

## "The Lion Is the Lamb"

### Revelation 1; 5

#### I. Introduction

- A. The restoration of something that has been cast aside and fallen into disrepair makes us appreciate the devotion, patience, and craftsmanship of the restorer
  - 1. God loves to restore people
  - 2. God didn't make people perfect to populate heaven; He restores broken people who have been damaged by sin
  - 3. Restoration is based on redemption, and redemption is tied to resurrection
- B. The book of Revelation is a series of visions given to John the apostle on Patmos
  - 1. Patmos was used by the Romans as a penal colony
  - 2. John was a prisoner on Patmos in his mid-90s
- C. God gave John a vision of the resurrected Christ and a glimpse of heaven
  - 1. Revelation contains a lot of symbols and metaphors
  - 2. The most important of these are the Lion and the Lamb—both referring to Jesus Christ
  - 3. John was part of Jesus' inner circle; he was "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (see John 20:2)

#### II. The Scene (Revelation 1:10-18; 5:1-4)

- A. Revelation was written around AD 95—at least sixty years after Jesus' ascension
  - 1. John and the other disciples were close to Jesus during the three years He was on earth
  - 2. The characteristics of Jesus that John saw in this vision were much different from those John remembered from Jesus' time with the disciples
    - a. John's vision was of mighty and riled Jesus, not meek and mild Jesus
    - b. This is not a vision of the crucified Christ; this is a vision of the glorified, dignified, magnified, resurrected Christ
    - c. This was not a lamb, but a roaring lion
- B. What is the scroll?
  - 1. It involves the future and the fate of planet earth; the scroll is the title deed to earth
    - a. It belongs to God because He is the Creator
    - b. It was given to humans as a stewardship
    - c. It was forfeited to Satan in the garden by Adam through sin (see 2 Corinthians 4:4)
    - d. Romans 8:22
  - 2. Everyone erupted in praise when the scroll was opened
  - 3. In ancient Judaism, the sign of a forfeited inheritance was a sealed scroll; this scroll had been sealed seven times
- C. A search was made for a liberator, someone qualified to take back the inheritance
  - 1. Who is worthy?

2. Is there anyone who has the divine right, authority, and power to rule the earth?
  - a. There are many who have been willing to rule:
    - i. Alexander the Great
    - ii. Nebuchadnezzar
    - iii. Many of the Caesars, etc.
  - b. The question isn't who wants to rule the earth, but who is worthy to rule the earth

### III. The Savior (Revelation 5:5-7)

#### A. Twenty-four different titles are given to Jesus from Revelation 1-5

1. The Lion of Judah (see Genesis 49:9)
2. The heir to David's throne
  - a. God promised David that one of his offspring would rule the world
  - b. 2 Samuel 7:13

#### B. John, being Jewish, knew the prophecies and promises

1. The elder told John to look and see the Lion, so John expected to see the glorified Christ from his vision in chapter 1
2. John saw a Lamb
3. The Lamb represented sacrifice; lambs were used at Passover to protect a household
4. It is possible that when we see Jesus, even in His glorified state, He may still bear the wounds of His crucifixion; John saw a Lamb that had been killed (see v. 6)
5. For Jesus, those wounds meant that He could buy us back to God, and He's willing to bear those scars forever

#### C. The Lamb that had been killed was now standing (see v. 6)

1. He's standing, ready for action
2. He has the meekness of a lamb, but the strength, steadiness, and might of a lion

#### D. Because He came first as a Lamb, He's qualified to come again as a Lion; He rescued the world as a Lamb, therefore He will rule the world as a Lion

### IV. The Song (Revelation 5:8-10)

#### A. After the scroll was opened, praise erupted

#### B. Everything John was describing in this vision had been building up to this moment

1. The Lamb stepped forward and took the scroll
2. This is the greatest act in history—the pinnacle of Revelation, the greatest event in the history of mankind
3. Jesus will take the lost inheritance—the title deed of the earth—and bring about real, lasting change at His second coming

#### C. When the Lamb takes the scroll, that will be the answer to all the prayers of all God's people through all the ages: "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10, KJV)

1. The response to this was "a new song" (v. 9)
2. Every Christian ought to be a singing Christian, because we have reason to sing
3. Worship is the only earthly activity that we will still be doing in heaven

#### D. The song is about His sacrifice and His worthiness

1. Jesus is worthy to rule as the Lion of Judah because He died as the Lamb of God
  2. The power is in the shed blood of Jesus Christ—without which there is no forgiveness of sins
  3. The Bible mentions the blood of Christ 424 times
- V. Conclusion
- A. Mankind has a huge problem
    1. We can't be close to God just because we want to—we are impeded by sin; sin separates us from God
    2. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23)
  - B. Either you pay for your sin yourself, or someone else pays for it for you
    1. Jesus stepped in as the Lamb to pay for our sins
    2. Jesus comes as the Lion to rule and reign over your life
    3. Jesus ruling over your life is better than you ruling over your own life; He'll do a much better job than you can do with you
  - C. The Bible in its entirety can be summed up with one sentence: "Behold the Lamb" (see John 1:29)
    1. The Old Testament asked the question "Where is the Lamb?"
    2. The New Testament answered the question: "Behold the Lamb"
    3. In heaven, we'll be singing, "Worthy is the Lamb"

**Cross references:** Genesis 49:9; 2 Samuel 7:13; Matthew 6:10; John 1:29; 20:2; Romans 3:23; 8:22; 2 Corinthians 4:4

**Topic:** salvation

**Keyword:** blood, earth, forgiveness, inheritance, lamb, lion, redemption, restoration, scars, sin