

# Pursuing Resilience in Revelation

No More Tears

## ***Revelation 7:9-17***

### Intro

In 1919 the US military commissioned the Motor Transport Corps Convoy. Lieutenant Colonel Dwight D. Eisenhower was one of the tank commanders on the convoy. Their mission was to travel the country by motor vehicle from Washington D. C. to Oakland, CA along the historic Lincoln Highway. This was a difficult journey in those days, as the highway was a hodgepodge of paved roads, dirt roads, trails, and some areas where you just had to figure it out as no obvious road was present. This convoy is what would later inspire Eisenhower to build the federal interstate highway system when he was President.

Often, we must go through many difficult situations to get where we are headed. This is true for us as Christians. Christ has prepared a good destination for us, but the road to get there is not unlike the road Eisenhower and his convoy faced back in 1919. There will certainly be challenges along the way, but if we keep our eyes on the prize ahead of us and keep fighting to get there, we will arrive one day with the Lord's help.

Paul said that he made it his life's goal to attain to the eternal life Christ has won for him. That is to be our goal also. Today we get a glimpse of what that eternal life will look like. I pray that we will be able to grasp it, to center our life's focus onto it, and endure whatever pitfalls and challenges we may face along the way knowing that the prize of life which Christ has procured for us is just ahead.

### Discover

#### 1. A profile of God's people (9-12)

- a. A great, countless multitude of people
- b. A people made up of many nations, just as the Lord promised Abraham.
- c. A people standing in God's presence
- d. A people who are righteous and clean

- e. A people who carry the palm branches of an eternal palm Sunday, who worship Christ with undying fervor.
- f. A priestly people who lead the multitudes of heaven in worship before the throne of God

## 2. A place for God's people (13-15)

- a. God's people have eternal shelter, a lasting place forever in Christ.
- b. They have this place because...
  - i. They endured the great tribulation by faith in Christ, persevering in Him and overcoming by His blood.
  - ii. They walked in repentance and belief in Christ and so their sins were washed away and they are clean.

## 3. A shepherd for God's people (16-17)

- a. Physical suffering is removed by the presence of the Lamb who is our shepherd. (16)
- b. Confusion is removed by the Lamb who is our shepherd. (17)
- c. Sadness is removed by the Lamb who is our shepherd. (17)

# Nurture

Who is God? He is the Lord who owns all salvation, glory, honor, and power forever.

What has God done? He has spilled His own blood in order to wash our sins away, to make us pure and glorious, and to give us a permanent place in His presence.

Who are we? We are God's children who are enduring tribulation and will come out on the other side with white clothes because of Christ.

What are we being called to do? We are to do all that we must do to keep Christ and our vision of our future with Him front and center in our lives. We must not allow our minds to be untrained, but we must train our eyes to remain on Christ.

# Act

We must catch the vision of our future, actually believing it is true. If we really believe we are going to be caught up with Christ for all of eternity, then we will view these days we are living in now entirely differently. We will focus more on the eternal. We will value the church and our brothers and sisters in Christ more, we will take seriously the call to go out into the harvest and bring people into Christ's Kingdom.

This vision of our future changes everything about our present. Has your life been altered by a vision of the future that you have with Christ? To what extent?

Jesus told Martha that she was anxious about many things but that Mary had chosen the better lot. Are we daily choosing the better lot with hearts, minds, and strength?