

“And I said to him, “Sir, you are the one who knows.” Then he said to me, “These are the ones who died in the great tribulation. They have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white.” Revelation 7:14 NLT

lectio // Revelation 7:13-17

John gives us such powerful, vivid imagery of what the end of all days will look like, and it's nothing like Mad Max or The Walking Dead! The end of days is an accounting, a finality of all things of earth, the living and the dead. One of the elders asks John to identify some folks all dressed in white. John does not know who they are, but he knows the elder will tell him. They are a group of people who have made it THROUGH, but died in the great tribulation or the great suffering. And they must live through a time of real hate, real pain, facing the brutality of what humans will do to one another during the end of time on the planet. There will be complete chaos, unjust slaughter of the innocent and no one to defend them. The final attempt, through unbridled violence, to wipe out those who live for God during those dark days. These folks did not get raptured, or rescued from the world when evil has full control and will have to endure through it. Yet, here they are in heaven, dressed now in white, because they too have been cleaned and redeemed by the blood of Jesus. John says they stand before God day and night and God wipes away every tear they cried. I can't imagine the terror of those last days nor the thought of living through it. These last days coming will be days where all pretense of love, kindness or the veneers of getting along will be harshly stripped away, leaving only the raw selfishness of our existence. Without the presence of the Holy Spirit, active and protecting us FROM each other, the entire world will not look like paradise, but the holocaust.

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Dad,

This gives me the chills thinking about your grace restraining my sin and the “free will” choices of humanity. I war against my failures, shortcomings and sin now, in hopes that your work in me will be completed in the end. I really can't imagine the horrors of our humanity living with no restraints, no conscience, no resistance to our evil desires. We live with a deep lie that tells us we would live better, be better without your goodness, your boundaries. We are NOT good without you. We will not get better with time and evolutionary advances in body, mind and spirit. Everyone will not only know your truth, we will be forced to know the disappointments of our truth as well. Help us Oh Lord, have mercy on us while there is still time.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root