



03-15-19

In Like a Lamb, Out Like a Lion  
Pt. 3, Proclamation

Happy Friday and welcome back to the theme for March, "In Like a Lamb, Out Like a Lion".

We are playing upon March's reputation for transition, and the old adage that came about as a result of its often-wild weather swings. The saying predicts that if March comes in like a lamb (mild weather) then it will go out like a lion (tempestuous weather), or vice versa.

Now, who knows if this trend really holds, but the adage DOES describe the two Advents, i.e., "comings" of the LORD Jesus Christ. Jesus came first as the meek and lowly Lamb of God. Isaiah prophesied, *He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth* (Isaiah 53:7). But, at his Second Advent Jesus will come as the LION of the Tribe of Judah (Revelation 5:5); He will come in wrath, as the JUDGE. Hence our first installment emphasized the "Transition": The Lamb... but then the Lion!

Last week we emphasized the topic of "Anticipation". As His disciples stood agape on the Mt. of Olives and watched Jesus ascend back to the Father, two angels interrupted their gaze, proclaiming, *Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven* (Acts 1:11). Jesus is coming again; and those who are wise are even now prepared and anticipating His coming! Friends, we want to meet Jesus as our Lamb, and not as a LION because there is no second chance! Jude warns, *...Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him* (Jude 14, 15).

And now, this week, Part 3: **Proclamation**. Have you ever wondered why people invite you to go to church with them, why people spend their free time to leave Gospel tracts on your door, and why people think it important to tell you how they got “saved”? What’s all this “saved” business; what does “saved” mean?

Why are these people so concerned with your spiritual beliefs anyway? And why are these people so strange! They try to live clean, wholesome, and separated lives. They don’t party, get drunk, fornicate, do drugs, cheat, lie, and willingly deceive and use others. Why are these people faithful church attenders? Why do these people give so much of their time to their church ministries? Why do these people give lots of their hard-earned money to support the ministries of their church? Why do these people seem so urgently compelled to “convert” you to “their religion”? What’s the big deal? Are these people—as the Naturalists assert—just simple-minded, deluded, cultists, following a fairy-tale of religion? Were the godless Marxists of the 19th century correct in their arrogant assertion that “religion is the opium of the people”? <sup>1</sup> Karl Marx’s full quote was,

"Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, and the soul of soulless conditions. It is the opium of the people". <sup>2</sup>

The answers to all of these questions is this: your concerned and seemingly-fanatic religious friends who bug you to go to church with them, who repeatedly tell you the “Gospel”, who feel compelled to tell you how they became “saved”... have all discovered the most wonderful thing in the Universe! And it's not a Powerball jackpot or a free time share in Hawaii! **They have discovered the GRACE of God!** They have discovered the forgiveness of sin! They have been granted eternal life with their Savior, Jesus Christ... and they care enough about YOU that they want the same FOR you!

Born-again Christians are anxious for your soul because Jesus is anxious for your soul. Every human being that has come out of a womb has been born alienated from their Creator; we are born enemies of our Creator because our parents rebelled against God! When Eve and then Adam broke fellowship with God, they also lost their relationship to God! Instantly their eternal spirits “died”, i.e., they became alienated from God. And this alienation that our sin natures produces is unrecoverable in and of ourselves! Paul explains it like this: we are ...*DEAD in trespasses and sins* (Ephesians 2:1; 2:5; Colossians 2:13). Dead people can’t do anything! They are DEAD, and in this case, spiritually dead!

And this is precisely why God incarnated Himself as Jesus of Nazareth, and offered Himself as the sinless substitute for our redemption. We couldn’t get back to God! So God Himself suffered the penalty of our rebellion, in order to give us the opportunity to be brought back into an eternal fellowship with Him. Jesus came as the LAMB or

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<sup>1</sup> Marx, Karl. 1885. *A Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right*. Published in the Journal Deutsch–Französische Jahrbücher.

<sup>2</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opium\\_of\\_the\\_people](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opium_of_the_people)

Sacrifice of God, paying God's demand of shed blood and death for the remission of sins. Jesus suffered death and Hell in our stead, He rose from the dead victorious over Death and Hell, and He offers his forgiveness to whosoever will call upon His name (Romans 10:13) in repentance and faith.

Born-again Christians share Jesus' concern and compassion. He is not willing that any should perish. The word "perish" refers to the second death, i.e., the eternal incarceration of God-rejectors in that place the Bible calls The Lake of Fire.

So, why do born-again Christians proclaim this so-called "Gospel", i.e., "good news"? Believers proclaim Jesus' Gospel because they want you to know the grace and forgiveness of God. They do not want you to waste both this life... and then your eternity. Like their Savior, they plead,

*...Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely (Revelation 22:17).*

Jesus will never force anyone to repent (acknowledge their sin and turn from it), and then cry out for His forgiveness. But... both Jesus and born-again Christians warn that a proud, stubborn, and unrepentant heart will end in everlasting regret and the perdition of The Lake of Fire.

Jesus came first as the loving Lamb of God, willingly dying and suffering for the sins of the whole world. Now is humanities chance to humble themselves before their Creator and cry out for His grace... because when He returns His countenance will be that of the LION and in righteous wrath He will judge God-rejectors. Jesus and His bride (the churches) cry out, "Come!" But the choice is yours.

God bless and consider?