

THE LION & THE LAMB

Revelation 5:1-6

I. Weeping Stops When We Know Christ The Lion Has Secured Our Future (1-5)

A. Our Future Is _____ When We Don't Know Who To Trust With It (1-4)

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴ and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.

B. Our Future Is _____ Because Christ The Lion Has Conquered All Challenges To Our Future (5)

⁵ And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

- Christ Is The Lion King (cf. Gen 49:8-10)
- Christ Is The Root & Fruit Of David (cf. Rev 22:16; Isa 11:1-2; 2 Sam 7:12; Ps 89:3-4, 28-29, 34-37; 2 Chron 21:7; Ps 132:11; Mk 11:10; Lk 1:32-33)
- Christ Is The Triumphant King

II. Worshipping Begins When We Know Christ The Lamb Has Saved Us From Our Sin (6)

⁶ And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I **saw** a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

A. Standing

B. Slain

C. Sovereign

D. Sees All (Zech 4:10)

E. Spirit-Empowered

Conclusion:

1. The Lion holds our future in His hand.
2. The Lamb secures our future through His sacrifice.

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⁶And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

⁷And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. ⁸And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹And they sang a new song, saying,

"Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, ¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

¹¹Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹²saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

¹³And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" ¹⁴And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Introduction:

1. What is your perspective of Christ? Some paintings give him blue eyes and long wavy blond hair. Being from the Middle East, this image of Christ is most unlikely.
2. Phillip Yancey, in *The Jesus I Never Knew*, recalls his vision of Jesus as a child: "With a start I recalled the Sunday image of Jesus that I grew up with: someone kind and reassuring, with no sharp edges at all – a Mister Rogers before the age of children's television. As a child I felt comforted by such a person." (p. 13)
 - In his college years, he was impressed by a popular painting of Jesus in a Dali-like pose over the United Nations building in New York City. Now he saw Christ as the powerful Cosmic Christ. Far different than his childhood image.
 - Then in the '60's the "Jesus Freaks" in their hippy garb gave a vision of Jesus as a peace loving beatnik that was anti-government and anti-establishment.

- Different movies and musical gave Yancey is weak view of Jesus in His vulnerable humanity. Jesus Christ Superstar presents Christ as a wimpy and womanizing man.
3. How do you see Christ?
 - A babe in the manger?
 - A teacher with children on His lap?
 - A man with a whip in the temple?
 - A corpse slung on a cross?
 4. How we see Christ is how we will view life.
 - If Christ is still in the manger, than how will an infant solve our problems in life?
 - Maybe you might think Christ is good for children, but not for adults.
 - Perhaps Christ is a despotic policeman who takes away joy from life.
 - Perhaps the image of the crucified Christ paints a picture of defeat and not victory.
 5. I would like to turn to a passage that gives a diverse perspective of Christ – that of both a Lion and a Lamb. This dual perspective will have a profound impact on how we will view life.

I. Weeping Stops When We Know Christ The Lion Has Secured Our Future (1-5)

A. Our Future Is Sorrowful When We Don't Know Who To Trust With It (1-4)

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴ and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.

The SCROLL & SEALS:

- The scroll (*biblion*) was **double sided** – an "*opisthograph*".
 - Most scrolls that were made available to the public and were purchasable were single sided. Scrolls that were double sided were usually private and personal.
- The scroll was rolled up on **both sides** and was secured with **7 seals**
- The significance of the **seals** is profound. Each seal was several drops of melted wax imprinted by the signet ring of the owner of the scroll. This is Jesus' scroll. Only Jesus has the authority to open what is contained for mankind.
- Roman Law dictated that wills be sealed with 7 seals
 - Both Caesar August and Vespasian's will were sealed 7x
- David Hocking: "Some see this scroll as the 'last testament' of the One Who died for us, containing the terms of His wrath upon those who reject His love and sacrificial death." (*The Coming World Leader: Understanding The Book Of Revelation*, Multomah, 1988, p. 114)

Daniel 12:4 But you, Daniel, **shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end.** Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

Daniel 12:9 He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and **sealed until the time of the end.**

- I don't know if this is Daniel's sealed scroll, but it would be similar in that it contains the plan for the future
- Daniel got his information from Gabriel (Dan 8:16)
- This could be the angel Gabriel, who's name means "strength of God"

Revelation 5:2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?"

- Revelation 6-22 are the contents of the scroll, which also contains 7 trumpet judgments and 7 bowl judgments to be unleashed on the earth.
- The seven seals on the scroll is also unique. If this were a book (codex), the seven seals would protect each chapter and the content would be revealed progressively. But because this is a scroll, the contents could not be open until all 7 seals were opened.
- This scroll contains the final judgment for mankind. These seals included the trumpet and bowl trumpets which are unveiled as God's judgment on the earth detailed in the upcoming chapters in Revelation.
- Revelation 11:15-18 also states that the future rewards of the saints (believers) is also contained in the scroll.
- "The scroll, then, is not only about judgment or about the inheritance of the kingdom. Rather, it contains the announcement of the consummation of all history--how things will ultimately end for all people: judgment for the world and the final reward of the saints." (Alan Johnson, "Revelation", Expositors Bible Commentary)

Revelation 5:3-4 ³And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.

- Ie/ The Sword & The Stone – only King Arthur, the rightful king of Britain, could remove the Excaliber from the stone
- John wept because he felt this situation and circumstance had no earthly or heavenly solution. John wept because he felt the circumstance was bigger than the Christ.
- "Wept much" – not merely to cry, but to heavily sob and wail loudly
- John wept because the future for mankind looked bleak without a Redeemer to save mankind
- "The question was not, Who is **willing?** But, Who is **worthy?** The ranks of the living and the dead, those on earth, those in heaven, and those in hell, are combed for a worthy king, but not a single one is found." (John Phillips, *Exploring Revelation*, p. 88)
- "A title deed or will can be opened only by the appointed heir, and this is Jesus Christ. No one in all the universe could be found worthy enough to break the seals. No wonder John wept, for he realized that God's glorious redemption plan for mankind could never be completed until the scroll was opened. **The redeemer had to be near of kin, willing to redeem, and able to redeem. Jesus Christ meets all of the qualifications. He**

became flesh, so He is our Kinsman. He loves us and is willing to redeem, and He paid the price, so He is able to redeem." *Wiersbe, Warren W.. Be Victorious (Revelation): In Christ You Are an Overcomer (The BE Series Commentary) (pp. 69-70). David C. Cook. Kindle Edition.*

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ie/ I love Magic Shows – I'm always amazed at how people are cut in half, disappear / reappear, levitate, etc. Though the audience is amazed, the magician and the backstage hands are not. They know how to create the illusion that creates tension and then an amazing resolution.

- What we see in our circumstances are not the full picture. It is what is presented to us in our limited perspective. What we need to understand is that Christ is in full control of the full act.
- John is getting a heavenly perspective. A backstage pass to understand what everyone behind the curtain understands. This is a tremendous privilege for John.

B. Our Future Is Secured Because Christ The Lion Has Conquered All Challenges To Our Future (5)

⁵And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

- One of the elders comforts the tearful John instructing him not to continue crying
- The **Lion of the Tribe of Judah** has conquered

1. Christ Is The Lion King (cf. Lk 49:8-10)

- "Lion" is mentioned 155x in the OT, 9x in the NT, 6x in Revelation
- This is the single reference to Christ as a Lion. It comes from someone in heaven with a heavenly perspective.
- "In Jewish apocalyptic literature contemporary with John, the figure of a lion was used to designate the conquering Messiah who would destroy Rome" (4 Ezra 11:58)." (Johnson, EBC)
- Yet this conquering Messiah will destroy a lot more than Rome. Christ will defeat all sin and those in rebellion against God.
- The Lion is predicted all the way back in Genesis where the descendants (tribe) of Judah would be as a lion whose scepter shall not depart from Judah.

Genesis 49:8-10 8 "Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. 9 Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him? 10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

- v. 8 – he would be victorious
 - "your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies" = control enemy by the nape of the neck

- Then a snake can't bite you
 - A horned animal can't stab you because you keep the head from turning
 - Ie/ Tiger or cheetah kill a wildebeest – a much larger animal – by going for the neck
- V. 9 Like a lion is the King of the beasts, Judah's tribe was compared to a cub, lion and lioness
 - "Scepter" – indicates the King's power
 - "Not depart" – this kingly line will be affirmed through his future descendant David and ultimately to Jesus

2. Christ Is The Root & Fruit Of David (cf. Rev 22:16; Isa 11:1-2; 2 Sam 7:12; Ps 89:3-4, 28-29, 34-37; 2 Chron 21:7; Ps 132:11; Mk 11:10; Lk 1:32-33)

Revelation 22:16 I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the **root** and the **descendant** of David, the bright morning star."

Isaiah 11:1-2 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ² And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

2 Samuel 7:12 When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your **seed** after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

Psalm 89:3-4 ³I have made a **covenant** with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David: ⁴Your seed I will establish forever, And build up your throne to all generations.' "

Psalm 89:28-29 ²⁸My mercy I will keep for him forever, And My **covenant** shall stand firm with him. ²⁹His seed also I will make to endure forever, And his throne as the days of heaven.

Psalm 89:34-37 ³⁴My **covenant** I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips. ³⁵Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David: ³⁶His seed shall endure forever, And his throne as the sun before Me; ³⁷It shall be established forever like the moon, Even like the faithful witness in the sky."

2 Chronicles 21:7 Yet the Lord would not destroy the house of David, because of the **covenant** that He had made with David, and since He had promised to give a lamp to him and to his sons forever.

Psalm 132:11 The Lord swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back: "One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne.

- The promise of royal descendants to David also confirms the Covenant made with Abraham in having kings in the royal line

Mark 11:10 "Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

Luke 1:32-33 ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

- Christ is the Root of David – David came from Christ – all of life originates from Christ
- Christ's kingship is rooted in David – the Eternal King promised from the line of David
- Joseph was a descendant of David through Solomon
- Mary was a descendant of David through Nathan
- Jesus was also the fruit of David
- Christ is not a spur of the moment pick
- This prophecy of Christ being our Lion King is rooted back to the very first book of the Bible – almost 4,000 years ago.

3. Christ Is The Triumphant King

- "conquered" – *enikesen* – from *nikao* – "overcome," "triumph," "prevail," "win a victory"
- Christ defeated sin
- Christ defeated death
- What do we fear most about the future?
 - The effect of evil – sin we've done, sin done to us – Christ defeated it
 - Death
- Christ defeated both
- The point is that when we focus on Christ, He brings us victory. When we look at our circumstance, we'll be overwhelmed.

II. Worshipping Begins When We Know Christ The Lamb Has Saved Us From Our Sin (6-14)

Look To Christ As The Sent Lamb (6)

*“And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I **saw** a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.*

- Though the elder described Christ as a Lion, John sees Christ as the Lamb. Was there some kind of mistake?

- Tommy Tenney, *God's Eye View*: "The problem isn't error; it is *perspective*. When John the Beloved looked upon the scene at that point in the Revelation, he saw the prophetic performance through the eyes and perspective of an audience member having no inside understanding of the divine script or sacred plot line. That is our problem too. We need divine help. We need to get a God's-eye view on things." (p. 163)
- Gr. *Arnon* = "a young sheep", "a pet lamb"
- **Exodus 12:3** "Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of *his* father, a lamb for a household. Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight.'"
- Each Jewish family took care of their lamb for 4 days before they had it sacrificed. Could you imagine a little Mary growing attached to her little lamb whose fleece was white as snow and then to have it sacrificed? There must have been quite an attachment to the little lamb. To give up something you love is sacrifice.

ie/ For families of the soldiers who lost their lives, the sacrifice was quite significant. Though I appreciate the sacrifice of our soldiers, it doesn't hold the same degree of personal impact that it does for the spouses, children and parents of these deceased heroes.

Q: When is the last time we were emotionally moved over the death of Christ because He means something so personal to us?

A. **Standing**

- Christ is now **standing** in the center of the throne – not seated at the right chair of the throne any more
- This solicits a great response of praise
- Christ is now the Revealed One who will unleash the future

B. **Slain**

- "As though it had been slain" = *esphagmenon* = "with its throat cut"
- Perfect tense: a past act with present and future results
- Could refer to the "marks of death" the living Lamb still bore or to his appearance "as if being led to the slaughter," i.e., "marked out for death" (EBC)
- ie/ In *Charlotte's Web*, Wilbur the pig was marked for the slaughter – causing a host of animals like Charlotte the Spider, Templeton the Rat and the Cocker Spaniel to try to save him from becoming pork chops.

C. **Sovereign**

- **Horns** are symbolic of power.

- Seven is symbolic of perfection.
- Seven horns picture Christ's perfect power.
- In Daniel 7, the horns represented the power of nations

- The Lamb is being Lionized!

D. Sees All (cf. Zech 4:10)

- 7 eyes – perfect vision
- Christ sees all

Zechariah 4:10b These seven are the eyes of the Lord, which range through the whole earth.

E. Spirit-Empowered

- The seven Spirits is most likely a reference to the Holy Spirit.
- Seven represents "fullness" and Christ

	Lion	Lamb
Symbolism	Sovereignty	Submission
	Power	Purity
	Victory	Sacrifice
Description	Kingdom Related To Judah = strong & fierce (Gen 49:8-10)	Seven Horns = Perfect Power
	Kingdom Rooted In David = royal & eternal (Rev 22:16)	Seven Eyes = Perfect Spirit of God
Purpose	"Has Prevailed"	"Had Been Slain"
	Opens The Scroll Of Judgment	Pays The Judgment Of Sin

Conclusion:

1. The Lion holds our future in His hand.

Many worry about the future on earth – terrorism, SARS, the war in Iraq, the Middle East, the economy. God is in control of the entire future. Give Him the reigns.

Ie/ Savonarola, preacher in Florence, Italy

- Attacked corruption and immorality in his society
- 1496 – coordinated the "Bonfire of the Vanities" where immoral literature, cosmetics, gambling paraphernalia were burned
- he preached against the Roman Catholic church's view that the Pope was the supreme authority of the church
- thus, he was excommunicated and faced execution
- at his execution he said: "He who believed that Christ rules above, need not fear what happens below."

Many worries below:

Ie/ There is a time a parent will hand over the car keys to their teenager. That takes a lot of faith to hand over such a great responsibility to someone who just got their driver's license.

- How much more faith will it take to handover our future to the One who wrote it?
- Give Christ the steering wheel.

Ie/ Old Greyhound bus commercial: "Leave the driving to us!"

IE/ Clovis Chappell in his book *Questions Jesus Asked* shared this pertinent story: "In the early years of aviation, a pilot was making a flight around the world. After about two hours after his last landing for a fuel stop, he heard a noise on the plane that he recognized as the gnawing of a rat. While on the ground, a rat probably crawled up the plane. He started to worry - for all he knew it could be gnawing on a vital cable or control of the plane. He was two hours from the last landing field and two hours from the next landing field.

Then he remembered that the rat is a rodent. It is not made for high altitude, but to live on the ground and under the ground. So he began to climb. He ascended one thousand feet, then another, until he was more than 20,000 feet high. The gnawing ceased. Two hours later, the pilot landed the plane and found the rat dead.

**Worry is a rodent. It gnaws away at us when our focus is here on earth. When we lift our cares up to God, worry cannot survive.

2. The Lamb secures our future through His sacrifice.

- Many worry about the future after their time on earth. Christ holds future judgment and salvation in His hands.
- The Scripture paints a frightening picture to those outside of Christ – judgment and eternal suffering.
- But the Scriptures also give us a solution – the sacrifice of Christ. Christ, the Lamb, was slain to pay for the penalty of our sin. Trust Christ as the Savior of your sins.