His promises to protect and preserve His people during difficult times, and that those who belong to Him are under His care and protection.

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What is the significance of the sealing of the 144,000 (vv. 2-3, 9-10)?

- The sealing of the 144,000 is significant in several ways:
- Protection: The seal on their foreheads represents the protection of God on His chosen people during the time of great tribulation. This is a reassurance to the believers that God is with them and will protect them from the harm that will come.
- Identification: The seal also serves as an identification that they belong to God. The people of God are set apart from the rest of the world and are recognized as being His own.
- Completeness: The number 144,000 is significant because it represents completeness. The 12 tribes of Israel, with 12,000 from each tribe, symbolize the complete number of God's people who will be saved and preserved.
- Encouragement: The vision of the sealed 144,000 is meant to encourage and comfort believers who are facing persecution and hardship. It reminds them that God is faithful and will not abandon them.
- Assurance: The vision also assures believers that God has a plan and purpose for His people, and that their ultimate destiny is secure in Him.
- In summary, the sealing of the 144,000 is a powerful symbol of God's protection and faithfulness towards His people. It is a message of hope and assurance to believers that God is with them, and that they will be preserved and ultimately delivered from the trials and tribulations of this world.

How can we apply this vision of the sealing of the 144,000 to our lives today?

- The vision of the sealing of the 144,000 has several important applications for our lives today:
- Trust in God's Protection: The vision reminds us that God is faithful to protect and preserve His people. This gives us the confidence to trust in Him and not be afraid of the trials and tribulations that we may face in life.

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- **Identify as God's People:** The sealing of the 144,000 reminds us that we belong to God and are set apart from the world. As believers, we should live our lives in a way that reflects this identity and honor Him with our actions.
- **Remember God's Complete Plan:** The number 144,000 symbolizes completeness, reminding us that God has a plan and purpose for His people. We can have confidence in His plan for our lives and trust that He will bring it to completion.
- **Take Encouragement:** The vision of the sealed 144,000 is meant to encourage and comfort believers who are facing persecution and hardship. We can find strength and hope in this vision as we face our own challenges in life.
- **In summary,** the vision of the sealing of the 144,000 is a reminder of God's protection, our identity as His people, His complete plan, and encouragement in difficult times. We can apply this vision to our lives today by trusting in God, living as His people, remembering His plan, and taking encouragement from His promises.

Revelation 7:9-17 - The Great Multitude

- In Revelation 7:9-17, John sees a vision of a great multitude that no one could count from every nation, tribe, people, and language standing before the throne and the Lamb. Here are some key points about this vision:
- **Diverse Crowd:** The multitude is made up of people from every nation, tribe, people, and language, showing that God's salvation is available to people of all races and cultures.
- **Redemption Through the Lamb:** The multitude is dressed in white robes and holding palm branches, symbols of victory and purity. They are also said to have come out of the great tribulation and have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb, indicating that they have been redeemed through the sacrifice of Jesus

Who is the great multitude that John sees (vv. 9-10)?

- The great multitude that John sees in Revelation 7:9-10 is a diverse group of people from every nation, tribe, people, and language. These individuals are standing before the throne and the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palm branches, which symbolize victory and purity.

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- In verse 14, they are said to have come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. This indicates that they have been redeemed by the sacrifice of Jesus and have received salvation.

In summary, the great multitude is a representation of the redeemed people of God from all nations who have received salvation through Jesus Christ.

What is the significance of the great multitude (vv. 13-17)?

- The great multitude in Revelation 7:13-17 represents the redeemed people of God from all nations who have received salvation through Jesus Christ. Here are some key points about the significance of this vision:
- **Worship of God:** The multitude is standing before the throne of God, serving Him day and night in His temple. They are in constant worship and adoration of God, and this is the ultimate goal of every believer.
- **Eternal Blessings:** The Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and He will lead them to springs of living water. This represents the eternal blessings that God has in store for His people in the new heaven and new earth.
- **Comfort and Assurance:** God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and they will no longer experience pain or suffering. This brings comfort and assurance to believers who are going through trials and difficulties in this present life.
- In summary, the great multitude represents the redeemed people of God who are in constant worship of Him and will receive eternal blessings and comfort in His presence. It is a vision of hope and assurance for believers in all generations.

How can we apply this vision of the great multitude to our lives today?

- Here are some ways in which we can apply the vision of the great multitude in Revelation 7:9-17 to our lives today:
- **Pursue worship:** The great multitude is standing before the throne of God, serving Him day and night in His temple. This reminds us to prioritize worship in our lives and make it a daily habit.

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- Seek eternal blessings: The Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and He will lead them to springs of living water. This encourages us to focus on eternal blessings and not get too caught up in the temporary pleasures and pursuits of this world.
- Find comfort in God: God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and they will no longer experience pain or suffering. This provides comfort and assurance to believers who are going through difficult times. We can find comfort in God's promises and trust that He will be with us through every trial and tribulation.
- Embrace diversity: The great multitude is made up of people from every nation, tribe, people, and language. This reminds us to embrace diversity and appreciate the unique contributions of people from different backgrounds and cultures.
- Overall, the vision of the great multitude in Revelation 7 serves as a reminder of our ultimate goal as believers, which is to worship God and receive eternal blessings in His presence. It also provides comfort and assurance in difficult times and calls us to embrace diversity in our communities.