Hope for a Divided World November 22, 2020

*Revelation 7:9-17 Series: Is God Racist?*

The grand foundation of all good hope is the Lord Jesus Christ – Andrew Fuller

Intro: Searching for hope in a hopeless world.

An exiled apostle and his persecuted community.

1. Writing this message of hope is the apostle John.

Rev. 1:1 *The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave… his servant John*

Luke 9:28 *he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray.*

1. John was writing to the oppressed early church.

Rev. 1:4 *John to the seven churches that are in Asia*

Rev. 1:9 *I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation… was on the island called Patmos*

* What are the issues that tempt you into hopelessness?
* What people or things are you tempted to put your hope in?
* How does it help to know that the early church suffered so greatly?

1. We can hope because Jesus will unify us! (vv. 9,11-12)
2. John sees a great multitude.

v. 9 *and behold, a great multitude that no one could number*

v. 9 *from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages*

v. 11 *And all the angels were standing around the throne*

1. The multitude is unified in worship around Jesus.

v. 9 *standing before the throne and before the Lamb*

vs. 11-12 *they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”*

1. Through Jesus, God was faithful to his promise.

* Gen. 18:18 *Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him*
* Ps. 86:9 *All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.*
* What does it tell you about Jesus that *every* nation is part of this great multitude?
* What does it tell you about Jesus that even the angels are joining with this great multitude?
* How would this vision provide hope for John and the early church? What about today?

1. We can hope because Jesus will deliver us! (vv. 10, 13-14)
2. The scene is so amazing, the apostle John cannot understand it.

v. 13 *Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?”*

v. 14 *I said to him, “Sir, you know.”*

1. Jesus unified the multitude through deliverance.

v. 14 *These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.*

v. 10 *Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!*

1. Jesus delivers people by his blood.

* Eph. 1:7 *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace*
* v. 14 *They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*
* What do you learn from the fact that John could not answer the question in v. 13?
* From what do we need deliverance today?
* What does it mean to wash our robes in the blood of the Lamb?

1. We can hope because Jesus will satisfy us! (vv. 15-17)
2. The multitude knows God’s intimacy.

v. 15 *he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.*

1. The multitude experiences God’s provision.

v. 16 *They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.*

1. True and lasting satisfaction comes though Jesus.

* v. 17 *For* *the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd*
* Ps. 107:9 *For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.*
* Why would the promise of God’s intimacy and provision be a source of hope for the early church?
* What does it mean to have Jesus as your shepherd today?
* How can you use this vision to feed your hope?

## Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Psalm 110:1-7.

Notes