

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2020 - ALL SAINTS DAY

Revelation 7:9-17 (NRSV) The Multitude from Every Nation

Five elements in John's vision that can give us "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow"

1. A gathered throng

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages – *Dr. Richard Mouw, Fuller Seminary Commencement, June 2003*

2. An occupied throne

⁹ Standing before the throne

3. A slain lamb

⁹ And before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.

¹⁰ They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

4. Worshipping angels

¹¹ And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹⁵ They are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night.

5. Springs of living water

¹⁶ They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷ for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Psalms 34:1-10 (NRSV) Praise for Deliverance from Trouble

This is one of the Psalms which tells us what was going on when it was written/what prompted the writing
1 Samuel 21: 10-15 - When David feigned madness before Abimelech, so that he drove him out, and he went away.

¹ I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Do you bless the Lord at all times? When was it especially difficult for you to bless the Lord?
Cf. 1 Thessalonians 5: 18 – Give thanks in (not for) all circumstances.

⁴ I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

When have you sought the Lord and experienced his answering you and delivering you?
How do you need him to answer you and deliver you right now?
When have you – like David – experienced a particularly close call?

⁷ The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him and delivers them.

How do you envision angels?

2 Kings 6: 17 – So the Lord opened the eyes of the servant, and he saw; the mountain was full of horsemen and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

⁸ O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.

¹⁰ The young lions suffer want and hunger, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

I need more than just my own strength, energy, resources, and resourcefulness.

1 John 3:1-3 (NRSV)

² When he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

We become like what we adore.

Matthew 5:1-12 (NRSV) The Beatitudes

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² Then he began to speak, and he taught them.

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who realize their own spiritual poverty

Philippians 3: 8-9 – For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Matthew 6: 33 – Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Not just those who are in favor of peace, but those who help make peace

Cf. Luke 6: 17-23 – Sermon on the Plain vs. Sermon on the Mount – physical rather than spiritual

¹⁷ He came down with them and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples.

²⁰ Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

Verses 24-26 – series of woes