



# WHO IS ON THE THRONE?

THE CHURCH | WEEK 8  
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## Revelation 7:9-12

After 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, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

The church is not about you, but it’s better with you—we are important participants but not the central focus.

Apocalyptic literature in Revelation provides a heavenly perspective on history in light of the final outcome, showing us how to live now.

Four identity markers appear throughout Revelation:

1. Nations
2. Tribes
3. Peoples
4. Tongues

→ All are legitimate aspects of identity that should be celebrated but never enthroned.

## Revelation 5:9-10

And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”

What’s celebrated in Heaven can be used to divide us here on earth.

**Nations [ethnos]** - large group of people bound together by a shared ancestry, history, or land.

- When we place our nation on the throne, we blur the lines between God's kingdom and our country, becoming shaped more by culture than Scripture.

**Tribes [phyle]** - smaller, distinct group within the "ethnos".

- When we place our tribe on the throne, we become inward-focused clubs rather than outward-facing reflections of heaven.

**Peoples [loas]** - not about ancestry, but about belonging.

- When we place our people on the throne, we seek consensus over truth and worry more about belonging than obedience to Jesus.

### **Romans 12:2**

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.

**Tongues [glossa]** - literally means tongues, but refers to language.

- When we place our voice/language on the throne, we believe our way is the only right way and stop listening to others.

### **Acts 2:4-6**

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.

In heaven, differences are not erased but redeemed; diversity is celebrated as part of God's vast redemption plan.

The critical question is not just who sits on the throne of the universe, but who sits on the throne of your life.

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. When you think about the multitude gathered around God's throne from every nation, tribe, people, and tongue, how does this challenge your current view of what the church should look like?
2. When facing important decisions, do you find yourself praying first or texting your friend group first, and what does this reveal about where you seek truth?
3. What specific aspect of your identity (nation, tribe, people, or tongue) have you elevated to a place of ultimate importance that only Jesus should occupy?
4. What would change in your daily life if you truly lived with a 'heavenly perspective on history in light of the final outcome' as apocalyptic literature invites us to do?