

The Two Paths of Life

The end of Revelation 6 contrasts dramatically with the end of Revelation 7. In the former we see the world, the kingdom of Satan, coming to a terrifying end under the just judgment of God. In the latter we see an innumerable multitude of the Lord's redeemed people in eternal bliss in the sinless, perpetual, presence of God, i.e. we see God's kingdom triumphant and Satan's defeated. In a sense both kingdoms had the same objective, a utopia of perfection, peace, prosperity and happiness, but only God's kingdom succeeds in this aim. This is because God's kingdom is established on righteousness; his justice is maintained and satisfied, his kingdom's citizens are redeemed from the curse of sin by the blood of the Lamb of God. The vision John sees is of the redeemed multitude of God's people possessing the eternal fulfilment of their hope of heaven.

But, by contrast, the people of the world of Satan's kingdom are in despair. Their hope and confidence was in the stability of this present creation. Their science assured them of its stability for billions of years to come; their aspirations of a unified world of international peace, freedom from viruses, the defeat of cancers, poverty being made history, all this and the obliteration of any consideration of God and his righteousness, was the basis of all their hopes. But the seals continue to frustrate the achievement of these objectives

and the sixth seal confirms the destruction of the very basis of their hope.

In this world at this time there are two classes of people; the vast majority who align with Satan and the false hopes of his kingdom, and the "little flock" who aspire to God's kingdom. The Lord Jesus described it as two paths of life (Matt7:13,14), the broad way that leads to eternal destruction and the narrow way that leads to eternal life. Whoever you are, you are on one or the other of these paths. Ought you not to seek the narrow path of eternal life?

AJ

REPENTANCE AND FAITH

Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21).

Repentance is the hand releasing my idols; faith is an empty hand that reaches out to Christ for His gift of grace (1 Thes. 1:9).

Repentance is godly sorrow over sin; faith receives a full pardon from sin through Christ's blood (Eph. 1:7).

Repentance cries, "God be merciful to me a sinner;" faith embraces Christ as the only Saviour of sinners (1 Tim. 1:15).

Repentance is a genuine hatred for the pollution of sin; faith is seeking cleansing only in Christ (1 John 1:7).

Repentance is the leper covering his mouth and crying, "Unclean, unclean"; faith is the leper coming to Christ and saying, "Lord if you will you can make me clean." (Matt. 8:1-3). *H T Mahan*

Biblical Gospel Church

Preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ - Ephesians 3:8

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Sunday 14th May 2023
11:00 am (GMT+1) Service

Revelation 7:9-17

"The Innumerable Multitude"

Traditional worship with hymns, prayer, Bible readings and a sermon based on a passage of the Bible.

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Reading Revelation 7:9-17

861 to 231

J Hart

1 Poor sinner, come, cast off thy fear,
And raise thy drooping head;
Come, sing with all poor sinners here,
Jesus, who once was dead.

2 Salvation sing, no word more meet
To join to Jesus' name;
Let every thankful tongue repeat,
"Salvation to the Lamb."

4 Now reigns victorious over death
The glorious great I AM;
Let every soul repeat with faith,
"Salvation to the Lamb."

6 This paschal Lamb, our heavenly meat,
Was roasted in the flame;
Repeat, ye ransomed souls, repeat,
"Salvation to the Lamb."

Prayer

Reading Isaiah 1:5-20

Prayer

850 to 212

J Hart

1 Ye souls that trust in Christ, rejoice;
Your sins are all forgiven;
Let every Christian lift his voice,
And sing the joys of heaven.

2 Heaven is that holy, happy place,
Where sin no more defiles;
Where God unveils his blissful face,
And looks, and loves, and smiles;

3 Where Jesus, Son of man and God,
Triumphant from his wars,
Walks in rich garments dipped in blood,
And shows his glorious scars;

4 Where ransomed sinners sound God's praise
The angelic host among;
Sing the rich wonders of his grace,
And Jesus leads the song;

5 Where saints are free from every load
Of passions or of pains;
God dwells in them, and they in God;
And love for ever reigns.

Sermon

474 to 861

I Watts

1 When I can read my title clear,
To mansions in the skies,
I bid farewell to every fear,
And wipe my weeping eyes.

2 Should earth against my soul engage,
And hellish darts be hurled,
Then I can smile at Satan's rage,
And face a frowning world.

3 Let cares like a wild deluge come,
And storms of sorrow fall;
May I but safely reach my home,
My God, my Heaven, my All.

4 There shall I bathe my weary soul
In seas of heavenly rest,
And not a wave of trouble roll
Across my peaceful breast.