

The Lion Lamb

June 4, 2023

Revelation 5:1-8

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. 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."

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. 7 And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. 8 And 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.

Ezekiel 2:9-10, Daniel 12:4 & Revelation 10:9 inform our understanding of the Scroll as do chapters 6 and following

Ezekiel 2:9-10

9 And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. 10 And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning and woe.

The scroll contains the eternal decrees of God for all of history

Who is worthy? Able to open and administer the eternal plan of God?

Testimony of the elder: The Lion of Judah can open and administer it

Gen 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.

Jesus is the Lion and the Lamb

"The slain Lamb thus represents the image of a conqueror who was mortally wounded while defeating an enemy. Christ's death, the end-time sacrifice of the messianic Lamb, becomes interpreted as a sacrifice that not only redeems but also conquers." G.K. Beale

7 Horns are sign of His perfect power (The Lion)

7 Eyes are sign of His omniscience and the operation of His Spirit throughout the world

And what does that mean for us?

It means we worship.

It means our weeping is turned to joy because there is one worthy who can make all things right.

Application:

To you who are followers of Jesus:

- Focus on the diverse excellencies of Jesus.

To you who are seeking God: Understand that only a lion or only a lamb is half the god you need.

- You need more than king, and you need more than tender hand of comfort.

- You need lamb who can empathize. You need lion who has overcome.
- That is who Jesus is. And that is displayed in the Table laid out before you.