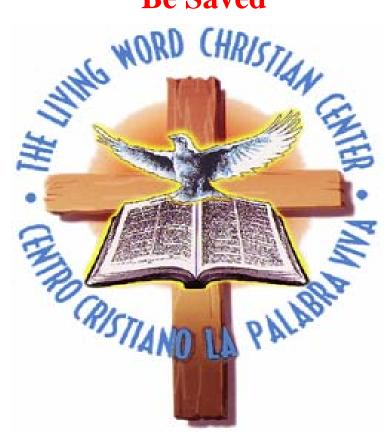
# The Fate of Believers in the Great Tribulation (Part II): A Numberless Multitude of Martyrs Will Be Saved



## REVELATION 7:9-17 TEXT, EXPOSITION AND PRACTICAL HELPS

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## THE SEVEN SEAL JUDGMENTS: EVENTS PRECEDING THE GREAT TRIBULATION,

#### **Revelation 6:1-7:17**

## B. The Fate of Believers in the Great Tribulation (Part II): A Numberless Multitude of Martyrs Will Be Saved, Revelation 7:9-17

(Revelation 7:9-17) <u>Introduction</u>: Who shall be saved during the awful tribulation coming upon earth? The terrible tribulation is coming in the end time, right before the end of the world. The time will be so terrible that one fourth of the earth's population will be destroyed by war, famine, pestilence, hunger, and starvation. It will be a time so terrible that the Bible calls it the period of Death and Hell.

But remember this is just the beginning. There is to be a time of so much horror and fright that it can only be called the *great tribulation*. When it comes there will be no end to the destruction and loss of life.

The important question is this: Is there any hope? Is there any way that people can be saved during this period of great tribulation? Yes! There will be a numberless multitude of believers saved.

- 1. Their origin: everywhere (v.9).
- 2. Their glorious position (v.9-10).
- 3. Their glorious companions (v.11-12).
- 4. Their identity: An elder asks John for the multitudes' identity (v.13-14).
- 5. Their function: To serve God continuously (v.15).
- 6. Their blessings: bliss (v.15-17).

## 1. (<u>Revelation 7:9</u>) <u>Salvation— Saved, The</u>: there is the origin of the numberless multitude.

Who are they? They are people from everywhere (cp. Rev. 5:9).

- **a.** From all nations: all, not just some; not even most, but from all nations.
- **b.** From all tribes: there will not be a tribe from anyplace on earth left out. All tribes will have some people within them who will be saved in the great tribulation.
- **c.** From all people: there will not be a people who will not have some saved from their number.
- **d.** From all tongues: there will not be a language from which there will not be some saved.

During the *great tribulation* there will be people who will turn to Christ by the millions. As terrible as the sorrows and woes will be, the destruction and devastation will apparently stir people by the teeming millions to turn to Christ. **This is glorious news:** it *means* that the greatest revival in the history of the world will take place during the tribulation coming upon earth.

Just imagine: "a great multitude which no man could number"—teeming millions standing before the throne of God in heaven. And as we shall see in a few moments, they come out of the terrible tribulation upon earth. There will be people saved during those awful days.

<u>Thought 1</u>. This *means* a most glorious thing: God never shuts the door against anyone who wills to give his heart and life to His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

"And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 8:11).

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13).

"Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:4).

"And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation" (Rev. 5:9).

"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which <u>no man</u> <u>could number</u>, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands" (<u>Rev. 7:9</u>).

"These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God" (Rev. 14:4-5).

"And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready" (Rev. 19:6-7).

## 2. (<u>Revelation 7:9-10</u>) <u>Saved, The—Throne, God's</u>: there is the glorious position of the numberless multitude.

#### Note the <u>four facts</u> given about them.

1. They stand before the throne of God and before the Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### They have the most glorious of privileges:

- **a.** to be near God and Christ
- **b.** to be face to face with God and Christ
- **c.** to be honored with the very presence of God and Christ
- **d.** to know God and Christ in all Their fullness and being
- **2.** They are clothed with white robes. This *means* they have been made pure and free from all the blemishes of sin and from all the corruption of the world—all by the righteousness of Jesus Christ. It means they have been perfected and stand before God perfected.

#### The white robe of righteousness is.....

- **a.** a sign of righteousness through Christ
- **b.** a sign of being made free from the defilement and smut of sin through Christ
- **c.** a sign of the victory over sin, death, and judgment through Christ
- **d.** a sign of being perfected forever through Christ
- **e.** a sign of being a heavenly creature, of having the glorious privilege of living forever in the presence of God through Christ.
- **3.** They hold palm branches in their hands. The palms are symbols of celebration, triumph, victory, deliverance, and joy. The redeemed before God celebrate their triumph over the terrible tribulation and the sin, evil, death, and corruption of the world.
  - **a.** They celebrate their victory in Christ.
  - **b.** They celebrate their deliverance in Christ.
  - **c.** They celebrate their joy in Christ.
  - **4.** They shout praises for their salvation. **Note what it is that they shout:**

"Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb" (Rev. 7:10).

They praise God for salvation. **They praise God.....** 

- **a.** because God has saved and delivered them through the great trials upon earth.
- **b.** because God has given them the power to believe and to endure to the end.
- c. because God has accepted them.
- **d.** because God has given them the glorious privilege of His presence.
- **e.** because God has completed their salvation, perfected them forever and ever with His glory.

<u>Thought 1</u>. William Barclay has a statement about this point that is a dynamic challenge to us. His words should stir us to endure any trial or temptation, no matter how severe:

"God is the great savior, the great rescuer, the great deliverer of His people, And the deliverance which God gives is the greatest deliverance of all, for it is not the deliverance of escape; it is the deliverance of conquest. It is not the deliverance which saves a man from trouble it is the deliverance which brings a man triumphantly through trouble. It does not make life easy, but it certainly makes life great. It is not part of the Christian hope to look for a life in which a man is saved from all trouble and distress; the Christian hope is that a man in Christ can endure any kind of trouble and distress, and remain erect all through them, and come out to glory on the other side" (The Revelation of John, Vol.2. "The Daily Study Bible." Philadelphia, PA: The Westminister Press, 1959, p.32).

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things" (Romans 8:32).

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Cor. 9:15).

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Ephes. 2:8).

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:11-12).

"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name" (Hebrews 13:15).

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" (1 Peter 2:9).

## 3. (<u>Revelation 7:11-12</u>) <u>Angels— Elders— Four Living Creatures</u>: there are the companions of the numberless multitude.

This is a picture of all those who stand before the throne of God with the numberless multitude. It is the picture of wave after wave of different beings standing in circles before the throne of God.

- **a.** The outer circle is the angels. Note that they surround or encircle the throne.
- **b.** Next come the twenty four elders.
- **c.** Then there are the four living creatures who stand at the four corners of the throne.
- **d.** Finally, as we have seen, there is the numberless multitude of believers who stand face to face with the throne of God and the Lamb.

The numberless multitude has just sung their praises to God for His great salvation. When they do, the rest of the heavenly beings fall down before the throne on their faces and worship God.

- **1.** They praise God for His *blessing*. Every good and perfect gift comes from God. These heavenly beings acknowledge this fact and bless God's name for it.
- **2.** They praise God for His *glory*. God is glorious, the most glorious Person in all the universe. He is so glorious that His glory outshines the sun. It is the light of His glory that will provide the light of heaven. God is to be praised for the perfection of His glory. But note: God shares His glory with His creatures. Every creature in heaven is given and perfected in glory. God is to be praised for the gift of His glory as well as for His own glory.
- **3.** They praise God for His *wisdom*. God is the *Supreme and Majestic Intelligence* of the universe. He is omniscient, possessing all intelligence and perfect intelligence. It is God who planned creation and all the worlds and creatures of all dimensions whoever they are. It is God who planned salvation and redemption through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is God who has the knowledge to work all things out for good. He is to be praised for His wisdom.
- **4.** They offer thanksgiving to God. They thank Him for *creation*, life, *salvation*, *redemption*, and for *everything else*. Again, they know that every good and perfect gift came from Him.

- **5.** They praise God for His *honor*. God is the Supreme and Majestic Being of the universe. There is none like Him. In addition, God is faithful and true. He never fails to keep His Word and promises nor to do what is best. He is the perfection of honor and truth and trustworthiness. Therefore, God's honor is praised.
- **6.** They praise God for His *power*. God is the Supreme and Majestic Force of the universe. He is the Force that created the universe and that sustains and holds it together and that is moving it toward its destined end. In addition, God is the Supreme Force that works out the salvation and redemption of man and that works out all things for good to those who love Him. He is the Supreme Power who oversees our lives and delivers us from evil, death, and corruption. Therefore, God is praised for His power.
- 7. They praise God for His *might* and *strength*. God is strong; He never tires or becomes weary. There is no weakness in Him whatever. God is so strong that He is always able to help any of His creatures. Anyone can approach God anytime for strength and receive His help. God never fails; He possesses perfect strength and shall possess it forever and ever. Therefore, God's strength is praised.

**Thought 1**. The praise of heavenly beings is an example for us. Scripture is clear: we are always to be thanking and praising God.

"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name" (Hebrews 13:15).

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" ( $\underline{1}$  Peter 2:9).

"For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Cor. 6:20).

"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet [qualified, fit] to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light" (Col. 1:12).

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful" (Col. 3:15).

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thes. 5:18).

"Sing praises to the LORD, which dwelleth in Zion: declare among the people his doings" (Psalm 9:11).

"Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee" (Psalm 67:3).

## 4. (<u>Revelation 7:13-14</u>) <u>Tribulation, Great—Believers— White Robes—</u> Martyrs: there is the identity of the numberless multitude.

Note that the numberless multitude has not yet been identified. *Now they are*. John is stunned by the sight and praise of the heavenly scene. He just stands there in stark amazement and stone silence, unable to think. To stir him, one of the elders walks over and asks John who the numberless multitude is. Of course, John does not know, but the elder does.

He was only arousing John out of his stunned state of mind. John does all he can do; he simply replies, "Sir, you know who they are." It is then that the elder tells John what he is witnessing. Remember: this scene has not yet happened. God is giving John a vision of things that are to happen in the future. The day is coming when a numberless multitude, apparently millions, will stand before God having just entered heaven. Who are they?

#### Two things are said about them.

**1.** They are *believers* out of the great tribulation. Shocking! But a great multitude, which no man could number—millions of believers—will die from the holocaust in the great tribulation.

**Note:** this is exactly what Scripture says. There will be millions of believers in the great tribulation, a mass of believers that no man can number. The devastation and destruction taking place will cause millions from all over the world to turn to Christ.

**Now observe closely:** they are in heaven, not on earth. This means that the antichrist has killed them. He has launched an all out attack against Christ, attempting to wipe the believer from off the face of the earth. **This is clearly described by Scripture.** 

**a.** Daniel predicted this terrible time of trouble.

"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book" (Daniel 12:1).

**b.** Jesus Christ foretold that the *great tribulation* was coming upon the earth.

"For then shall be <u>great tribulation</u>, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" (Matthew 24:21-22).

**c.** Paul described the attacks of the antichrist against Christ and all religions.

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as god sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is god" (2 Thes. 2:3-4).

**d.** John says that the antichrist will actually make war against the saints (believers) of God.

"And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations" (Rev. 13:7).

**e.** John says that the purpose of the antichrist is to set up the worship of the state as the first loyalty of the citizens of the world. (This will be the means the government will use to hold the people together under one government.)

"And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed" (Rev. 13:15).

**The point is this:** in the *great tribulation* the government of the antichrist will launch an all out attack against Christ and His followers. (The attack will also be against all people who have a strong religious faith, including Jews, Moslems, Hindus, and others.)

A believer will have to deny Christ or else be put to death. Millions—all those who are true believers—will refuse. They will refuse for the same reason any true believer would refuse: because they love the Lord with all their heart, and because they have the glorious hope of living with Christ forever and ever, worshipping and serving Him in perfection throughout all of eternity.

2. They are those who have washed their robes white. How? In the blood of the Lamb. The clothing of all heavenly beings is colored white. White stands for purity and perfection. It *means* that the person has no spot of sin, evil, or corruption in him. He is clean and pure from all defilement and sin and imperfection. Therefore, white stands for perfection, for sinless perfection, for perfect righteousness.

But note a critical fact: no person upon earth is sinless, righteous, perfect, pure, or incorruptible. Every person sins, and every person is corruptible. We all die and end up in the grave. How then did these martyrs—the believers of the numberless multitude—get white robes? This verse tells us:

"[They] have washed their robes; and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Rev. 7:14. See below Deeper Study # 1, Lamb of God—Rev. 5:6-7 for discussion and verses.)

#### **DEEPER STUDY #1**

(<u>Revelations 5:6-7</u>) Jesus Christ is the sacrificial Lamb of God who has been slain. The picture of Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God is seen throughout Scripture.

Scripture declares that Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God who died for our sins.

**a.** The Lamb of God was symbolized in the Passover. The lamb was sacrificed so that the judgment of God could pass over the people.

"Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for a house" (Exodus 12:3).

**b.** Isaiah had said that the Messiah was to bear our sins by being brought as a lamb to the slaughter.

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before his shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth" (Isaiah 53:6-7).

**c.** John the Baptist declared Jesus to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

"And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!" (John 1:36).

**d.** Peter had said that persons are redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without spot and without blemish.

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation [behavior] received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Peter 1:18-19).

**Note this: A.T. Robertson**, the Greek scholar, points out that the word for *lamb* throughout the New Testament is *ho amnos*. But throughout Revelation John uses another word *arnion*, and he uses the word twenty-nine times for the crucified Christ. **The difference is this:** the word chosen by John stresses the slaughter, suffering, pain, agony, and humiliation of Christ. And *all the suffering* is still seen in heaven. As **Robertson** says: "**The Lamb is now alive, but...with the marks of the sacrifice**" (*Word Pictures In The New Testament*, Vol.6, p.334).

The point is this: Jesus Christ is the perfect sacrifice for our sins. He lived a sinless life when He was upon earth; He was the Ideal and Perfect Man. Therefore, whatever Jesus Christ did as the Perfect and Ideal Man, it could stand for and cover us. When He died for our sins, He died as the ideal and perfect sacrifice. His sacrifice for our sins was perfectly acceptable to God. Therefore, His sacrifice for sin stands for and covers us.

What happens is this: when we believe in Jesus Christ, God takes our faith and counts it as the sacrifice of Christ. God counts the sacrifice of Christ for us. This means that we are free from sin. We stand sinless before God, acceptable to Him—all because Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, removed our sins from us. We are cleansed from sin by the sacrifice of Christ. We are made perfectly righteous by the sacrifice of Christ. Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God who has taken away our sin and clothed us in the white robes of righteousness before God.

This is the reason Jesus Christ stands in the center stage of heaven. But even in heaven He stands as the One who has loved and given Himself for us; He stands as the Lamb who was slain as the *perfect sacrifice* for our sins.

"Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Hebrews 9:12-14).

"And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: but this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; from henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool" (Hebrews 10:11-13).

"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed" (1 Peter 2:24).

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit" (1 Peter 3:18).

### 5. (<u>Revelation 7:15</u>) <u>Believers, Redeemed— Heaven</u>: there is the function of the numberless multitude.

They serve God continually, day and night. The temple here means the very presence of God, the most holy place in all the universe, heaven itself. It means to have direct access into the presence of God anytime, anyplace.

#### The picture is this:

- **a.** Believers will be perfected so that they never tire or become weary or need sleep. They will be able to serve and work continuously day and night.
- **b.** Believers will serve God: they will be ruling and reigning throughout the universe, overseeing the new heavens and earth for Christ.

"And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelves tribes of Israel" (Matthew 19:28).

"His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matthew 25:23).

"And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make ruler over all that he hath" (Luke 12:42-44).

"And he said unto him, Well, thou good servent: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities....And he said likewise to him [another servant], Be thou also over five cities" (Luke 19:17, 19).

"And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together" (Romans 8:17).

"If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us" (2 Tim. 2:12).

"Do ye not know that the saints shall judge [oversee, govern, rule] the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?" (1 Cor. 6:2-3).

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood" (Rev. 1:5).

"And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth" (Rev. 5:10).

## 6. (<u>Revelation 7:15-17</u>) <u>Believers— Rewards— Heaven</u>: there are the blessings and bliss of the numberless multitude.

- 1. They will have the living presence of God with them forever.

  The presence of God will actually be manifested to the believer unceasingly.

  God will be dwelling, living, moving, and having His being in the believer in an unbroken communion and fellowship.
- 2. They will have all their physical needs met. Hunger and thirst stand for all the physical necessities of life that they lacked when upon earth. Many of these dear believers will suffer terribly. They will be placed in extermination camps by the antichrist and his government. They will be starved to death. Some will be forced to flee their homes and belongings. They will starve to death while trying to scratch food out of the forests. The picture of how a war-torn, persecuted people suffering starvation and thirst is well known to the modern world. Such scenes are often seen on television. But in heaven the believers will have all their needs met.
- **3.** They will be protected. This is the symbol of the sun and heat. The prison and labor camps of a persecuted and war-torn people is the picture here. The picture would also include the homeless who have to wander about exposed to the elements of nature. Scorching heat and frigid cold will take the lives of many. But in heaven, they will be protected from all enemies, even from the sun and heat.
- **4.** They will have all their spiritual needs met. The Greek for *feed* is shepherd. The Lamb of God Himself shall shepherd the believers. He will feed them and meet all their needs. This refers to spiritual needs, the needs of the soul for life, love, joy, peace, security, completeness, fullness, assurance, and confidence. Christ will feed the soul of the believer. (**cp.** <u>Psalm 23:1</u>).
- 5. They will have the leadership and direction of the Lord to guide them. There will never be another mistake or misstep taken. The Lamb of God Himself will give direction and guidance. He will assign the responsibilities and tell believers exactly what to oversee for Him, and they will joyfully do it. Serving Christ, being directed and guided by Him, will be like drinking from the fountain of living water.
- **6.** They will have all sorrow wiped away from their eyes. Note by whom: God Himself shall wipe all tears from their eyes. In heaven believers shall never again suffer, not even a single pain or hurt. They shall be perfected forever.

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6).

"But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:14).

"And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst" (John 6:35).

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:1-3).

"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Cor. 4:17).

"Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousenss, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (2 Tim. 4:8).

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you" (1 Peter 1:3-4).

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy" (1 Peter 4:12-13).

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you (<u>1 Peter</u> 5:7).

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Rev. 21:4).

"They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them" (<u>Isaiah 49:10</u>).