

Sermon Outline

LIVE AT THE END:

GOSPEL ENCOURAGEMENT FROM REVELATION 7:13-17

(OR “ESCHATOLOGICAL, GOSPEL TRUTHS TO EMBRACE IF YOU WANT TO STAY FAITHFUL TO KING JESUS IN AN AGE OF MONSTER SECULAR STATES, SEDUCTIVE PAGANISM, RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION, HEARTRENDING SUFFERING, UNAVOIDABLE MORTALITY, AND OTHER GREAT TRIBULATIONAL REALITIES”)

SHELTERING PRESENCE

(REVELATION 7:15-16)

I. The God We Worship

- A. We have learned that if we want to stand firm in the Lord against this evil age, we must accept that...
 - 1. God has freed us from our sins by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 2. through that same blood, God has reconciled us to himself.
- B. What happens as the people stand “before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple” (v 15)?
—“...and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.”
- C. In the previous lesson, we saw what it meant to be reconciled to God. To be reconciled to God is to be ushered into the presence of God, and it is to be made his priesthood. Now, the Scripture helps us to look more deeply into what it means to be in God’s presence. And as it shows us more of what it means to be in God’s presence, it also answers the question of who God wants to be for us.

II. God Is Our Protector

- A. To stand firm in the Lord in this great tribulation, we need to see that *God desires to be our Host, our Protector, our Guardian, our Shield*: “and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence” (v 15).
- B. The word for “shelter” is the word “tent” or “tabernacle” (Gk: *skēnoō*).
 - 1. NASB: “and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them.”
 - 2. God spreads out his tent over his people. He welcomes us into his tent.
- C. A tent/tabernacle is for:
 - shelter

- hospitality
 - refreshment
 - rest
 - home
- D. God is a great Father who invites his children home to himself.
- E. When we are finally and fully in God’s presence, we will be immune to the destructive power of the elements.
- F. The heat could also serve as a reminder of all the life-draining forces of the fallen world (conflicts, injustice, destructive people, false religion, etc.).
- G. To stand firm in the Lord in this great tribulation, we need to know that God desires to be our Host, Refuge, Protector, Guardian, and Shield. We hide in God by placing all our hopes on the Lord Jesus Christ, who is God’s appointed Savior for us.
- H. God has always wanted his people to let him be their Refuge, Fortress, Rock, and Salvation.
- Ps 18:2: “The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”
 - Ps 31:3: “For you are my rock and my fortress; and for your name’s sake you lead me and guide me [.]”
 - Ps 62:6: “He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.”

III. God Is Our Nourisher

- A. With God as our Shelter, our Tabernacle, what happens next? God plays host to us. *God desires to be our Nourisher, our Provider, and our Sustainer.* He welcomes us with wide open arms, feeds and nourishes us.
- B. The Father is so happy to see all his kids that he throws them a big welcome home celebration, a big feast:
- Isa 25:6: “On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.”
- C. In the sheltering presence of God, God’s children “shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore...”
- D. All of God’s people will finally be complete, fulfilled, satisfied in the all-satisfying God.
- 1 Cor 15:28: “When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.”

- Col 2:9-10: “For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,¹⁰ and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.”
- 2 Pet 1:4: “by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.”

IV. Go Where You Are Loved

If we desire to stand firm in the Lord in the face of all hatred and evil that this great tribulation will throw at us, we need to go where we are loved. We need to believe that our God and Father truly loves us. We need to take refuge in the tender heart of God. God desires to be the Shelter and the Nourishment of his children. He desires to be our Refuge, our Place of Rest. He desires to be our rich Food and well-aged Wine (Isa 25:6). That is the kind of God we meet in Jesus Christ. That is the only God there is. So let us not hesitate to go home to him. Christ has died for sinners. The debt has been paid. Justice has been served. The war is over. We can all go home now. The Father has a nice hot meal waiting for us, and he cannot wait to see us.

Questions for Reflection

1. Was there anything in particular about today’s sermon that blessed and encouraged you?
2. Was there anything that you disagree with or found difficult to accept?
3. Who/what does God desire to be for his people?
4. How does God shelter us? What are the effects of this sheltering?
5. How does God nourish us?
6. If you are not yet a believer, will you come home to God today by trusting in the Lord Jesus to save you from your sins?
7. If you are a believer, what small steps can you take to make yourself more aware of God’s love for you everyday?