



# All Christians' Fellowship International

## INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

**TOPIC:** Diversity in Heaven

**TEXT:** Revelation Chapter 7:9-14

**Instructions** - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

**Introduction:** Do you ever wonder how heaven looks? If a "heavenly vision" (see Revelation 8) is supposed to motivate us to endure and tolerate hardship, what does this vision look like? Are we all playing harps and using our wings to float from cloud to cloud? Is it just a world-without-end choir concert? The book of Revelation (a.k.a. the Apocalypse) gives us the clearest vision of heaven, even though it's filled with symbols. Several of the clearest heavenly visions tell us that the work of missions has been accomplished, and the great multicultural family of God has come together to celebrate.

Revelation has had many interpretations over the nineteen hundred or more years since John first wrote these words. Some say the entire book of prophecy was fulfilled in the first century. Others believe it's futuristic only, targeting the specific events just preceding the end of the world. Still others believe that it represents epochs or eras of Christian history. The only thing that most agree on is that it is a depiction of God's final victory over evil in human history. Among the testimonies of this victory are the glorious heavenly worship services that John experiences. Our text takes us to one of these worship events. Read Revelation 7:9-14.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss what in the Bible's teaching on heaven you understand to the point that you can say, "This I know for sure about heaven"?
2. Can we say that it was Jonah's racism (Jonah 4) that prevented him from wanting any Ninevites in heaven. Explain your thoughts on this.
3. Describe the crowd that John sees. Why does the writer emphasize that people from every nation, tribe, people, and language are present? Describe what it would have felt like to be a part of this crowd?

4. In a multicultural fellowship like ACFI Ministries, there are times we have songs in different languages with people from backgrounds different from ours. Think about such worship experiences and give an honest description of what it was like?

5. Who is the Lamb (read Revelation 5:8-10)? What are the worshipers wearing, and what do you think this attire symbolizes (v. 14)? What is your view about people coming together in the same attire to worship?

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6. What have these worshipers endured (vs. 13-14)? Analyze the words of the saints 'worship as well as the angels.' How much focus is on who God is, and how much on what God has done for us? How does this compare with the worship style in your church?

7. How do these verses encourage you to endure whatever tribulations and hardships you might be facing or temptations that could take you off the tracks of your Christian race?

8. What does this passage (especially 7:9) say to the church of Jesus Christ today in light of facts like (1) there are over a billion people who have never heard of Jesus Christ; (2) there are still several thousand languages with no written translation of the Bible; (3) whole ethnic groups (what John calls "peoples" or "tribes") still have no witnessing church?

9. Read Acts 10 aloud. This passage shows the struggle of Peter and the early church to accept the reality of a multicultural body of Christ. As you read it through, notice the struggle that both parties faced in accepting each other as equals. Take note of the ways that God brought people together through both the miraculous (visions) and the pragmatic (an in-home visit, a meal together and so on). Discuss the strategies that can be put in place to ensure that your church engages in evangelism consistently.