

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

“THE END OF MISSIONS”

For individual study or group discussion

DATE: March 1, 2026

SPEAKER: Chad/Wil

SERIES: The Gospel of John

PASSAGE: Revelation 7:9–12

Family Dinner Table

Imagine sitting in the packed San Siro Stadium in Milan as the opening ceremony for the Olympics begins. Flags from every nation ripple in the light, athletes stream into the arena behind their country's banner, and a symphony of languages rises from the stands. For a moment, you feel both the vastness of the world and the distinct story carried by every team marching past. Now picture that global diversity gathered not to compete, but united in one voice singing: “*Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!*” That is the breathtaking vision given in Revelation 7:9–12: a countless multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language standing before the throne of God and the Lamb in worship.

The aim of the mission: everyone, everywhere (vv. 9–10)

The Gospel is not confined to one ethnicity, culture, or geographic region but extends to everyone, everywhere. John's vision in Revelation unfolds the global scale of God's salvation. What God promises through the prophets is brought to fulfillment. Across both Testaments, God's covenant faithfulness is on display as he brings the nations into the blessing he pledged to Abraham long ago. Because the church's missional outreach is anchored in the Great Commission, “*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations*” (Matthew 28:19), we can labor with confidence. Pastor David Platt explains: “*Go and make disciples of all nations' will one day be fulfilled. The disciples will be made among all the nations, among all the people of the earth, among all the languages of the earth. When we are giving our lives, our families, and our churches to The Great Commission, we are giving our lives, our families, our churches to something we know is going to happen.*”¹

- Read Genesis 12:3, 22:17–18, 32:12, and Galatians 3:29. How does the image of the “*great multitude*” display the fulfillment of God's covenant promise to Abraham?
- Read Psalm 98:3, Isaiah 42:6, 49:6, 51:11, and Matthew 8:11. What do these passages reveal about God's intention to bring salvation “*to the ends of the earth*”?
- Read Genesis 11:1–9 and Acts 2:1–8. How does the scattering of nations at Babel highlight humanity's alienation from God and one another? In what ways does Pentecost begin to reverse Babel? How does Revelation 7:9 present the ultimate and complete reconciliation of divided peoples in the presence of the Lamb?

The result of the mission: eternal worship (vv. 10–12)

What begins as a mission to restore a broken world culminates in a divine assembly where heaven and earth are united, standing before the throne of God singing praises to the Lamb. Here the eschatological consummation of missions comes into view. John Piper observes: “*Revelation 7:9 is the great finale of the Great Commission. Every nation, tribe, people, and language will be represented before the throne — and that is not a possibility; it's a certainty. Missions exist because worship doesn't — yet.*”² Worship is the ultimate goal of redemption and the central purpose of human existence.

- [Read WSC Q&A #1](#). How does Revelation 7:9–12 portray both the glorifying of God and the eternal enjoyment of him?
- Read Psalm 148. How does this universal call to praise God anticipate Revelation 7:9–12?

Revelation 7:9–12 has strengthened Christians throughout history because it assures us that God's Kingdom will triumph and that a diverse, redeemed family will stand together in joy before his throne. The Gospel of Christ offers healing for our ruptured and divided world. Take hope. The Fall is being undone. The work of the Spirit is moving us toward a glorious, unified crescendo of worship.

Unity in a Divided World

If Revelation 7 reveals the consummation of God's redemptive purpose, it also confronts the way we live in the present. The church is called to embody John's heavenly vision now. In his book *The Big Sort*, Bill Bishop writes, “*America may be more diverse than ever coast to coast, but the places where we live are becoming increasingly crowded with people who live, think, and vote like we do. This social transformation didn't happen by accident. We've built a country where we can all choose the neighborhood and church and news show most compatible with our lifestyle and beliefs. And we are living with the consequences of this way-of-life segregation. Our country has become so polarized, so ideologically inbred, that people don't know and can't understand those who live just a few miles away.*”³ Against this backdrop of self-selected sameness, John's vision presents a striking alternative: a countless multitude gathered from every nation, tribe, people, and language standing shoulder to shoulder before the throne of God and the Lamb. As a foretaste of that heavenly reality, the church is called to resist division and to reflect (however imperfectly) the reconciling power of God's Kingdom, where diversity is not erased but harmonized in unified worship.

- How does John's vision shape your understanding of missions, the call to reconciliation across divisions, and the ultimate goal of human life to glorify God through unified worship? (cf. Eph. 2:14–18, Gal. 3:26–29, Ps. 86:8–10, and John 17:20–23)

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

RUF Staff: Chris Duncan serves as an intern with RUF at Auburn

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Dan and Gini, supported missionary partner working with Serge

¹ David Platt. *The Great Multitude from Every Nation*. February 18, 2018. Radical.net. <https://radical.net/podcasts/pray-the-word/a-great-multitude-from-every-nation-revelation-79-10/>

² John Piper. *Let the Nations Be Glad! The Supremacy of God in Missions*. 2003, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic. 35

³ Bill Bishop. *The Big Sort: Why the Clustering of Like-Minded America is Tearing Us Apart*. 2009, NY NY: Mariner Books. 42