

Wednesday in the Word
Digging Deeper
August 17, 2022
The Great Multitude

Revelation 7:9-17 KJVS

[9] After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; [10] And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. [11] And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, [12] Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. [13] And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? [14] And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. [15] Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. [16] They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. [17] For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

We've all seen or experienced some type of great multitude at some time or place. The Woodstock Festival of Peace and Love (and mud and drugs and free fornication) comes to mind. Throngs of the faithful come to hear from the Pope on religious holidays. 102,000 fans were in attendance at the Superbowl in Pasadena in 1980. Multitudes meet at Mecca for Mohammeds Rising and in India, approximately 30 to 50 million people attended the Allahabad Ardh Kumbh Mela in 2019. 10.2 million gathered for the funeral of Ruhollah Khomeini in 1989. Big events draw big crowds. The word, multitude appears many, many times in the Bible. In reference to the descendants of Abraham, many great battles, numbers of sinners, attacking locusts, the graves of Gog's army, people gathering to see Jesus, people getting saved, stars in the sky. Some notable passages are in Genesis 28:3, Judges 7:12, 2 Chronicles 20:15, Psalm 51:1, Proverbs 11:14, Daniel 10:6. Perhaps most famously Joel 3:14. (How sad this "valley" is full of people who don't comprehend the gravity of this decision. Preach folks.) And we cannot overlook these, Matthew 27:20 and John 6:2. Many people are greatly affected by many things but in the end there will be two multitudes that matter. Three times the word is used in Revelation. Chapter 17:13-15 tells of what could be the greatest multitude. The overwhelming many who hate, reject and war against Christ. Sadly most of humanity will not be in attendance for the Marriage of the Lamb. 19:7-9. The Great Multitude of verse 9 of today's passage will be the innumerable throng of the redeemed. Those saved out of Great Tribulation. Will it include those of us who have arrived as well from The Rapture? Did these worshippers die during the fury upon the earth and then immediately rise to heaven? They have bodies and wear white robes. Have they been resurrected? Were most or all of these martyrs?

It can be a bit confusing nailing down the details and the timing of these events but ultimately all of God's saved Saints will gather to worship and serve Him. 19:4-6. What we can know is that these represent all the earth. Every nation, race and ethnicity. Jesus places no human restriction on His Eternal family. All are invited. All are welcome. Matthew 24:14. Notice also, the Elder in today's text recognizes this group individually. They are not one mass of generic people but are unique souls known to the Elder and known to one another. Will you reunite with your loved ones? Absolutely! Were not Abraham and Lazarus recognizable in Luke 16:20-31? Add Psalm 27:4. David's great desire is now fulfilled. We'll meet him as well. Also note this multitude stands before God's throne in His presence. Remember the curtain of separation to the Most Holy place has been removed by the Supremacy of Christ and we now have access to the throne. Matthew 27:50-51 (Don't miss verse 52?!), Hebrews 4:16. Revelation 7:14 plainly describes the single reason that so many have so much in common. The precious blood of Jesus Christ was willingly sacrificed to pay the high cost of our sin and we reap the benefits. What are those benefits? Verses 15-17 give us a preview. We learn more in 21:1-7, 22-24, 22:1-5, Isaiah 11:6-10. Without a doubt we who believe and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ will join these immense crowds to finally enjoy a peace and perfection, unimaginable to us now. 2 Peter 3:13-14.