



Daily Reflections

November 1, 2018

Scripture

Revelation 7: 2-4, 9-14

I, John, saw another angel come up from the East,
holding the seal of the living God.

He cried out in a loud voice to the four angels
who were given power to damage the land and the sea,
"Do not damage the land or the sea or the trees
until we put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God."

I heard the number of those who had been marked with the seal,
one hundred and forty-four thousand marked
from every tribe of the children of Israel.

After this I had a vision of a great multitude,
which no one could count,
from every nation, race, people, and tongue.

They stood before the throne and before the Lamb,
wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands.

They cried out in a loud voice:

"Salvation comes from our God, who is seated on the throne,
and from the Lamb."

All the angels stood around the throne
and around the elders and the four living creatures.

They prostrated themselves before the throne,
worshiped God, and exclaimed:

"Amen. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving,

honor, power, and might

be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

Then one of the elders spoke up and said to me,

"Who are these wearing white robes, and where did they come from?"

I said to him, "My lord, you are the one who knows."

He said to me,

"These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress;

they have washed their robes

and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb."

Our Scripture Reflection

The Book of Revelation has both fascinated and worried readers for many centuries because of its highly apocalyptic message written in a coded manner. It's important to keep some things in mind while reading it:

1. Contrary to the thinking of many Biblical fundamentalists it was not written to forecast the future.

2. It is underground literature meant to instill hope in its readers who are undergoing horrific persecution at the hands of the Roman army. Many are being martyred for the faith and some of the faithless are abandoning the faith.

3. From the beginning to the end of the book the message is one of hope: Jesus is the alpha and the omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. He is the Lamb who has already won the victory. And although we are not exempt from suffering and trials...remain firm and strong. Heaven is open and waiting for those who remain faithful, especially for those who have washed their robes "in the Blood of the Lamb."

What an important message for our own day.

Food for your Journey

In the good times and in the bad times _ Jesus is Lord.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You are the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world through Your suffering, death and resurrection. Keep me steadfast and true to You and Your Holy Gospel. If I face hardships or suffering because of my faith, keep me courageous and strong, Lord. Amen