

## **Hopewell ARP Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, November 25, 2020** **Devotional from Revelation 7:9–12**

*<sup>9</sup> After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup> and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" <sup>11</sup> All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen."*

This comes in the interlude between the sixth and seventh seals. In the seventh seal, the prayers of the saints are going to be presenting before the throne, which will initiate the judgment of God's wrath.

Before that, however, the angels had marked off the servants of God to guard them from wrath. Whatever God does, it will be unto their good. It is important for those who are His to seek His assurance by the means of grace, by covenant signs, by pursuing Christian virtues that the Holy Spirit produces. When the time of trouble comes, it is good to know from His Word, and from our personal engagement with Him, to know that the troubles are meant for our good.

This is what occasions this glorious worship of the innumerable multitude: "Salvation belongs to our God"!

Indeed. Not only their being spared from the wrath, but their being given the atonement and righteousness in order unto that sparing. "to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Right as the wrath is about to start, the glorious praise of God first resounds:  
"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom,  
Thanksgiving and honor and power and might,  
Be to our God forever and ever.  
Amen."

Angels don't need redemption. Indeed, if they came to need it, they could not have it (cf. Heb 2:16). But, they are holy. They thunder out, with the multitude in glory, the glorious praises of God. And for what do they especially praise Him? The salvation of wrath-deserving sinners.

And here we see it, in immediate connection with that wrath. Shall we not also praise Him in our prayers, for saving wrath-deserving sinners from all the nations?

*<sup>22</sup> What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, <sup>23</sup> and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, <sup>24</sup> even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?  
(Romans 9:22–24)*

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription.** Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are welcome to listen to the audio recording, which you may find via [tinysa.com/hopewellarp](http://tinysa.com/hopewellarp))

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Revelation 7 verses 9 through 12. These are God's words. After these things I looked and behold the great multitude which no one could number. Of all nations tribes people's tongues standing before the throne and before the lamb clothed with white robes with palm branches in their hands and crying out with a loud voice saying.

Salvation belongs to our God. Who sits on the throne. And to the lamb. All the angels stood round the throne and the elders and the four living creatures and fell on their faces before the throne and worship. God saying Oh, man, blessing and glory and wisdom. Thanksgiving and honor and power and might.

Be to our God forever and ever. Amen.

So far the reading of God's inspired and and Aaron Word. Well Revelation 7 occurs between the sixth and seventh seals. And what's going to happen in the seventh seal is at the angels are going to present the incense before the throne. That's pretty much the entire seventh seal and then the response to their presenting the incense, which is what the prayers of the Saints.

The response to their presenting the prayers of the Saints will be the trumpets. And the trumpets are bringing in the plagues and we have this acceleration towards the wrath of God. So as we are accelerating towards the wrath of God and in these trumpets, we have in particular plagues, we have revelation chapter seven.

And what has happened right before our passage in verses? 1912 is the ceiling of the servants of God. It's similar to what you see done before the Lord judges Jerusalem in the book of Ezekiel and all those who are believers all those who are faithful are marked off to be protected from the wrath of God.

So that that which the Lord does is not not a an action of wrath against him or harmful to them who are. His and so the servants of God have just been marked off. And so, Very interesting that in the the back against the backdrop of these plagues are about to come and against the backdrop of the wrath of God that's about to come you have this this great thundering of praise.

Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom Thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever and we've seen this several times. In the book of Revelation this is what they do in glory if you ever hear about one of those books or radio shows or whatever else where a little kid for some reason you get away with it more if you're a little kid so they have little kids do it but adults tell those stories and write those books as well about people who went to heaven and the people they saw there and the stuff that they did there or if you have a friend who's telling you about how he can't wait to go hiking and fishing and whatever else it is that he wants to that's not what happens in heaven.

In heaven there is the thunderous phrase of him who sits on the throne and the land and that phrase here is against the backdrop of God's wrath. But indeed we have learned before just last week in fact in in the fifth seal in chapter six that we are to praise God for his wrath and we're to pray for the display of his justice and of his of his judgment but here they're not praising him for his wrath are they?

Look at verse 10. The multitude of all nations tribes people's and tongues who have been dressed in white robes and we know who those are because we saw the white robe last week in the fifth seal and then God's providence to us we have just yesterday if you're following in the hope of the parable of the wedding feast and the garments that we have everything in Christ, not just our admission to the wedding, but also our being outfitted quite literally in the in the parable at least.

For the wedding and so this is the multitude of the redeemed and they are not crying out for God's wrath which would be appropriate and we have seen but what they are crying out is in response to the ceasing of God's servants the certainty that whatever God does in these plagues that are going to come with the trumpets that it is not out of wrath against these who have been sealed but it is for their good.

And they say salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne and to the land now this is not just the worship of the redeemed however you notice the angels are responding to the salvation even as we have seen this as one of the themes of the praise of glory which is wonderful angels don't need redemption and if they did there were some who could have used it once but he has Hebrews 2:16 reminds us.

God didn't give help to fallen angel, he doesn't have to. One of the things that the fall of those that were angels does for us is it makes us see what he would have been absolutely within his rights and just to do with fallen man, but he does give help to the children of Abraham and the holy angels of course love that he helps the children of Abraham, they don't say what do you mean salvation belongs to our God our full and brothers didn't get salvation though, of course, they respond to the prey with the praise of God, it's exactly what we see isn't it in Romans 9.

Which doesn't exist only for the apologetic defeat of Armenians all those very useful for that but we read in Romans 9 what if God wanting desiring is really the word to show his wrath and make his power known endured with much long suffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction that he might make known the riches of his glory.

On the vessels of mercy, which he had prepared beforehand for glory. Even us him he called not of the Jews only but also of the Gentiles and isn't that what we see echoed in the passage before it's this evening this multitude from every tribe and tongue and family and nation that the salvation of wrath deserving sinners from all of the families of the earth.

Is the great occasion great cause for the glorifying of God for the riches of his mercy that even though his wrath as a glory that there is a. Maybe preference isn't the right word but a priority in scripture placed upon the glorifying of God in the riches of his glory in that mercy to those who deserve that wrath.

So that is something that should be one of the common occasions of Thanksgiving and praise in our prayers that God has sent mercy he has saved wrath deserving sinners such as we are. And also for what he is doing as the gospel goes out to the nation's and he's saving them from every tribe and tongue and family and nation.