

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 he now repeats it 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 a rebellious humanity lost to Satan. 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.

So the rest of the Revelation is how Jesus opens the seals binding the scroll, and in doing so unleashes horrific judgments on the forces that resist His will and rule. He wrestles God's creation from satanic control.

Revelation 6 begins, "Let's get ready to rumble..." or more exactly, "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 master of ceremonies, and invites us all, "Come and see..." For the Lamb John sees packs a massive wallop! He 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 a docile and domesticated animal. Yet historically a horse was associated with war. Horses were the tanks of antiquity. The *cavalry* had a leg up over the *infantry*.

Thus, four horses riding out of Heaven, charging the Earth, are an ominous sight. It strikes fear in John's heart. Jesus is proving, **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...

These are war horses - snorting, stomping charging from Heaven. It's like four outlaws riding into town.

On a white horse rides an imposter, the **Antichrist...** The red horse speaks of **war...** The black horse carries **famine...** and **death** sits on the pale horse...

Some Bible teachers mistake the rider on the white horse as Jesus, *and that's exactly as Satan intends*. If you want to fake a \$100 bill you don't put President Biden on the front. Pass a Biden 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**.

In Revelation 19 we'll see the Lord Jesus returning to the Earth riding on a white warhorse. But that's where the similarities end... Jesus returns at the end of this final 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.

In Chapter 1 Jesus has a sharp sword, but this false-Christ carries a bow... After the global flood of Noah's day God hung up His bow of judgment. He hung His bow in the clouds. The rainbow was a symbol of His promise to never again judge the world with water.

But in Genesis 11, a false-Christ named Nimrod leads a revolt against God. Tradition says he was a hunter - the inventor of archery. His goal was to hunt for men's hearts... And this is the goal of the rider here. He has a bow, but no arrows. *He conquers the nations without firing a shot*. He's hailed as **a man of peace**, an expert in diplomacy. He authors *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 forces or usurps his authority - *and it only lasts briefly*. Jesus has the right to rule forever!

Once, a war-wearied Israeli tour guide 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 final seven years of *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 rider on the white horse to crumble. In 1 Thessalonians 5:3, Paul predicts, **"For when they say, 'Peace and safety!' then sudden destruction comes upon them..."** The world longs for peace, but *this false-peace* will be short-lived.

The second horse speaks of war and bloodshed. It foreshadows the skirmishes that will lead up to the final battle of Armageddon. And its color is appropriate - it's blood red. It's amazing the ways men devise to kill other men. The global death toll in the seven years prior to Jesus' second coming will be astronomical.

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 Bible times scales were a symbol of commerce. Buying and selling was done by weights and balances. And in the aftermath of war always comes shortages and famine.

"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 first century Rome a denarius was a typical entire 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."

The war in Ukraine has shown how quickly our global grain production can be threatened... Another global pandemic could ruin our meat supply... Today, water scarcity impacts 40% of the world's population. In 2024 potential famine isn't terribly hard to envision.

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

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 it (the fourth horse) was Death, and Hades followed with him.” Death has an entourage. Hades is riding on the heels of Death. The Pale Rider further thins out a rebellious population.

In light of the world’s recent battle with Covid-19, and its 7 million death toll, it’s now easy to imagine this kind of wide-spread carnage. A future anti-biotic resistant, super plague could easily kill tens of millions victims. Pale rider has plenty of diabolical tools at his disposal.

And when you add the cumulative effect of all four horses the impact is staggering. Verse 8, “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.” Currently, 8.1 billion people occupy planet Earth - 25% equals a little over 2 billion. It’s hard to imagine 2 billion of anything, let alone dead bodies.

If you count one number per second 24 hours a day it would take you 11.5 days to reach a million. That seems like a long time, but it would take 63.5 years to count 2 billion. *Now imagine that many corpses!* These four horsemen will kill one out of every four humans.

And all the while this carnage is occurring on Earth recall Chapter 5, what John sees happening in heaven. Believers from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation, who’ve been redeemed by the blood of Jesus, are before God’s throne singing, “Worthy is the Lamb...”

Trust me, Heaven is where you’ll want to be! And this is the church in Heaven - you and me. The NT teaches before this *judgment comes down*, the *church will go up*. We’ll be **raptured** or *snatched away*. As Paul said, 1 Thessalonians 5, “God did not appointed us to wrath.”

But there are 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 blame to 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*. For the rider on the white horse will make it a crime to be a Christian. Anybody who takes Jesus as Lord is silenced by martyrdom.

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.

For understand, 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 also our body - "this corruptible must put on incorruption."

So these *souls* camped out under the altar are *Tribulation* converts who were 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 familiar refrain. *Their cry is a lot like the prayers we've often prayed!*

When you see a criminal walk out of court because of a technicality... or a State legislature enact laws sanctioning the murder of innocent babies... or wicked men enslaving young girls and children in an evil sex trade... *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.*

Today, the world values tolerance of all religions, *except Christianity*. Yet at some point today's bigotry will become outright brutality. *The false christ* will hand down a death sentence to anyone who worships *the true Christ*. And the vexed souls will cry out for justice!

"Then a white robe was given to each of them (i.e. the martyrs of the fifth seal); 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."

Remember, this all occurs at the end of the age when the Lamb returns to possess what belongs to God. Jesus will right all wrongs, but prior to His coming Satan will unleash a final assault on God's people.

And patience will be required for the martyred souls under the altar. Justice will eventually ease their pain, but only after "*a rest*." For a time they'll have to wait...

And this word "*rest*" is also the challenge for our faith... Jesus will exact vengeance, but not according to our timetable. Verse 11 exhorts them, "*Rest a little while longer...*" They'll have to wait for His timing. And that is as relevant for us today, as for these 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. In it’s aftermath 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 just to stars, but to *asteroids* or *meteorites*, or any cosmic projectile streaking through outer space.

And just as autumn winds rustle the trees and leaves fall; one day, Jesus will shake the heavens, and celestial bodies will pummel the Earth. The cosmos will come apart. In the OT the penalty for blasphemy was stoning. Here, God exacts the same sentence on a blasphemous world. He stones them from heaven.

I know pastors don’t like to talk about this. In today’s church, judgment it’s not a popular preaching topic, but God is going to physically judge this rebel world.

“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.

When Jesus cracks open the sixth seal He’s taking the gloves off. It’s a rough, bare-knuckled judgment. He unleashes massive, cataclysmic events that will rock the planet. If you miss the rapture, and are still here when the seal breaks, all I can say is “*pity on you.*”

Take all the recent Meteor movies (*it’s now a Hollywood 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 actual events will 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 Earth’s future, but it’s *inevitability*.

Do you realize, every day our planet 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 Revelation 6:13 it will happen again.

In 2010 CBS News ran a special report quoting astronomers who estimate 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.

On August 10, 1972 an asteroid entered Earth’s atmosphere over Utah, coming as close as 35 miles from striking the ground; it then exited over Alberta Canada. It’s now called “*The Great Daylight Fireball.*”

More recently, on August 16, 2020 the largest unanticipated asteroid flew 1,830 miles over the Pacific Ocean near Australia, traveling at 27,600 mph. It was undetected until it had passed us. NASA scientist, Paul Chodas, explained the asteroid came at us from the direction of the sun. He said, **“We didn’t see it coming.”**

And as recent as a month ago, February 2, a much larger, stadium-sized asteroid, sailed by Earth, but at a much safer distance, 1.7 million miles... The point is, these flybys happen often, and when Jesus breaks the sixth seal He won’t miss! *Cosmic rock falls... A super-quake cracks the planet... Continents shift... Islands vanish... As the ground shakes under their feet, the Earth’s inhabitants will look up and see the sky rolling up like a paper party horn after being blown...*

And how do people respond? 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 provocative phrase, **“the wrath of the Lamb!”** Here’s the ultimate-oxymoron. No other animal is as docile and gentle as a lamb! And likewise no person is more gentle and tender than our Lord Jesus.

But the day will come when He’ll be gentle no longer. *The rebellious 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 throws a flurry of punches. The rebellious Earth is on the ropes. It’s about to be a knock-out. And it raises the question, verse 17, **“who is able to stand?”** Well, *Chapter 7 answers that question!*

“After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth...” This is figurative of 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 will wrestle the jet streams into submission. Suddenly, all will be 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...*

Actually, you’ll notice a structure in Revelation 6-19. God’s wrath is poured out in three sets of seven: **seven seals, seven trumpets, seven bowls.** But in between the sevens John inserts a vignette dealing with a person or persons central to the events occurring at the time. 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 judge 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 this wicked world, but first He seals *His own people*.

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.

But now He's about to seal a group of people. For in this time of tribulation there'll still be folks who embrace Jesus as Lord - and Jesus will seal them with the Holy Spirit. He'll put His mark of ownership on the foreheads of His servants. And this reveals the Master's heart. **Even 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 these 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...**" This people group 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 only three categories of people... **Jews, Gentiles, the Church.** And only one group will be spared the wrath of God.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 says of the Church, "**God did not appointed 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 Christians!

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

Evidently 144,000 Jews will believe and 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 Church’s job - to share the Gospel.

But in the Great Tribulation the Church is in Heaven. God will still use the Gospel to save souls - *it alone is the power to salvation* - but in the Church’s absence its delivery system will change. God will use other means.

In Revelation 14 God sends angels flying through the sky 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! Think of 144,000 Jewish Billy Grahams. They’re all converts to Jesus, sealed and filled with the Holy Spirit. In Chapter 9, we’re told they’re even given 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?

In Africa, South Korea, 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. More than 90 million Bibles will be printed this year.

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.

And 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. And this is not the Church. The Church is 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 will see an army he numbers as 200

million. If *the group here* is a size he can't number; then it must 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."** From every corner of the globe these people stand before God's throne in Heaven. Implied is that these are the believing souls who died for their faith in Christ. These are the future martyrs.

I've heard well-meaning preachers imply that after the rapture all hope is lost. You've missed the bus. But that's not biblical. *You can be saved, but it'll be a deadly proposition.* By this point, Christianity will be a capital crime. And it's not just martyrdom you should fear. Throughout history evil men have devised tortures that make death look like a welcomed friend. **"The Great Tribulation will be the Christian holocaust."**

And notice not only the *number* of people who get saved at this time, but the different *people groups* 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 195 countries is missing... **"All tongues"** - not a single language group ends up unreached... **"All peoples"** - every race, skin tone, culture is represented! Heaven is going to be rich in diversity. *In fact, if you don't like diversity you won't be a fan of heaven.*

Yet though this multitude is *culturally-diverse*, they're *spiritually-united*. Before the Lamb they come **"clothed with white robes..."** Here's how I see heaven. Heaven will be multi-cultural. You'll see flowing African dashikis, and urban hoodies, and conservative suits, and country jeans. There'll be lots of *robe-styles* in heaven.

Yet 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."** We all get to heaven the same way - by the blood of Jesus. And this answers the question John asked at the end of the Sixth Seal, **"Who is able to stand?"** The answer, *those who've been washed by the blood of Jesus!*

And notice in Heaven we'll worship alike. The crowd stands, **"with palm branches in their hands."** In Heaven it'll be a celebration - a Palm Sunday every day! The Lamb doesn't cleanse our robes white just so we can get to heaven. There's a job to do once we arrive. **Heaven's chief occupation is to worship the Lord!**

And this is what John hears... Verse 10 is the roar that rises 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

experience. But spiritually it's homogenous. Everyone in Heaven is in total agreement. Everybody gets there the exact same way. **"Salvation belongs to God and the Lamb!"**

That means neither Muhammed or Mormonism gets you to Heaven... nor Roman Catholicism, and the Virgin Mary... nor Buddha... nor anyone's good works. **Only God and the Lamb can get you to Heaven!**

And in verse 11, this **praise is contagious...** For **"All the angels stood around the throne..."** That's a billion trillion 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. And again, Amen."**

Notice, Heaven's praise is framed by two *Amens* - a *double affirmation*... All of heaven agrees that glory and thanks and honor and power belong to our God!

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 stunned. *Why does an elder in Heaven ask him anything?* 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."** He confirms these were the saved from the Tribulation.

And here's another oxymoron, **"made... white in the blood..."** Normally, blood doesn't turn a robe white. But Jesus' blood has *holy hemoglobin*. It takes out *the grimmest 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 angels will let loose of the winds of judgment, and again they'll begin to blow. But Chapter 7 is the eye of the storm. God is offering mercy.

The elder speaks of **"the great multitude"** that comes out of Great Tribulation. He's thinking of the Lamb's salvation and those He saves. **"Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple."** Again, note the focus in Heaven isn't on streets of gold, or the glassy sea. It's on God's throne.

In heaven we'll be before the throne, and what will we do? We'll **"serve Him day and night."** I imagine, that means a specific assignment. We'll be scheduled vital tasks. You won't just be trampolining on a cloud bank, or taking harp lessons. We'll be busy, not bored.

"And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them." This is what will make Heaven 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 will be the land of second-helpings.

We’re also told of Heaven, “**The sun shall not strike them, nor any heat...**” There’s protection 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 a provocative and interesting thought: **the Lamb will be our Shepherd!**

And John finishes his description of heaven, “**And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.**” But notice, there will be tears to dab dry! If you’re going to Heaven bring a tissue. *We’ll all have regrets. There will be some tears.* The Bible doesn’t promise “**no crying in Heaven,**” only that Jesus will wipe away all our tears.