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Sermon Notes

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God Delights in the Ethiopians

Isaiah 18:1-7

The astonishing mosaic of the nations... of the varieties of colors and races and cultures and languages and histories and traits... this magnificent mosaic of races that makes up the world is greatly glorifying to God

God delights in the non-moral differences between the tribes and peoples, for those differences came about by God's creative powers

Some peoples are characterized by physical strength; some by blonde hair; some by clever nimble fingers that make exquisite artistry in their crafts; some by deep thinking in philosophical or scientific pursuits; some by great military courage and personal boldness; some by the shape of their eyes or size of their nose, some by the sounds of their singing, some by the coarseness of their hair

These differences between the tribes and peoples and nations were built in to the original genetic code of the first human being—Adam

The Bible states very clearly that every single human being—no matter what tribe or nation or culture—is descended from one man, Adam:

Acts 17:26 From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth

The differences between the races have come about by the magnificent variety God built into the genetic code of the first man... a wide variety of physical differences that God delights in, and is well pleased with

Differences between the races comes from God

Pride between the races comes from SIN

Race is from God... racism is from man

Racism may be defined as the belief that one race is inherently superior to another; that race is the primary determining factor of human traits; closely linked to racism are all sorts of prejudices and oppressions and violence and discrimination that one group of people has foisted on another because of racial differences

The 20th century has seen to purest form of racism in history in the German Nazi party's belief in Aryan Supremacy; they believed all other races to be genetically inferior and took that ideology on the road in terms of military conquest and oppression

The end of slavery in the United States did not end the suffering of the Africans stolen from their homeland... they have had to face racism from many every since

Christian faith is diametrically opposed to racism, because racism is inherently based on pride... on human arrogance; and we Christians have learned to hate pride as the greatest of all sins... indeed the ROOT sin is pride, from which all others flow

A love for the spread of the gospel of Christ to every tribe and language and people and nation also destroys racism, for it makes all of us sinners totally equal at the foot of the cross, totally dependent on the blood of Christ for our forgiveness

We know that the physical differences between us are there by the sovereign hand of God and bring Him great glory... but the spiritual similarity between us is even more significant:

Revelation 5:9-10 And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. ¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

In Isaiah 18, the political events with Assyria have led a distant nation from Africa to send envoys to Jerusalem to seek an alliance with the Jews... the Cushite envoys come with a purpose, but God speaks through Isaiah of the larger purpose of God for the Cushites...

In that brief oracle, God reveals His delight in the physical nature of the Cushites... He speaks as the proud creator of this magnificent race of people

But even more significantly, He alludes to their future salvation in Christ

I. Envoys from Ethiopia

Cush = Ethiopia...

Modern history, Ethiopia a land of starvation and weakness... but in Isaiah's day, the Cushites were a nation to be reckoned with

A. Context: A Rising Power in Africa

1. after the flood, Noah's three sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth would repopulate the whole earth
2. Cush: the eldest son of Ham in the Table of Nations, Genesis 10:7

- a. His brother, Mizraim, was the Hebrew name for Egypt... probably the ancestor of the Egyptians; Cush seemed to have settled further south along the Nile river
 - b. From him came Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca... all of them seem to have settled in Arabia; but some of his descendents seem to have crossed the Red Sea to settle in Ethiopia
 - c. One of Cush's descendents was Nimrod, the mighty warrior who founded what became Babylon and also the city of Nineveh, the capital of Assyria... centers of godless empires arranged in rebellion against God
3. according to Ezekiel 29:10, the southern border of Egypt was its common boundary with Cush
 4. this was the land of the Nile River... stretching almost 2500 miles by air northward to the Mediterranean Sea... but with its torturous twists and turns amounting to over 4000 miles, the longest river on the face of the earth
 5. the Nile River valley was formed as the water cut its way through sandstone and limestone, making cataracts—waterfalls—which interfere with navigation and serve as natural boundaries for the Nile Valley peoples
 6. the region of the Fourth Cataract was settled by the Cushites
 7. some commentators believe that the Queen of Sheba was actually a Cushite queen who had heard of Solomon's fame and came to see all that Solomon had done

NOTE: As the Old Testament era ended, it is possible that the Ark of the Covenant was brought to Cush for safekeeping. Though it cannot be finally confirmed, there is a legend that Cushite King Menelik I, the son of Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, removed the Ark of the Covenant just before the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians. The legend has it that the Ark has been kept in Ethiopia ever since, and is presently held by the Ethiopian Orthodox Church in Axum

8. in the time of Isaiah, 728 B.C., some Ethiopian princes had become aggressive and had gained control of Egypt
9. now these Ethiopian rulers were sending emissaries to Judah to organize an anti-Assyrian coalition

B. Palestine: the Playground and Battlefield of Egypt and Assyria

1. in the northern section of Mesopotamia, the region between the Tigris and Euphrates, was the mighty Assyrian Empire... made powerful by their fertile land and their aggressive military

2. south was Egypt... the fertile soil of the Nile, making them prosperous and powerful
3. in between these two superpowers was little Palestine... a narrow corridor of land through which all trade routes to and from Egypt had to pass
4. Assyria and Egypt made Palestine, including the Promised Land of Judah, their personal playground, their battlefield, their chess board where mighty Assyrian and Egyptian kings struggled for supremacy
5. during this time in history, when Isaiah was prophesying, the Cushites—the Ethiopians—had gained control of Egypt and were now seeking to block the Assyrians from controlling Palestine
6. so they sent emissaries to Judah to make an alliance
7. Isaiah 18-20 deals with Cush and Egypt... and the basic message God gives to His people and to the Gentiles is that He alone is to be feared and dealt with... no alliance formed against His purposes will amount to anything

C. Isaiah 18: a message to Ethiopia by means of their emissaries

Isaiah 18:1-2 Woe to the land of whirring wings along the rivers of Cush, ² which sends envoys by sea in papyrus boats over the water. Go, swift messengers, to a people tall and smooth-skinned, to a people feared far and wide, an aggressive nation of strange speech, whose land is divided by rivers.

1. the “land of whirring wings”
 - a. probably refers to the huge quantities of flying insects that live in the reeds and marshes along the rivers and tributaries of the Nile
 - b. especially the vicious and aggressive tse-tse fly or perhaps the flying locust
2. “along the rivers of Cush”
 - a. So Isaiah’s oracle reaches to a land over 1500 miles away...
 - b. A land populated by peoples very different from the Jews
 - c. A land that God intended someday to conquer with the gospel
3. “which sends envoys”
 - a. As mentioned, Cush has taken control of Egypt and now send envoys... ambassadors... to Jerusalem, to curry favor with King Hezekiah against Assyria
4. “by sea in papyrus boats over the water”

- a. These boats were extremely lightweight skiffs made of papyrus reeds... like grass boats
- b. They were designed to travel lightly and quickly along the rivers that fed the Nile and they could be transported quickly by the Cushites, carried on their backs if need be past the cataracts of the Nile
- c. These envoys had travelled an enormous distance to make their case to King Hezekiah

D. The Envoys Sent Back Home with a Message

Vs. 2 Go, swift messengers, to a people tall and smooth-skinned, to a people feared far and wide, an aggressive nation of strange speech, whose land is divided by rivers.

- 1. The Lord describes the Cushites almost with pride... the same pride he takes in describing the glory of the heavens or the magnificent animals in the book of Job
- 2. the Lord delights in the differences of one people to the next!
- 3. here He describes them:
 - a. tall... smooth-skinned... a people feared far and wide... an aggressive nation... strange speech... whose land is divided by the waters
 - b. tall: these envoys represented an unusually tall people

research on Google listed tribes in Ethiopian and the Sudan as the tallest people on earth

In the case of some Sudanese tribes, males can have an average height of 6 ft, 4in, while women of 6 ft.

The most famous group and more racially preserved of the Sudanese race are the Nilotic tribes (they all originated on the Upper Nile area). The most famous are Maasai, Turkana, Samburu and Dinka, whose main occupation is animal husbandry.

Ancient (and modern) Nubians, the Black Pharaohs, were also of Sudanese race. When the French met this race of giants (in Chad tribes), they called them "the beautiful race".

Herodotus (490-425 BC) The first Greek historian. Called the Father of History.

He reported faithfully what the Egyptian priests communicated to him as the history of their country, when he visited Egypt about 460 to 450 BC.

"The Ethiopians to whom this embassy was sent are said to be the tallest and handsomest men in the whole world. In their customs they differ greatly from the rest of mankind, and

particularly in the way they choose their kings; for they find out the man who is the tallest of all the citizens, and of strength equal to his height, and appoint him to rule over them..."

<http://wysinger.homestead.com/strabo.html>

c. "smooth-skinned" =

- i) Egyptian priests shaved themselves from head to toe every three days
- ii) These Cushites, however, seem to have skin naturally free from hair

d. "a people feared far and wide"... An aggressive nation of strange speech...

- i) By this time they had gained control of Egypt
- ii) Though they wouldn't retain it, their military prowess was renowned

Ancient historian tells the story of some Persian messengers sent to the Cushite king to discuss alliances... he brought out a standard bow that Cushite archers used in battle, but the bow was unstrung. He challenged the Persian emissaries to string the mighty bow... when they were completely unable to, one of the Cushite warriors did it with ease; the Cushite king gave this advice to the Persians: "Don't think of coming here to try to conquer us until you can string one of our bows!"

A modern website spoke of the Ethiopians as

"the only Black nation in history to have never succumbed to slavery or colonial rule. The Italians, British, Dutch, Portuguese, Turks, Spanish, Arabs, and French tried 27 times to conquer Ethiopia but failed each time. Yet they easily defeated all other African tribes and empires..."

This speaks of the military prowess and power of this small nation

To these people, to the emissaries from this proud, powerful, beautiful people, Almighty God has a message

And what is that message? Verses 3-6

II. The Message to the Peoples of the World (vs. 3-6)

Isaiah 18:3-6 All you people of the world, you who live on the earth, when a banner is raised on the mountains, you will see it, and when a trumpet sounds, you will hear it. ⁴ This is what the LORD says to me: "I will remain quiet and will look on from my dwelling place, like shimmering heat in the sunshine, like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest." ⁵ For, before the harvest, when the blossom is gone and the flower becomes a ripening grape, he will cut off the shoots with pruning knives, and cut down and take away the spreading branches. ⁶ They will all be left to the mountain birds of prey and to the wild animals; the birds will feed on them all summer, the wild animals all winter.

A. Something Magnificent is About to Happen

1. the message is given to ALL nations on earth... including the tall, proud Cushites
2. it's as if God is saying "Drumroll, please!!"
3. the nations of the world must sit up and take notice at what God will do
4. as when a banner is raised on a bare hilltop... or a powerful trumpet blast is sounded... these things absolutely arrest the attention of the world
5. the Lord intends to communicate to every tribe and language and people and nation

B. The Seemingly Silent God Speaks

Isaiah 18:4 This is what the LORD says to me: "I will remain quiet and will look on from my dwelling place, like shimmering heat in the sunshine, like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest."

1. God deals here with the fact that it seems like He's not even there at all
2. the silence of God is sometimes one of the most troubling aspects of His sovereign reign
3. people get distressed over the things a loving and powerful God allows to happen
4. but as Francis Schaeffer put it, "He is there and He is not silent!"

Isaiah 1:2 Hear, O heavens! Listen, O earth! For the LORD has spoken

5. the legal maxim does not hold: "silence means consent"
6. God's silence over the unfolding actions of sinful nations and individuals does NOT mean consent...

Psalms 50:21 These things you have done and I kept silent; you thought I was altogether like you.

7. God's silence means patience leading to repentance

Romans 2:4 do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

8. but here, God is like shimmering heat and a cloud of dew... silent, but ready
9. how unlike the tumultuous nations is the King of All the Earth!!

- a. The nations churn and wrangle and scream and fight

Isaiah 17:12 Oh, the raging of many nations-- they rage like the raging sea! Oh, the uproar of the peoples-- they roar like the roaring of great waters!

- b. God sits serenely on His throne, working out His sovereign plan

Psalm 2:1-4 Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? ² The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One. ³ "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters." ⁴ The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.

C. God's Magnificent Plan: Judgment on the Aggressor

Isaiah 18:5-6 For, before the harvest, when the blossom is gone and the flower becomes a ripening grape, he will cut off the shoots with pruning knives, and cut down and take away the spreading branches. ⁶ They will all be left to the mountain birds of prey and to the wild animals; the birds will feed on them all summer, the wild animals all winter.

1. this refers to what God is about to do to Assyria
 - a. Assyria is likened to a spreading grapevine, seeking to take over the region
 - b. Because of God's direct acts of judgment on Assyria, they will be cut back, curtailed, thwarted in their efforts toward world conquest
 - c. The shoots they send forth will amount to nothing... cut off by the pruning knife of the Lord
 - d. The fruit they bore will be eaten by wild animals and birds... a picture of fruitless desolation
 - e. In this way Assyria will be judged by God
2. the Cushite envoys have been sent to Judah, to King Hezekiah, to recruit him into an anti-Assyrian alliance
3. the idea is that if Egypt, Cush, Judah, Philistia and all these other small nations can band together, they can throw off the power of Assyria
4. but the sovereign God of the universe has a different plan... he's already revealed it to Isaiah in chapter 10

Isaiah 10:12 When the Lord has finished all his work against Mount Zion and Jerusalem, he will say, "I will punish the king of Assyria for the willful pride of his heart and the haughty look in his eyes.

Isaiah 10:16-17 Therefore, the Lord, the LORD Almighty, will send a wasting disease upon his sturdy warriors; under his pomp a fire will be kindled like a blazing flame. ¹⁷ The Light of Israel will become a fire, their Holy One a flame; in a single day it will burn and consume his thorns and his briers.

5. the Assyrian army will be cut down in one night... 185,000 troops killed in a single night when the angel of the Lord was sent out to defend Jerusalem
6. this will be done in such an astonishing way that all nations on earth will sit up and take notice
7. so God sits quietly in the heavenly realms, looking at these impressive Cushite envoys with their small political plans

God knows his sovereign plan and His own perfect timing... at just the right time, God will extend His hand and deal with the nations of the earth:

Isaiah 14:25-27 I will crush the Assyrian in my land; on my mountains I will trample him down. His yoke will be taken from my people, and his burden removed from their shoulders." ²⁶ This is the plan determined for the whole world; this is the hand stretched out over all nations. ²⁷ For the LORD Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back?

And when God does this, nations like Cush will be sending gifts from the ends of the earth in honor of His power

III. Gifts Sent from the Ends of the Earth

Isaiah 18:7 At that time gifts will be brought to the LORD Almighty from a people tall and smooth-skinned, from a people feared far and wide, an aggressive nation of strange speech, whose land is divided by rivers-- the gifts will be brought to Mount Zion, the place of the Name of the LORD Almighty.

A. The Envoys Return... to Worship!

1. the Cushite envoys first came to recruit for a military alliance
2. these powerful people are described for a second time
3. now they return to bring gifts to the Lord at Mount Zion

B. Old Testament Fulfillment: 2 Chronicles 32:23

2 Chronicles 32:21-23 And the LORD sent an angel, who annihilated all the fighting men and the leaders and officers in the camp of the Assyrian king. So he withdrew to his own land in disgrace. And when he went into the temple of his god, some of his sons cut him down with the sword. ²² So the LORD saved Hezekiah and the people of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib king of

Assyria and from the hand of all others. He took care of them on every side. ²³ Many brought offerings to Jerusalem for the LORD and valuable gifts for Hezekiah king of Judah. From then on he was highly regarded by all the nations.

1. God predicted it through Isaiah
2. then the fulfillment came streaming in
3. amazingly, Hezekiah was the one highly regarded by the nations!! How typical that men would focus on a man, when it was the Lord who should get all the credit
4. not surprisingly, the very next thing that 2 Chronicles told us was that Hezekiah's heart became proud!!

2 Chronicles 32:25 But Hezekiah's heart was proud and he did not respond to the kindness shown him; therefore the LORD's wrath was on him and on Judah and Jerusalem.

5. the display of power from the Lord was meant to bring all nations to worship and honor Him... to find salvation in His name

C. God's Ultimate End: Worship by All Nations

1. God's original purpose in calling Abraham, the father of the Jews

Genesis 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

2. a major theme in Isaiah as well... God's dramatic actions are meant to impress the nations and bring them to worship Him
3. we will see this clearly next week in this amazing prophecy:

Isaiah 19:19-25 In that day there will be an altar to the LORD in the heart of Egypt, and a monument to the LORD at its border. ²⁰ It will be a sign and witness to the LORD Almighty in the land of Egypt. When they cry out to the LORD because of their oppressors, he will send them a savior and defender, and he will rescue them. ²¹ So the LORD will make himself known to the Egyptians, and in that day they will acknowledge the LORD. They will worship with sacrifices and grain offerings; they will make vows to the LORD and keep them. ²² The LORD will strike Egypt with a plague; he will strike them and heal them. They will turn to the LORD, and he will respond to their pleas and heal them. ²³ In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria. The Assyrians will go to Egypt and the Egyptians to Assyria. The Egyptians and Assyrians will worship together. ²⁴ In that day Israel will be the third, along with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing on the earth. ²⁵ The LORD Almighty will bless them, saying,

"Blessed be Egypt my people, Assyria my handiwork, and Israel my inheritance."

4. God's specific purposes for Cush

Psalm 68:29-32 Because of your temple at Jerusalem kings will bring you gifts. ... Envoys will come from Egypt; Cush will submit herself to God. ³² Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth, sing praise to the Lord

Psalm 87:1-4 "I will record Rahab and Babylon among those who acknowledge me-- Philistia too, and Tyre, along with Cush--and will say, 'This one was born in Zion.'"

Zephaniah 3:9-10 Then will I purify the lips of the peoples, that all of them may call on the name of the LORD and serve him shoulder to shoulder. ¹⁰ From beyond the rivers of Cush my worshipers, my scattered people, will bring me offerings.

5. God's ultimate aim... worship from ALL NATIONS... Isaiah makes this clear:

Isaiah 52:10 The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

Isaiah 56:6-7 And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD to serve him, to love the name of the LORD, and to worship him, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant-- ⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations."

Isaiah 60:11-13 Your gates will always stand open, they will never be shut, day or night, so that men may bring you the wealth of the nations-- their kings led in triumphal procession. ¹² For the nation or kingdom that will not serve you will perish; it will be utterly ruined. ¹³ "The glory of Lebanon will come to you, the pine, the fir and the cypress together, to adorn the place of my sanctuary; and I will glorify the place of my feet.

IV. New Testament Fulfillment: the Ethiopian Eunuch

A. The Ethiopian Eunuch Came for the Old Covenant, Discovered the New Covenant

1. Acts 8 tells the amazing story of an Ethiopian eunuch
2. this man was an important official in charge of the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians
3. he had heard of the fame of the God of Israel... certainly because of mighty acts like what He did to the army of Assyria

4. he travelled over the burning sands to worship in Jerusalem
5. on his way home he was sitting in his chariot reading from Isaiah the prophet

Isaiah 53:5-6 he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

6. the Holy Spirit had led a single man, a Christian named Philip to meet him in the desert and explain the passage to him

Acts 8:30-31 Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. ³¹ "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

7. after reading the scripture together with the eunuch, Philip told him of a far greater deliverance than what the angel of the Lord did to the Assyrian troops
8. beginning with that very passage of Scripture, Philip told him the good news about Jesus
 - a. how in a single day, Almighty God had worked salvation for a countless multitude of sinners from every tribe and language and people and nation
 - b. how God had sent His Son into the world, born of a virgin
 - c. how this Jesus, the Son of God, lived a sinless life, performed miracles to prove His deity and taught perfect teachings to prove His wisdom
 - d. how Jesus died in our place, as our substitute, and how God raised Him from the dead on the third day
 - e. how by simply repenting and trusting in Christ we can have eternal life
9. by the end of that time in the chariot, this important Ethiopian official was convinced and asked to be baptized

Acts 8:36-39 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" ³⁷ ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

B. The Beginning of the Church in Ethiopia

1. the ancient church father and historian Irenaeus (*Adv. Haer.* III.12.8) says the eunuch returned to Ethiopia and preached the gospel there; however, there is no other record of his life beyond that
2. how the gospel came to Ethiopia

Ethiopians date the coming of Christianity to Ethiopia to the fourth century AD, when a Christian philosopher from Tyre named Meropius was shipwrecked on his way to India. Meropius died but his two servants, Frumentius and Aedesius were washed ashore and taken to the royal palace. Eventually they became king Ella Amida's private secretary and royal cupbearer respectively. They served the king well, and Frumentius and Aedesius were permitted to proselytize the new religion in Ethiopia. After some time, Frumentius and Aedesius returned to the Mediterranean, travelling down the Nile through Egypt to do so. When they reached Egypt, Frumentius contacted bishop [Athanasius](#) of Alexandria and begged him to send missionaries back to Aksum, since the people there had proved so ready to receive the gospel.

Athanasius agreed that the need was urgent, and immediately appointed Frumentius to the task, which needed someone fluent in the language and sensitive to the customs of Aksum. He ordained Frumentius the first bishop of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. Frumentius has since come to be known as the *Abuna Salama* or bishop of peace. His mission was successful and, with the support of king Ezana, Ethiopia became a Christian nation.

C. The Future of Ethiopian Worship... the New Jerusalem

1. the gifts offered to King Hezekiah were just the beginning of the worship God will receive by the Cushites and by people from the ends of the earth
2. in the New Jerusalem, there will be a steady stream of worshipers who will honor the God and Father of Jesus Christ for the salvation He has worked for them

Revelation 21:24-26 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. ²⁵ On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. ²⁶ The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.

V. Application

A. Believe the Gospel Like the Ethiopian Eunuch Did

1. the eunuch knew immediately that the Christ of Isaiah 53 is the only savior of the world... do you?
2. he was baptized immediately based on his faith in Christ

B. Preach the Gospel Like Philip Did

1. Philip was immediately ready to preach the gospel to anyone God brought along his path
2. he RAN to the chariot... and was trained and ready to share the gospel from the Scripture

C. Delight in the Races as God Does

1. In Isaiah 18, God clearly delights in the specific attributes of the Cushite people, for He made them and takes care of them
2. we also should long for the day when all tribes and languages will be around Christ's throne worshipping Him

Revelation 7:9-10 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

D. Despise Racism as God Does

1. racism is really idolatry... it is self worship
2. by racism we are celebrating in pride what we are over against someone else
3. as the Christian church we have a unique opportunity to stamp out racism by the power of the gospel...
4. pray for our urban ministry, as Matthew Hodges leads Jobs for Life