

AT THE THRONE WORSHIPPING

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: REVELATION 7:9-17



God keeps His promises.

The STORY

Pray with children to start class.

Teaching Points for Class Discussion:

God's promise is fulfilled in heaven. The scene in heaven of a multitude of people from every nation, tribe, people, and language signals the fulfillment of God's promise. God promised by His own initiative to multiply Abraham's descendants that they would be more numerous than the stars (see Genesis 15:5) and that all nations would be blessed through him (see Genesis 12:3). These promises will one day be completely fulfilled!

God is exalted in heaven. When Jesus entered into Jerusalem prior to His death, the crowd shouted, "Hosanna!" and waved palm branches. Days later, many of the very same people were shouting, "Crucify Him!" Jesus rode through that first celebration toward the cross. He knew of another celebration. And it was for the joy of that later celebration that He endured the cross, scorning its shame. Here in Revelation we catch a glimpse of that other celebration. God is exalted because of the sacrifice of His Son. One day we who trust in Christ will join their heavenly chorus.

Suffering ends in heaven. Our suffering ends in heaven. Imagine for a moment that we will not hunger; Jesus will be our eternal bread. We will not thirst; Jesus will be our living water. We will not tire; we will have lasting strength. We will not experience sorrow; in Christ we will have everlasting, indescribable joy. Every tear will be wiped from our eyes!

WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

This passage of Scripture, and the entire chapter, is full of the gospel. The Lamb is Christ, who sits on the throne and has made the robes white by His blood. The blood of the Lamb is the blood of Jesus shed upon the cross for the forgiveness of the sins of all His people. The multitude worships the Lamb in heaven, and He continues to be their shepherd, guiding them to springs of living water. In John 4:10 Jesus said to the woman at the well, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked Him and He would have given you living water."

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ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

Read the following Bible passage from the Old Testament. Use the following questions to help the children understand how this passage points to Christ in the New Testament.

Bible Passage: Psalm 96:9-13

Connecting the passage to Christ:

Jesus is the one who is going to come to judge the earth in righteousness and truth. In Revelation 19:11 we get a picture of the Lord coming down to judge the earth. In Revelation 7:9,10 we get a picture of the final rejoicing the Psalmist points toward. The whole earth will sing on the day of God's judgment, for in that day He will put an end to the curse.

Questions for reflection:

- When will Jesus come to judge the nations? (Jesus will one day return to earth, but no one knows when. That is why Paul warned that we should be ready at all times because he said the day of the Lord would come like a thief in the night, when we least expect Him (see 1 Thessalonians 5:2).)
- What can we do to be prepared for when Jesus returns? (We need to place faith in Him and live for Christ. We really only have two things to do. John said it well: "We need to believe in the name of His Son Jesus and to love one another as he commanded us" [1 John 3:23].)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.



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ACTIVITIES & OBJECT LESSONS

Use the following activities for practical application and discovery of this lesson. For the younger children, review the preschool questions and use them to help the children relate to the passage. For older children, ask them why they think this passage is in the Bible for us today. How is it supposed to affect our lives?

MANY PEOPLES AROUND THE THRONE

Supplies:

Have as many people come in to share their testimony as you can from different cultures. Then point out to the children that God saves people from every nation

Read to them the passage in Revelation and ask them how God is fulfilling the promise to bless the nations today.

MANY TONGUES

Supplies:

Bilingual volunteers.

Recruit two volunteers to help you by teaching your class the praise of Revelation 7:10 in their native languages.

Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and unto the lamb. Once the class knows this in English and the other two languages, divide the class into three groups. One can say it in English (lead them) the other two should say it in one of the other two languages led by your assistants in their native languages. Say it all together. Do this again allowing the groups to switch roles.



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TWO ROBES

Supplies:

two sheets, one bright white and new, the other completely dirty torn and ruined

Use this exercise to illustrate sin and how forgiveness through the death of Jesus cleans our robes to bright white.

Perform this skit as is or just ad lib it.

John: (Comes into class wearing the dirty sheet like a robe.) "Hi Bob."

Bob: "What on earth happened to you?"

John: "Nothing, what do you mean?"

Bob: "You look like you were in an accident."

John: (Looking curiously at his hands and all around.) "No, I am fine. Really I have never felt better in my life."

Bob: "I am glad you are feeling fine but look at your robe! It's filthy."

John: "Well, you don't have to insult a man. It's not that bad."

Bob: "What do you mean it's not that bad?"

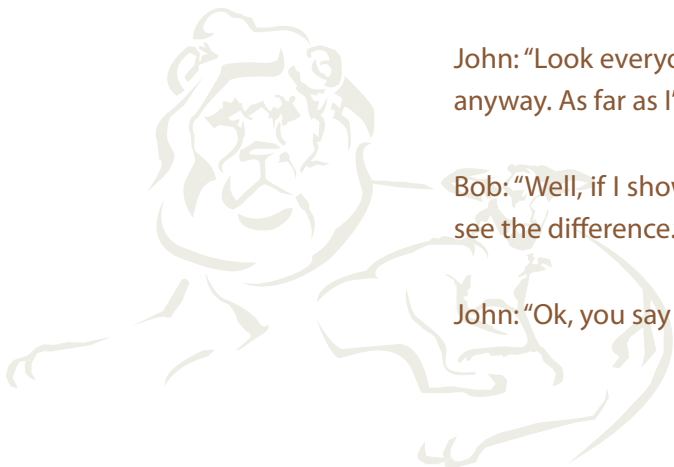
John: "Why, just on the way in here I saw a guy with a robe that was so dirty it was almost black; so torn it barely hung on him. I took one look at my robe and said to myself, John, I said, you are looking mighty fine today."

Bob: "Well if we compare ourselves to people with dirtier robes I guess we will think we are clean."

John: "Look everyone has dirt on their robes. How is anyone to know what clean is anyway. As far as I'm concerned this robe is clean enough for me."

Bob: "Well, if I showed you my robe, which was just cleaned, you might be able to see the difference."

John: "Ok, you say you got your robe cleaned? How's that?"



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Bob: "I'll explain that later. You ready?"

John: "Yup, let me see this robe." (He says smugly.)

Bob: "Here it is!" (Bob holds up a bright white sheet next to John's dirty robe.)

John: "Holy robes of righteousness! Is that what a clean robe Oh no."

Bob: "What's wrong?"

John: "I've got to get a new robe, this thing is filthy. Say, why didn't you tell me how dirty this thing was?"

Skit ends.

Ask the children the following questions:

- What does the dirt on John's robe represent? (Sin.)
- Why didn't John think his robe was dirty? (He compared himself with others who were more sinful, making him feel pretty good about himself.)
- Who do we need to compare ourselves to? (God whose robe is perfectly white.)

Read Revelation 7:9-17

- Who washes our robes? (Jesus.)
- What does Jesus wash our robes with? (His blood.)
- What does it mean when it says that Jesus washes our robes with His blood? (Explain the gospel and read Isaiah 1:18 to the class.)



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PRAYER

Pick several children to pray based on the day's scripture passages.

IN CLASS PROJECT

Draw a picture of the multitude worshipping God around his throne.

FOR THE OLDER GRADES

REVIEW THE PROMISE

Supplies:

Paper and pencils

Have the students compare Revelation 7:9-17 with the following scriptures and answer the question: How do we see God's promises fulfilled in Revelation 7?

Genesis 22:17-18

Genesis 26:4

Jeremiah 30:18-22

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Great tribulation – The great tribulation is the time which precedes Jesus second coming. There is much disagreement about the details of the tribulation as to when it will begin (or did begin) and when, in the midst of tribulation will Jesus return. Early scholars believed that the tribulation would be a time of increased persecution and suffering for Christians. Jesus spoke of the tribulation:

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." Matthew 24:29-31 (ESV)

