

GLORY

“In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures for evermore”.

– Psalm 16:11

THE LESSON: REVELATION 7

There’s a lot that we don’t know about heaven. But here are a few things we do know. We know that we will be where our Lord is. We know that every tear will be wiped from our eyes; there will be no more pain, death or grief. And we know that the experience will be wonderful beyond human ability to describe or understand: “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him” (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Writer Gavin Ortlund puts it this way:

“Imagine yourself newly arrived in heaven. God Almighty summons you. As you stand trembling before him, he surgically draws up the deepest wound of your life, healing you and transforming your pain into glory and joy. Such imagery is tender to the point of embarrassment. Dare we believe it? Dare we not? ...Such an encounter with the glory of Christ can scarcely be imagined. How will we even endure such light and joy? Surely this will be the pinnacle moment of our existence”.

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The Book of Revelation records for us St. John’s divine vision. We’re going to take a look at one passage that offers us a glimpse of the intense joy – the *euphoria* – of heaven.

AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Each morning and evening, follow your own rule of prayer.

(IF YOU DON’T HAVE ONE, TRY SAYING THE MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS FROM THE “FORMS OF PRAYER TO BE USED IN FAMILIES”, WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 728 OF THE BCP. IF YOU DON’T HAVE A COPY, YOU CAN LOOK IT UP HERE: [HTTP://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER.](http://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER))

Spend some time reflecting on the words of Psalm 16:11 and 1 Corinthians 2:9: “*What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him*”. “*In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures for evermore*”. Conclude your time with the following prayer:

O almighty God, the God of the spirits of all flesh: Multiply, we beseech thee, to those who rest in Jesus, the manifold blessings of thy love, that the good work which thou didst begin in them may be perfected unto the day of Jesus Christ. And of thy mercy, O heavenly Father, grant that we, who now serve thee here on earth, may at the last, together with them, be partakers of the inheritance of the Saints in light; for the sake of the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen. (PRAYER FROM THE ORDER FOR THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD, P. 600)

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REVELATION 7: **EUPHORIA REDEFINED**

⁹After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ¹¹And all the angels were standing round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, ¹²saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.”

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵“Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. ¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”