

Washed In the Blood of the Lamb

Promise: Christ's shed blood cleanses us from our sins

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Revelation 7:2-17; Psalm 149; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

(All Saints' Sunday, 11/6/22)

"These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." – v. 14

Lead In – If you were uninitiated and had never heard a thing about the Christian Faith and were told that it is necessary to be washed in the blood of the lamb, what would you think? This might be true even if you were new to the faith and had never heard the expression before. What on earth are these people talking about! This image, along with many other striking images, fill the last Book of the Bible which is named 'Revelation'. Because there are so many images and strange visions, many avoid this Book like the Plague. But with a faithful guide this Book can be of great encouragement...

I. Revelation, Colorful Book with Overarching Theme

- Summary statements of what it is all about...
- Its name in Greek and the style of its writing...
- Steeped in the OT and meant for its first readers...

II. Who Will Come Through This Vale of Tears?

- 144,000, 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes...
- Multitude beyond number celebrating the victory...
- They are clothed in white robes...
- The robes have been washed in the blood of the lamb
- They are shepherded by the Lamb...

III. Springs of Living Water and Tears Wiped Away

Parting Shot – On All Saints' Sunday it is good to be reminded of the vast array of company we keep. And it includes those who have gone before us. We often like to call them members of the Church Triumphant, while we identify ourselves as the Church Militant. They are often thought of as the saints "who from their labors rest" while "we feeble struggle" with labor for the day. And yet we are knit together in one vast communion. And the final crowning lies ahead for all of us when Christ Himself appears, and then we shall all be like Him...

Purpose of Revelation: To comfort suffering Christians and encourage their faithful witness with prophetic portraits of the victory that is already ours in the risen and living Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. – LSB

Ἀποκάλυψις (apokalupsis) – Apocalyptic is a category of literature including dreams or visions, unusual symbolic imagery, numbers symbolism, and interest in end time events. (Ez, Da, Ze)

12 – the number of God's people, 12 Tribes in OT, and so there are 12 Apostles in the NT, there had to be...

10 – a complete number, 10 Commandments, 10 digits on hands and feet, indicates God's rule.

Ep 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Revelation 7:2-17 ESV

A Great Multitude from Every Nation

²Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, ³saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." ⁴And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: ⁵12,000 from the tribe of Judah were sealed, 12,000 from the tribe of Reuben, 12,000 from the tribe of Gad, ⁶12,000 from the tribe of Asher, 12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali, 12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh, ⁷12,000 from the tribe of Simeon, 12,000 from the tribe of Levi, 12,000 from the tribe of Issachar, ⁸12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun, 12,000 from the tribe of Joseph, 12,000 from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed.

⁹After 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, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." ¹⁵"Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. ¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Is 61:10 For he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness. (Ga 3:27)

1Jn 3:2-3 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

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