

# The Conquest of Humility & Sacrifice

(12/28/25)

Please turn to *Luke 2:39 & Exodus 12:21 & Revelation 5:1*.

***For the last 3 sermons***, we've spoken of the great victory Jesus achieved just by being born.

- Christ coming to this world was an INVASION.
- The beginning of a great CONQUEST of God taking back the planet from Satan.

**The “stumbling block” to some**, then and now, Jew and Gentile alike, is ***the unorthodox way Jesus implemented this invasion***. Instead of entering in like King David leading his troops against Philistines and giants, He introduced Himself more like Joseph.

- Joseph was hated by his brothers who then attempted to kill him by throwing him in a pit.
- When he didn't die, they sold him into slavery.
- Even though he was a hard worker and kept his nose clean, he was falsely accused of sexual assault by his master's wife and put in jail.
- While in jail, he interpreted the dreams of 2 men who were close to Pharaoh. He prophesied freedom and restoration to one, then asked “tell Pharaoh about me and ask him to free me from jail.”
- The fellow forgot about Joseph, so Joe stayed in prison unjustly for years after.

**Let's go back to the Virgin Mary** and her husband Joseph, both of whom had angelic visitations, prophecies fulfilled and confirmed. Remember Gabriel told them Jesus would “sit on the throne of DAVID” and that He would do so “forever.”

Every Jewish person on the 1<sup>st</sup> century who would have heard that would have connected that to **military invasion & conquest**. Establishment of a kingdom and EXPANSION. It would have been understandable for them to assume it would be done the same way it had been for (then) 4000 years: via the military.

**Except...Jesus didn't do it that way**. He did invade and did begin conquest: but not with sword and chariot. While today's message isn't a continuation of the latest sermon series, let's pick up reading where we last left off: in Luke's Gospel chapter 2. Wise men have come and gone. Joseph took Mary and Jesus and fled to Egypt to avoid Herod's pogrom, then came back to Israel a few years later...let's pick it up from there.

**[Luk 2:39-41 ESV]** 39 And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And the child grew

and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. 41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the **Feast of the Passover**.

PAUSE IN THE NARRATIVE. *What is Passover and why did/do the Jews*

*celebrate it?* Long story short: when the Hebrews were still in Egypt, the 10<sup>th</sup> Plague that God sent to the Egyptians for refusing to free the Hebrews was the death of every firstborn son. God told Moses how the Hebrew people would be spared such a fate:

**[Exo 12:21-23 ESV]** 21 Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go and **select lambs** for yourselves according to your clans, and **kill the Passover lamb**. 22 Take a bunch of **hyssop and dip it in the blood** that is in the basin, and **touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood** that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning. 23 For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and **when he sees the blood** on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the **LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you**.

Let's break this down:

- There's a dangerous entity called "The Destroyer" aka "The Angel of Death" in other translations of the Bible.
- He's going to pass through the land of Egypt and whichever household has the blood of the lamb painted on its door, he will pass OVER that house and not enter it.

**Hyssop were branches of a bush** and was a medicinal herb of PURGING sickness and infection from a person's body. Let's put it together: the LORD tells Moses to **use Hyssop branches as the paintbrush, and the blood of the lamb as paint**.

Then He gave specific instructions on WHERE to paint: **the 2 doorposts and lintel...so it would have formed a cross**...not a perfect one, but definitely God's intent.

When Jesus was actually hanging on the cross 1478 years later, a sponge dipped in vinegar was lifted up to Jesus' mouth...*and the wood attached to the sponge was hyssop*.

**[Jhn 19:29 ESV]** 29 A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine **on a hyssop branch** and held it to his mouth.

**Now we're back to Luke 2**, when Jesus was 12, and His parents took him to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. Let's see what happens next.

**[Luk 2:41-49 ESV]** 41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. 43

And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, 44 but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, 45 and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. 46 **After three days** they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." 49 And he said to them, "**Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?**"

Now please listen closely:

- 12-year-old Jesus goes to Jerusalem with parents to celebrate Passover.
- In Judaism, a person reaches spiritual adulthood at 12 (“bar mitzvah” for boys, “bat mitzvah” for girls.)
- Jesus disappears...for 3 days...the reappears.
- Where was He? His Father’s house.

**The way Jesus chose to bring His invasion and takeover of earth was to be sacrificed.** To become the Passover Lamb for the whole world.

He was than Messiah and a Prophet: *He was God*. God humbled Himself. God allowed His own creations to reject and crucify Him. And this made Him victorious.

Here’s the problem for the world: **there is a Destroyer, an angel of death.**

Jesus doesn’t fight against death and the devil with a gun, **but with blood**—His own. By allowing Himself to be the Passover Lamb.

**Who killed the Passover Lamb in the days of Moses?** The people. Who kills the Passover Lamb in Jesus’ time and where was it done? Laypeople still did their own, but so did the priests and they did so in the Temple...so it was both.

**Jesus was crucified by both the people and the priests.** He’s crucified by everyone who commits sin, whether Jew or Gentile. To this day, I still see Christians pointing fingers as to WHO killed Jesus. I did and here’s why: I need the AOD to Passover me. I can’t save myself. No one else can, either. My sin put Jesus on that Cross and His blood covered my spiritual doorpost and lintels. And now the AOD will Passover me and Jesus will grant me everlasting life! Anyone needing to point a finger: I’m your man.

*He was meant to die, be gone for 3 days, then come back from the dead.*

**Birth leads to life, life leads to death, and death leads to resurrection**...for one who believes in Jesus as their Passover Lamb. We are immune to the Destroyer.

What did John the Baptist call Jesus?

**[Jhn 1:29 ESV]** 29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "**Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**"

**Now let's fast forward to 90 AD**, when the same John is caught up to the throne room of Heaven. He sees God the Father sitting on a throne, 4 weird looking angels in front of the LORD, and 24 elders sitting on thrones around God. Then John sees this:

**[Rev 5:1-4 ESV]** 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 7-Sealed Scroll is the beginning of the end.** The breaking of the 1<sup>st</sup> seal will start a countdown process that ends in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming.

***Problem: no one is WORTHY.*** If no one can open this scroll, then the Kingdom doesn't come to earth. The prophecies we've read about in Daniel, the ones where the "Son of Man" "comes with the clouds" to earth and takes it over, don't happen.

**What must one have done to become worthy?** What's the qualifier? Let's keep reading:

**[Rev 5:5 ESV]** 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."

These are words. Please remember in Revelation, **there are things John SEES and other things he HEARS.** The heavenly elder says a being called "The Lion of the tribe of Judah" has conquered. *Who is this and what did He conquer?*

## **Clearly this act of “conquering” has made him WORTHY.**

[Rev 5:6 ESV] 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.

We're not focusing on the 7 horns or eyes right now. **John doesn't SEE a lion, he sees a Lamb that's already been killed.**

Our questions are answered: **it's Jesus and what He did to become worthy to start the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming was die for our sins, protecting us from the Destroyer.**

The CONQUERING Jesus did was **allowing Himself to be killed...martyred.**

Him being crucified was *more effective than if He'd rode in on a white horse, crowned, and swinging a sword.*

What made Him WORTHY was **choosing to BE the Passover Lamb** to a whole planet full of people who didn't deserve it.

**What they (we) deserved was Revelation 19 Jesus** Who does ride in on a white horse, crowned, swinging a sword, and making military war on the nations.

I LOVE being a Christian and here's why: I'm always getting a whole bunch of good things that I don't deserve and haven't earned.

- I didn't deserve forgiveness even though I asked.
- I didn't earn the status of being God's son and Him being my Father.
- I don't deserve for God the Holy Spirit to make ME His Temple...where was Jesus for the 3 days He was separated from his parents?
- I didn't earn the resurrection from the dead, yet it's going to happen o me anyway.

**By shedding His blood and dying, Jesus CONQUERED both death and Satan.**

**By becoming our Passover Lamb, He is WORTHY to not just open the scroll but to be worshipped as God.** As we continue our reading in Revelation 5, let's see how Him appearing as the slain lamb affects those already in Heaven:

*[Rev 5:7-9 ESV]* 7 And he [JESUS THE LAMB] 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. 9 And 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,

Consider: the beings closest to God, whose full-time job is in with God nearest to His throne, **fall down and worship the Lamb, Jesus**, and declare His worthiness to open the scroll. They do so right in front of Father God Who doesn't protest. If Jesus weren't part of the Godhead, but was just a prophet, Father would have put a stop to this immediately!

**So how should Christians model their lives?** Those of us ransomed by the blood of Christ? How are we to overcome and conquer?

*The same way He did.*

A **growing trend among some in the western church is the position of Dominionism which has morphed into "Christian Nationalism."** Allow me to explain.

**The basic premise of CN is to marry the Church and the State**, turning nations into Christian nations replete with Christian laws, Christian only leaders, etc.

I've said this from the pulpit before, **but it's never worked—not once—when the Church attempts to marry the State.** The Church is married to Jesus alone, and anything else is adultery and doomed to fail. The Catholic Church tried it and had a facsimile that lasted nearly 1000 years: the Roman and Byzantine empires.

*CN means for the church to conquer and seize power through worldly means.* A servant isn't greater than their Master and ours is Jesus. He didn't seize power when He was here the first time. He didn't get Pilate voted out nor did He execute King Herod. He didn't install Himself as the ruler of all and then boot the Romans out of Israel.

## **He overcame by the shedding of His blood, He conquered through His own death.**

As smart as he is, *the devil never saw this coming*. Neither did the religious folk, the laypeople, or anyone:

**[1Co 2:8 ESV]** 8 None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

**The “rulers” being referred to here are both human and fallen angelic (Satan).** They thought that by killing Jesus they had won, but it was the opposite. When He came back from the dead 3 days later it wasn’t like the raising of Lazarus. Jesus was in a whole new body that was immortal...*immune from the Angel of Death*. Paul said it this way:

**[Rom 6:9 ESV]** 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, **will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.**

**We may never have to physically die for Jesus**, mainly because we live in safe, secure America. Yet what about our hearts? What about our pride? What about our desire for revenge? What needs to be crucified in our lives and **do we really believe that, if we do so, we will be the ones who win?**

At the very end before Jesus comes back, *Satan and his angels are thrown to earth*—we read those verses on Christmas Eve. A voice from heaven says woe to those who are on earth, because Satan is now here and he’s really angry.

**When that time comes, what are we supposed to do?** Is there a gun big enough to shoot Lucifer down? A tank? A missile or bomb? If we gathered enough people in an army, maybe we could take him then? How will we conquer the devil himself?? Here’s our answer:

**[Rev 12:11 ESV]** 11 And they have **conquered** him by **the blood of the Lamb** and by the word of their testimony, for they **loved not their lives even unto death.**

The Christians who are alive when Satan is thrown down **don’t fight him with guns or strongly worded Facebook posts.** They beat him by having their spiritual doors and lintels painted with the blood of the Lamb Jesus. They conquer him by being willing to sacrifice themselves just as Jesus did.

Here's our takeaway: *maybe the battle we need to win isn't going to be won by force.*

Maybe it will be done **by crucifying our pride, our selfishness, our rebellion toward God, and our desire for revenge.**

- Maybe our spouse isn't our enemy, but we're actually 2 people on the same team.
- Perhaps we don't have to compete with them for love and to have our needs meant.
- Maybe other Christians we disagree with doctrinally haven't fallen into heresy, but are our brothers and sisters in Jesus and we're united by the same Holy Spirit.
- Perhaps our obnoxious co-worker has issues that have nothing to do with us. Maybe some humility and gentleness on our part might get them to open up and desire Jesus.

What if we started winning battles the way Jesus did?