

All Saints Day, November 1, 2026

Revelation 7:9-17

***Knowing the outcome gives courage and strength in the meantime
Five elements in John's vision that give "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow"***

1. A gathered throng

9 - After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages.

Comment from Dr. Richard Mouw, president of Fuller Seminary, at 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!"

14 - "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal."

4. Worshipping angels

11-12 - 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, 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

16-17 - They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; 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."

Psalm 34:1-10

This is one of the Psalms which tell what was going on when it was written/what prompted the writing

*When David feigned madness before Abimelech, so that he drove him out, and he went away
See 1 Samuel 21: 10-15*

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

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

Matthew 5:1-12

The disciples first meet Jesus

John 1: 35-42 – One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon.

John 1: 43-51 – The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip. Philip found Nathanael. When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!"

The disciples begin to follow Jesus

Mark 1: 16-20 – As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea. Jesus said to them, "Follow me." As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John. Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee.

The disciples come to faith in Jesus

John 2: 11 – Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

The disciples learn more about what it means to follow Jesus

Matthew 6: 25-34 – Look at the birds of the air. Consider the lilies of the field. Do not worry about tomorrow.

1-2 - When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 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 – 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.