

A Great Multitude From Every Nation

Hope Chapel Honolulu

Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

(Revelation 7:9-10, ESV)

Introduction

As I finished reading the Bible in a chronological manner in 2018 I was brought back to this Revelation 21:22-27 passage: “*And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life*” (ESV). It reminded me not only of how human history will be brought to its climax then, but also of the centrality and importance of worship, prayer and witness now as God’s way of preparing us for what is not yet.

1. Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior of all the nations. (Revelation 7:9-10)

- a) As politically incorrect as it may sound, Jesus Christ is the Lord and Savior of all people.
- b) Will you and I be part of this great gathering that worships and dwells with God?

2. Mysteries along with plain, simple faith and fact. (Revelation 7:11-15)

- a) The mystery of this divine gathering around the throne of God in heaven.
- b) The simple faith and fact that we are only be saved by the blood of Jesus Christ.

3. Sharing in God’s work now, sharing in His blessing then. (Revelation 7:16-17)

- a) The mission of God, His vision for us, and the Gospel of the Person and Message of Christ.
- b) Being fruitful witnesses now, being found good and faithful then.

Conclusion

While there is much about God and what lies before and beyond our knowledge and existence, the Word and Spirit of God provide much-needed clarity about the now and not yet of our world and our existence. Just as Christ gave us two commands for living—to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves—so being and making disciples revolves around worship, prayer and witness. Will you run with God’s vision for Hope Chapel Honolulu in 2019?

For our prayerful discovery, discussion and application:

- 1) What do these words—mission, vision and strategy—describe at Hope Chapel Honolulu?
- 2) Why are worship, prayer and witness the three key activities of being and making disciples?
- 3) What did the Word and Spirit of God say to you through this message?

010619cdg@hch