

WHITE ROBES
Rev. 7:9-17

Intro: The reference to white robes in Scripture has a twofold emphasis:

- 1) It clearly has to do with the appearance of things from God's point-of-view. In this sense it often has a present application.
- 2) But it is also prophetic -- having to do with the culmination of things. In this sense, a figure of speech such as this is hopeful because it shows the outcome, the good outcome, of all things having to do with the saints.

Several important truths are to be seen here.

I. IT SHOWS WHO ARE THE SAVED, and what it means to be saved.

Cf. Rev. 7:13, 14; 1:5; Isa. 1:18. See also Rev. 19:8.

II. IT SHOWS THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN PURIFIED.

Two ways God uses:

A. Sometimes this is evident from personal separation from sin (Rev. 3:4). Our response to the Word.

B. It is also apparent as a result of suffering (Dan. 12:10; Rev. 3:18).

III. IT ALSO SPEAKS OF VICTORY (Rev. 3:5; 19:14). This is what Boston (p. 135) calls "the inconceivable glory of the state of the saints in heaven."

IV. IT PICTURES JOY (Rev. 7:9). Here is the true portrayal of the source of a believer's joy, and an indication as to why heaven will mean unlimited and unceasing joy.

V. IT IS DESCRIPTIVE OF PRIESTLY ROBES (2 Chron. 5:11-14, esp. v. 12. Cf. the revised reading of Rev. 1:6). This would apply to all OT passages dealing with linen in the priests' garments - and so speaks of access to God's very presence.

VI. IT PORTRAYS OUR ULTIMATE LIKENESS TO THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (Matt. 17:2; Mark 9:3; cf. also Dan. 7:9).

Concl: All of this is designed:

- 1) To assure us.
- 2) To encourage us.
- 3) To fill us with anticipation.