

GOOD NEWS

ABOUT RACE, UNITY & JUSTICE

EPHESIANS 2

Revelation 7:9-12

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all **nations, tribes, peoples** and **tongues**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures and fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, saying “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen.”



Before we
get started

Revelation 7:9-12

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In God's Kingdom

- Every nation, tribe, people and tongue
- Is recognizable and unified
- A tapestry of unity in diversity
- Is only possible because of who is on the throne
- And is God's design for us today

Life in 2020

george floyd
quarantine
COVID-19
protests
blacklivesmatter
donald trump
wuhan china
graduation
michael jordan
police
riots
vaccine
fear
cancelled
cancel
brexit
cnn
nba
wildfire
postponed
face masks
coronavirus
lockdown
protestors
law enforcement
breonna taylor
foxnews



Life in the 1st century



Ephesians 2:11-22

Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)— remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2:11-22

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations.

His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Ephesians 2:11-22

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Ephesians 2:11-22

- We were all separated from God
- The blood of Christ brings us together
- God is our Peace
- In Christ, we are not foreigners, we belong
- We are not strangers, we are one humanity
- We are, right now, being built together into the vision of Rev 7

So, what are we
supposed to do?

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him thus* no longer. Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

reconciliation

Noun /ˌrek.ənˌsɪl.i'eɪ.ʃən/

1. A situation in which two people or groups of people become friendly again after they have argued;
2. The process of making two opposite beliefs, ideas or situations agree

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

The church is called to the ministry of reconciliation

- Jesus makes it possible for us to be reconciled to God
be reconciled to a right relationship with God
- He calls us to the ministry of reconciliation
reconcile to right relationships with others
- On behalf of others
help others have a right relationship with God

GOOD NEWS

We were created for relationship with God

Sin separates us from God and from each other

Jesus conquered the power of sin and death on the cross

In Him we are restored to God and each other

GOOD NEWS

Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!

Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever.

Amen.

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