

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

REVELATION 6-7

Michael Buffer was a no-name master of ceremonies who worked second-tier boxing matches... *until he came up with a five-word phrase that always excites a crowd.* Buffer's phrase made him famous and has now been repeated at sporting events all around the world.

I'd love to recruit Michael Buffer to introduce this next section in *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*. I can't think of a better way to open Chapters 6-19 than with his five-word phrase. *Actually, here he is, Michael Buffer.* (clip)

"Let's get ready to rumble" is the appropriate opening for what follows in Revelation... In Chapter 5, Jesus takes title to God's creation. *On the cross, as the Lamb,* He redeemed what humanity lost to Satan in its rebellion. Yet purchasing a parcel and possessing it are two different tasks. Satan is a squatter, and won't relinquish control without a fight. He has to be evicted.

The rest of Revelation is how Jesus opens the seals binding the scroll, and in doing so unleashes horrific judgments on the planet that resists His will and rule.

Revelation 6 begins, "Let's get ready to rumble..." or as John writes, "Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." One of the angelic creatures surrounding God's throne becomes the MC, and shouts, "Come and see."

For the Lamb John sees, packs a massive wallop!

Here's a Lamb that roars like a lion! God's long-awaited judgment is about to fall on the rebel planet.

And it starts with horses... Today, we think of a horse as docile and domesticated. Yet historically horses were associated with war. Horses were the tanks of antiquity. The cavalry had a leg up over the infantry.

Thus, four horses in Heaven charging the Earth was an ominous sight. It struck fear in John's heart.

Jesus is about to prove, *He's not horsing around!*

“And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.” Here is the first of the infamous four horsemen of the apocalypse.

Again, these are war horses - snorting, stomping charging out of Heaven. The white horse carries the Antichrist, the red horse speaks of war, the black horse famine, and death rides with the pale horse...

Some Bible teachers mistake the rider on the white horse as Jesus, and this is exactly what Satan intends.

If you want to fake a \$100 bill, you don't put President Trump on the front. Pass a Trump C-note and it won't fool anyone. You want the bogus bill to look authentic.

And this is the devil's strategy. He wants *the false-Christ* on the white horse, to look like *the true Christ*.

It is true, that in Revelation 19 we see the Lord Jesus returning to this earth riding on a white warhorse. But that's where the similarities end... Jesus returns at the end of this

period of judgment - *after the seventh seal*. This guy rides in at its outset. Here, Jesus is in Heaven breaking seals and sending horses, not riding them.

Recall from Chapter 1 Jesus has a sharp sword, but this false-Christ carries a bow. In Genesis 11, Nimrod the hunter was the first rebel to revolt against God.

Tradition says he was the inventor of archery.

After the flood God hung up His bow of judgment in the clouds. He would never again judge the world with water. The **rainbow** was the symbol of His promise...

But Nimrod hated God and drew men after himself. His bow was a symbol of his conquest over men's hearts. This is the goal of the rider here. He has a bow, but no arrows. Apparently, *he conquers the nations without firing a shot*. He'll be hailed as **a man of peace**, an expert in diplomacy. He designs *a sinister shalom*.

There's also a difference in the crown he wears. His is the laurel wreath or *competitor's prize*. In Revelation 19 Jesus wears a **diadem** or *kingly crown*. The rider on the white horse steals or usurps his authority - *and it only lasts briefly* - Jesus has the right to rule forever!

Once, I read of an Israeli tour guide who confessed to his group, **"I'm so desperate, I'd sign a deal with the devil if it would mean peace."** And that's exactly what Israel will one day do! Daniel 9 tells us the period of history called *Great Tribulation* begins when Israel signs a treaty with the white horse rider - **the antichrist**.

Verse 3, “When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, “Come and see.”

Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.” It doesn’t take long for the peace orchestrated by the white horse to crumble. Paul predicts in 1 Thessalonians 5:3, “For when they say, ‘Peace and safety!’ then sudden destruction comes upon them...” Today, the world longs for peace. But *this false-peace* will be short-lived.

The second horse speaks of war and bloodshed. It foreshadows all the skirmishes that lead up to the final battle of Armageddon. And notice its color is appropriate - it’s blood red. The death toll will be astronomical. Millions upon millions will die violently.

But as the world suffers from war Jesus pops another seal on the scroll. “When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come and see. So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.” In the first century scales were a symbol of commerce. All buying and selling were done by weights and balances.

“And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.” In the Roman world, a denarius was a typical day’s wage. So here, basic food staples cost huge sums of money. Inflation has sky-rocketed.

Global famine will drive up the price of food.

Living in America we're sheltered from the conditions in which most of the people on this planet live. It's frequently stated, "One-third of the world's population has plenty to eat (that's America), one-third is under-nourished. And one-third is on the verge of starvation."

Yet in light of the wacky weather we've encountered in recent years, it's not difficult to imagine a drought severe enough to wipe out an entire growing season.

Imagine, a global pandemic that ruins the world's meat supply. In 2020 famine conditions aren't that hard to envision. Our kids could join the third-world children you see on TV with sunken eyes and exposed ribs.

Notice too, the irony in verse 6. Basic foods will be depleted, but there's still an abundance of luxury items like "*oil and wine.*" It's God's sarcasm on man's priorities. We'll have *boos to drink*, but no *bread to eat*.

It's even more profound if the oil in verse 6 refers to petroleum, not just to olive oil. We'll have gasoline to fill up and drive our fancy cars, but no food in our belly.

There's coming a time when the judgments of Jesus will rock this planet... **False peace** is followed by **war**. **Warfare** causes **famine**. And **famine** yields to **death**.

Verse 7, "When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a pale horse."

The Greek word translated "*pale*" is "*chloros*" - from which we get our words *chlorine*, or *chlorophyll*. It denotes a

greenish-yellow color. It's the flesh tones of a person who's seasick, or a corpse without make-up.

“And the name of him who sat on (this fourth horse) was Death, and Hades followed with him.” Death has an entourage. Hades fills up on the heels of Death.

The Pale Rider is thinning out a wicked population.

And in light of our battle with Covid-19, it's now easy to imagine wide-spread deaths. For years the World Health Organization has warned of antibiotic resistant, super plague that can easily kill millions. The pale rider will have plenty of diabolical tools at his disposal.

Add together the cumulative effect of all four horses, and the impact is staggering. John writes, “And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.” A quarter of the world's population will die.

Currently, the global population is over 7.5 billion people. Thus, 25% equals almost 1.9 billion. It's hard to imagine 1.9 billion of anything, let alone, dead bodies.

If you counted one number per second it would take 11 days to reach a million. That seems like a long time, but it would take 60 years to count to 1.9 billion. *Now imagine that many corpses littering the planet.* These four horsemen will kill one out of every four humans.

And all the while this carnage is occurring on Earth remember what John sees happening in heaven.

Believers from every tribe, tongue, people, nation - who've been redeemed by the blood of Jesus - are before God's throne singing, "Worthy is the Lamb..."

That's the church. That's you and me. Before this *judgment comes down*, the *church will go up*. We'll be *raptured* or *snatched away*. As Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 5, "God did not appoint us to wrath."

But there're seven seals, not four. And in verse 9 Jesus breaks another. "When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held." As Jesus pops the seals and judges the Earth, guess where the rebels vent their frustrations?

Rather than take responsibility for the consequences of their own sin, they shift the blame on the believers. Followers of Jesus will become the brunt of their anger.

During this time of Great Tribulation, some people will recognize God's judgment and turn to Jesus. *They'll be saved, but not so safe*. The rider on the white horse will make it a crime to be a Christian. Anybody who takes Jesus as Lord is silenced. There'll be multiple martyrs.

And we see these martyrs in verse 9 - their souls, *not their bodies*, are crying out from under the altar in Heaven. This means they were saved after the rapture.

The rapture will take believers - body *and* soul. When Jesus retrieves the Church *He'll be a body snatcher*. He'll rapture not only our soul but our body as well - "this corruptible must put on incorruption."

But the Tribulation believers are souls camped out under the altar. They've been brutalized by injustice.

And they let us know it in verse 10, "They cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Wow, they sing a very familiar refrain. *It's a lot like the prayers we've often prayed?*

When you see a criminal walk out of a courtroom because of a technicality... or watch justices uphold rules that sanction the murder of innocent babies... or realize evil men enslave young girls in the sex trade... or hear of deviants who make millions off child porn...

Don't you get angry, and cry out for vengeance?

Isn't there a righteous recoil in you whenever you see evil prosper, and good despised? *It shouldn't be.*

In Psalm 58, David saw evil men going unpunished, and prayed, "Break their teeth in their mouth, O God!" *Hey, we've all prayed for a few teeth to be broken!*

Today, the world glorifies tolerance for all religions, *except Christianity*. Faith in Jesus is the sticking point.

And it's a small leap from *bigotry* to *brutality*.

The *false-Christ on the white horse* will hand down a death penalty to anyone who worships *the true Christ*.

"Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed." In

Revelation 19 Jesus returns, and when He does the martyrs' blood gets avenged - their pain gets eased. *But for a time they'll have to wait...*

And this word “wait” is the challenge for our faith as well... Jesus will right all wrongs, but not on our timetable. Verse 11, “*Rest a little while longer...*” is as relevant to us today, as it will be for *these* future saints.

In verse 12 Jesus breaks the scariest seal yet...

“I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.” This earthquake is the Big One. It blows up the Richter scale. The Earth convulses soot and smoke that turns the sky black and the moon red.

“And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.” The Greek word translated “stars” is “asteres.” It applies not only to stars, but to *asteroids* or *meteorites*, or any cosmic projectile streaking through outer space.

Just as autumn winds rustle the trees and leaves fall to the ground - one day, Jesus will shake the heavens above us, and celestial bodies will pummel the Earth.

“Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.” This upheaval is almost beyond description.

Obviously, when He cracks open the sixth seal Jesus takes the gloves off. It's a rough, bare-knuckled strike.

Jesus unleashes massive, cataclysmic judgments upon the rebel planet. *We won't be...* but if we were on the Earth, experiencing these judgments - it would make us want to take back all our cries for vengeance.

If you miss the rapture, and you're still here when this sixth seal breaks, all I can say is "pity on you."

Take all the recent Meteor movies (*it's a Hollywood film genre*)... *Armageddon, Deep Impact, Asteroid Vs. Earth, Collision Earth, Meteor, Asteroid, etc., etc.*

Take all of their special effects, and it's still too tame to illustrate the damage such an actual event would do.

I've got a movie, *not a Hollywood flick, it's a National Geographic Special, "Asteroids Deadly Impact."* It's a documentary, on not just the *possibility* of a major meteorite strike in our future, but it's *inevitability*.

Do you realize, every day the Earth gets bombarded with twenty tons of cosmic rock? Most of it is space dust, but larger strikes occur. *Geologists can take you to over 140 craters all around the globe that are the result of incoming asteroids, and comets, and meteors.*

And according to verse 13, it'll happen again...

Recently, CBS News ran a special report. It quoted astronomers who estimate that there are *over 400,000 NEOs, or Near Earth Objects*, up to 1000 meters wide, that could strike planet Earth with little or no warning.

In fact, last Sunday, August 16, an automobile-sized asteroid made the closest fly-by of our planet ever recorded. It was 1,830 miles above the Pacific Ocean near Australia,

traveling 27,600 mph. And it was undetected until it passed. NASA scientist, Paul Chodas, explained that it came from the direction of the sun. He said, "We didn't see it coming." It was a close call. (By the way, NASA says another is coming in November.)

But when Jesus breaks the sixth seal He won't miss!

The stars fall... A super-quake creates massive fissures in the Earth's crust... Continents shift... Islands vanish... As the ground shakes under their feet the inhabitants of the Earth look up and the sky is receding or rolling up like a paper party horn after a blast...

And earth's response to the sixth seal is in verse 15, "The kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!' For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" What a phrase, "the wrath of the Lamb!"

Here's the ultimate-oxymoron. No other animal is as docile and gentle as a lamb! Likewise, no one is more gentle and tender with *the trusting heart* than Jesus.

But the day will come when He'll be gentle no longer. *The rejecting heart* will taste His wrath! The Lamb will roar! *This is a side to Jesus that we all need to see...*

In the sixth seal, the Lamb has thrown a flurry of punches and has the Earth on the ropes. It appears to be a knock-out. And it raises the question asked in verse 17, *“who is able to stand?”* Chapter 7 answers...

“After these things, I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth...” It's figurative for the four points of the compass... *east, west, north, and south.*

Four angels are *“holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree...”* The wind is a mighty force, yet just four angels wrestle the jet streams into submission.

Suddenly, it all goes quiet... Seconds earlier, winds of judgment were howling, but now God has issues for us to consider. *Judgment is not all that's on His mind...*

You'll notice a structure in Revelation 6-19.

God's wrath is poured out in waves: *seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven bowls.* But in between each seven John inserts a vignette dealing with a person or persons central to the events occurring at this time.

And here in Chapter 7, John sees two groups...

Verse 2, *“Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea...”* The angels sent to judged are suddenly halted in their tracks. God orders them, *“Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.”* Jesus is about to seal the fate of the wicked world, but first He seals *His own.*

He reveals His heart - **Jesus suspends judgment to show mercy.**

Recall a seal was an insignia stamped into hot wax. It was a mark of ownership. The seven seals on the scroll spoke of Jesus' ownership of God's creation.

Now He's about to seal a group of people.

For in this time of tribulation there will still be folks who embrace Jesus as Lord - and He'll seal them with the Holy Spirit. He'll put His mark of ownership on the foreheads of His servants. This reveals the Master's heart. **In the midst of judgment He still shows mercy.**

Verse 4 reads, **"And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:**

of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed."

Over the years, many cults have claimed to be the 144,000... For a time, Jehovah's Witnesses identified

themselves as the 144,000 - until their roles swelled to more than that number. That's when they modified their view - **the 144,000 are only "elite" Jehovah Witnesses.**

The Worldwide Church of God claimed to be part of the 144,000... as did some Seventh Day Adventists...

Yet you have to ask, **"Did anyone read verse 4?"** For it clearly identifies this group as **"144,000 of all the tribes of the children of Israel..."** These guys are Jews!

If someone tells you they're one of the 144,000, just ask, **"which tribe?"** There're 12,000 from the 12 tribes of Israel! This group is an exclusively Jewish fraternity!

Realize according to the Bible there're three types of people in the world... **Jews, Gentiles, and the Church.** And only one group will be spared the wrath of God.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 says of the church, **"God did not appoint us to wrath."** **1 Thessalonians 1:10** is the church speaking of Jesus, **"Who delivers us from the wrath to come."** A great escape awaits true believers!

The Great Tribulation is for unbelieving Jews and Gentiles. It's the final opportunity for both. Apparently, this is the jolt needed to open eyes blind to God's truth.

And these 144,000 Jews will believe. God will seal them, equip them, and use them to spread the Gospel.

Before Jesus ascended to Heaven, He told His followers, **"Go and make disciples of all the nations..."** This remains the job of believers - to share the Gospel.

But in the Great Tribulation, the Church is in Heaven. God will still use the Gospel - *it alone is the power to salvation* -

but in the Church's absence the delivery system for the Gospel changes. He uses other means.

In Revelation 14 God sends angels flying through the skies declaring to humanity the everlasting gospel...

Revelation 11 speaks of two witnesses who grab the world's attention by performing miracles... And here in chapter 7, He empowers 144,000 Jewish evangelists...

And imagine their effectiveness! These are 144,000 Billy Grahams. They are Jewish converts to Jesus, sealed and filled with the Holy Spirit. In Chapter 9, we're told they even have supernatural protection.

And they preach post-rapture, against the backdrop of cataclysmic judgments. *This explains why millions of people all around the world will come to faith in Christ.*

Did you know that everywhere in the world today, *apart from North America and Europe*, Christianity and the Church are experiencing unprecedented growth?

South Korea, Africa, China, India, Indonesia, even traditional Muslim countries - all across the planet the Church is growing by 80,000 members per day. Believers in Jesus start 3500 churches every week.

Yet the largest, most sweeping spiritual awakening is still future. And ironically, it won't occur until the Church is raptured. In Matthew 24:14 Jesus said, "This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."

Jesus foresaw a final worldwide burst of evangelistic activity prior to His return. And it gets carried out largely by this supernaturally sealed army of Jews.

Notice the immediate results of their efforts... Verse 9, “**After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number...**” Here’s another group of believers - now a horde of Gentiles.

Remember this is not the Church. We’re in heaven.

This group consists of people who believed in the Gospel witness of the 144,000 and embraced Jesus.

And pay attention to the size of this group... John calls it “**a great multitude which no one could number...**”

Later in Revelation 9 John sees an army he numbers at 200 million. If *the group here* is a size that can’t be numbered it has to exceed 200 million. Perhaps a billion people will be saved in the Great Tribulation.

And notice where this multitude is from, and where they’re now standing. They hail from “**all nations, tribes, people, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.**” People from every corner of the globe are now standing before the throne in Heaven.

Implied is that many of this believing multitude died for their faith. These are future martyrs for Christ.

I’ve heard well-meaning preachers imply that after the rapture all hope will be lost. You’ve missed the bus.

That's not biblical. You can be saved, but it's a deadly proposition. By this point in the future, there's no more tolerance. Christianity is made a capital crime.

And it's not just martyrdom that you should fear. Throughout history, evil men have devised tortures that make death look like a welcomed friend. It's said, **"The Great Tribulation will be the Christian holocaust."**

Notice though, not only the *number* of people who get saved at this time, but the *nationalities* they represent... **"all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb..."**

They're from **"all nations"** - apparently, not one of the Earth's 193 countries is missing... **"All tongues"** - not a single language group ends up unreached... **"All peoples"** - every race, skin tone, and culture is represented! Heaven is going to be rich in diversity.

Yet though this multitude is *culturally-diverse*, they're *spiritually-united*. Before the Lamb, they come **"clothed with white robes..."** Heaven is multi-cultural. You'll see flowing African dashikis, urban hoodies, conservative suits, country jean jackets - *lots of robe styles...*

But every robe is the same color. **"White"** represents our purity in Christ. As Isaiah puts it, **"though your sins are like scarlet they shall be as white as snow."** Jesus is the commonality that's greater than our differences.

This answers the question John asked at the end of the Sixth Seal, **"Who is able to stand?"** *The answer is those who are clothed in the righteousness of Jesus.*

And notice in Heaven we'll all worship alike. The crowd stands "with palm branches in their hands..." Apparently, in Heaven, it's Palm Sunday every day!

The Lamb doesn't cleanse us our robes white just so that we get to heaven. There's a job to do once we arrive. Heaven's chief occupation is to praise the Lord!

And this is what John hears... Verse 10 describes the roar that goes up from the multitude - "crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" Heaven is the most racially and culturally diverse place you'll ever go.

But spiritually it is homogenous. Everyone in Heaven is in total agreement. Everybody got there, the exact same way. "Salvation belongs to God and the Lamb!"

Notice, Muhammed or Mormonism didn't get them to Heaven - Roman Catholicism and the Virgin Mary didn't help - Buddha didn't do it - Neither did their good works... Only God and the Lamb gets you to Heaven!

And notice in verse 11, praise is contagious... "All the angels stood around the throne..." That's billions and billions of angels... "And the elders and the four living creatures, fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

Notice, Heaven's praise is framed by two *Amens* - a double affirmation. The most universally-held concept is that God is

forever worthy of glory, and honor, and thanksgiving. Only Satan and stubborn men resist.

Verse 13, “Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?” I’m sure John is a little stunned. *Why does an elder in Heaven ask him?* He’s the new kid on the bloc, still wearing a visitor’s badge.

John replies, “And I said to him, “Sir, you know.” He tosses it back... “So he said to me, (and the elder answers his own question...) “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

Here’s an oxymoron, “*made... white in the blood...*”

Normally, blood doesn’t turn a robe white. But the blood of Jesus has *holy hemoglobin*. It takes out *the grime* and *the dirtiest dirt*. The only way to be spiritually clean is to wash your robe in Christ’s blood.

In Chapter 8 the Lion will order the angels who are holding back the wind to stand down. Judgment will resume. But Chapter 7 is the eye of the hurricane.

Winds of judgment have come. Winds of judgment will resume, but for the moment God is offering mercy.

The elder is speaking of “*the great multitude*” that came out of the Great Tribulation... and His thoughts are on their life in Heaven. In fact, his descriptions of Heaven are in the travel brochure sent to all believers.

Verse 15, “Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple.”

Notice first, as we’ve said, the focus in Heaven isn’t on streets of gold or the glassy sea. It’s God’s throne.

And what will we be doing? John says we will “*serve Him day and night.*” Imagine, you’ll have a specific assignment. We all will be scheduled for vital tasks.

You won’t just be trampolining on cumulus clouds, or learning to play the harp. We’ll all be busy - not bored.

“*And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.*” This is what will make Heaven so heavenly. We’ll be with our Lord unhindered and unencumbered.

Then verse 16, “They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore...” This was a problem for believers who came out of the Great Tribulation. Recall the black horse of famine. But now in Heaven, there’s lots to eat and drink. Heaven is the land of second-helpings.

We’re also told of Heaven, “The sun shall not strike them, nor any heat...” And in August in Georgia, that’s a wonderful promise. There’s protection in Heaven from the harsh environment on Earth. *Heaven brings relief...*

Then verse 17 conveys one of the most beautiful thoughts in all the Bible, “For the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters.” What an interesting and provocative thought: **the Lamb will be our Shepherd!**

“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

But notice, there’ll be tears to dab! If you’re going to Heaven bring a tissue. *We’ll have some regrets.* There will be tears. The Bible never promises no crying in Heaven, only that Jesus will wipe away all our tears.