**and [all] tribes and peoples and tongues**(observe, that this very specification, of a multitude without number, carries us on the past the first or millennial resurrections, indicated in the two former parables of Matt. xxv. [see notes there], and past the final judgment sublimely described at the end of that chapter: “*the righteous unto life eternal*” is the point at which our vision takes up that prophecy. We have *the righteous*, in their robes of righteousness, made white in the blood of the Lamb,  
already, vv. 15—17, in the midst of those  
pleasures for evermore, which always stand in Scripture for a description of the employments of the life everlasting), **standing  
before the throne, and before the Lamb** (by  
these words the vision is fixed as belonging  
to that heaven itself which has been previously described, ch. iv. The celestial  
scene becomes filled this innumerable throng: its other inhabitants remaining  
before) **clothed in white robes** (see ch. vi.  
11, note: and below, ver. 14), **and palm-branches in their hands** (bearing the palm-branch was. mark of festal joy, compare  
John xii. 13; 1 Mace. xiii. 51); {10} **and they  
cry** (the present tense expresses their unceasing occupation) **with a loud voice**,  
**saying, Salvation** (literally, “**the** *salvation:*” i.e., the praise of our salvation: the ascription of the salvation which we have obtained) [**be**] **to our God who sitteth on  
the throne and unto the Lamb.**

**11, 12.]** {11} The choir of angels, as in ver.  
11, respond to the ascription of praise.  
**And all the angels were standing round  
the throne and the elders and the four  
living-beings, and fell before the throne  
on their faces** (then they were in the vision  
in the similitude of men), **and worshipped  
God, {12} saying, Amen: the blessing and the  
glory and the wisdom and the thanksgiving and the honour and the power and  
the might** (observe the sevenfold ascription) **be to our God unto the ages of the  
ages. Amen.**

**13—17.]** *Explanation of the vision*.  
{13} **And one of the elders answered** (on this  
use of the word **answered** see Matt. xi. 25,  
Deut. xxv. 9. The reply is made, not to  
words actually uttered, but to thoughts,  
or to circumstances requiring remark),  
**saying to me** (the elders symbolizing the  
Church, one of them fitly stands out as the  
interpreter of this vision in which the glorified Church is represented), **These that  
are clothed in the white robes, who are**