

The Good Shepherd Is the Glorious Lamb

- One of single most endearng & comftrng pics/J in entire Bible: J is our GS. That imagery of J as GS evokes all kinds of beautiful, important Gos truths.
 - Today's Gos, Jn 10: **"shp listen voice"** – we, shp – wander/stray; but know voice, Word.
 - **"No one snitch out hnd"** – safe w/GS; protcts us fr phys dng; & sprtl attacks Satan, wolf, devour.
 - Earlier in Jn 10, **"I lay down life for sheep"** – suffd/died cross, laid dwn life in our place, sins.
 - **"Only to take up again"** – today cont celbrt & trust in res/J fr dead, how came back life, champ.
 - **"I give etrnal life; nvr perish"** – so thru death/res of J, J gives us etrnal life w/him in hvn.
 - Mind to Ps 23: **"not be in want;" "cup overflows"** – J provds for all physcl needs. Ps 23 also:
 - **"Makes lie dwn grn pstrs; lds qt wtrs"** – gives us comfort/peace fr Wrld; how he **"refrshs soul."**
 - Also add: smthng very parental re J being GS. J takes care shp way prnt/chld. Today M-Day; happy! J's shprdng/shp is almost ma/paternal. GS cares for us as his dear chldrn!
 - Also smthng pstrl re GS. Pr=shprd. Job Pr/Lthrn tchr: shphrd flick/cong/clsrn. J: grtst pr, perf tchr.
- So hope you can see how all this beautfl imagery of J as GS is so endearng/comftrng for us as Xians. But today we have one more Gos pic/J as GS focus on. In 2nd rdng, fr Rev 7, Ap Jn writes: **vs. 17a**. Lmb will be shphrd. This actly is only psg in entire Bible where J: identified as both Lmb/God and GS. Paradox. And today we want take evthng we've said, all beautfl imagery re J as GS, and see how GS is also GL!
- This isn't 1st time, nor last, bk/Rev calls J: lmb. In Rev 5 (rdng last Sun), J: on throne, surrdd by angels, singing dox/praise: **"Wrthy: Lmb, slain, to receive pwr, wlth, wsdm, stngth, hnr, glry, praise" (12)**. Later on Rev speaks re how bels have names wrttn in **"Lmb's bk/life" (13:8; 21:7)**; and how hvn: **"wed sup/Lmb" (19:9)**; and how Lmb is **"Lrd/lrds & Kng/kngs" (17:14)**. Thruout bk/Rev, J the lmb: always pictrd in glry! He's in hvn, on throne, in city/God, surrdd by angels & multtts/ppl – he's always GL!
- But, of course, J's grtst glry: suffng/dth cross, where paid for our sins. JB: **"Lk, Lmb/God, who takes away sin/wrld" (Jn 1:29)**. And in Isa 53, that prophcy re J as Suff Srvnt: **"Led like lmb to slaughter" (7)**. That's the cross; that's where we see J's grtst glry, as he lays down life to take away sin/wrld.
- But here in Rev 7 have vision/J, risen fr dead, as GL. **Vs. 9a**. J: not just for: Amrcns; ppl who look/talk like you, live in same century/continent as you. Here have vision/hvn, where innmrbl/incalcbl crowd Xians, fr ev cornr/planet & ev era/hist, is gathrd before J. And smday you'll join them. **Vs. 9**; and smday you'll join them, dressed in white, palm brnchs in hand, bec you know/bel that this GL is your Sav! **Vs. 10**, which means that you/I, on own, are compltly unable to contrbt anythng to our salvtn. Salvtn does not belong to us; it is not in our pwr to achieve it for ourselves. But we have a Sav God who planned, carried out, & accmplshd evthng nec bring us before throne/lmb. Grace is called grace for a reason; grace: undesrvd love. We don't desrv it at all, bec/sins. But our forgvnss, our salvtn, the prom of etrnal life in hvn – this is a gift fr God for us. **"Slvtn belongs to our God;"** and gives it to us freely.
- And even angels know this, and they don't even need a Sav! J didn't die to save angels; died to save us. Nvrthlss even angels in hvn cry out in another dox/praise to GL: **vs. 12**.
- And Jn, seeing all this (this incrdbl vision: lmb, throne, crowds, multtts, angels, praises) – so ovrwhlmd, that when he's asked **vs. 13**, he just defers, **vs. 14a**. Then, for Jn's benefit but also ours, Lord records in bk/Rev these beautfl wrds: **vs. 14bc**. **"Come out great trib."** We live in great trib right now. Life here on earth, this side/hvn: trib. Ever cried at funrl; ever miss smone who's died; facing dth yrself; anxious re smone you love who will soon die? That's trib. Have disease that'll soon claim your life; condtn that brings you pain in life; love smone suffers in body? Trib. Been sinned vs (lied to, cheatd on, betryd, robbd, slandr, abusd, wrongd); victim/injustice; witnssd injustice? Trib. Do you realize Xians across wrld are being persecd/opprssd for faith in Xp; and do you realize smday that could be you? That's: trib. That's life in sin-filled wrld.

- But in hvn, bels in J **“come out great trib;”** leave behind evthng falln re this falln wrld. **Vs. 14c.** If you’ve ever gotten a bld stain on clothes, easy wash out? Prob not! So how in wrld can bld be used wsh robes, make white? It’s only pssbl if God’s bld. 1 Jn 1, **“Bld/J, [God’s] Son, purifs us fr all sin” (7).** When J shed bld cross, and when J gives us his bld drink in holy Scrmnt, that bld purifs us, forgives, washs away filth our sins, & dresses us in the pure, bright white robes Xp’s rightsns. In one our fav Luth hymns, we sing *“J, your bld & rightsns my beauty are, my glorious dress (what dressed in, beautfl); mid flaming wrlds (in this sinful wrld, and smday when wrld destrdyd by fire), in these arrayed, w/joy shall I lift up my head” (CW 573:1).* Covered in the filthy rags of our sins, we’re not allowed enter hvn. But when J shed bld & died on cross for us, and when rose fr dead in glory, he clothed us in white robe of his perf rightsns & opened hvn for us. So now when we die, we’ll be among those who **vs. 14bc.**
- And there in hvn, **vs. 15.** We will see J; & we will be w/J; & he will dwell among us. **Vs. 16.** Trials/trbls of this life’s great trib will trbl us no longer. You need keep that in mind at all times; remem that, esp when you’re suffrg here on earth. Paul says in 2 Cor that **“our light & momntry trbls are achieving for us an etrnal glry that far outwghs them all” (4:17).** I know: all garbage you go thru in life does not feel light or momntry when going thru – I undrstd, feel myself! But we have remem & focus on the far surpsng glry/hvn. Nvr again: suffer; exprnc pain or disappntmnt or hrtache. Today God gives us this vision/hvn to encourage us, comftrt us, help us look forward to etrnal life, where **vs. 17c.**
- GS=GL. **Vs. 17a.** The imagery/J as GS: some of most endearng/comftrng in whole Bible. The imagery/J as Lmb/God in bk/Rev: some of most glorious. So we ought to live our lives w/these 2 images/J always before us, always on our minds. Take look at front/altar. What see? GL. Take look at Easter window. What see? GL. Take look at cover/service. What see? GS. That’s J! It’s all J! GS=GL, who lives/reigns now/forever, and who smday will bring all of us, his shp, to live/reign w/him in hvn.

Revelation 7:9-17

⁹ 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 before 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.”

¹¹ All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying: “Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”

¹³ Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?” ¹⁴ I answered, “Sir, you know.”

And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ Therefore, “they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. ¹⁶ ‘Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,’ nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷ For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; ‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’ ‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’”

