

The Lion And The Lamb

Long Beach Alliance Church • January 20th, 2013 • Pastor Chris Lankford

And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth.

~Revelation 5:4 (NASB)

1) The Conquest Of Judah's Davidic Lion

- A) Jesus Christ, the great overcomer, is identified by the Messianic titles of "Lion of Judah" (Genesis 49:8-10) and "Root of David" (Isaiah 11:1-10). These OT images (Revelation 5:5) resonate with military overtones.
- B) These motifs of military might and conquering provide key foreshadowing (foreboding?) of what is to come. The Davidic Lion is not coming for a pleasant social visit! He is coming to conquer/overcome (knee-kah-oh, 5:4).

2) Conquest Through Sacrifice & Spirit

- A) Just as we are expecting the host of Heaven to storm the scene, from the midst (middle, near) of God's throne comes a "Lamb standing, as if slain..." (5:6). The Lion is a Lamb! The overcoming power of Christ is in His sacrifice!
- B) The Lamb has seven horns & seven eyes, representing a fullness of both power (omnipotence) and knowledge (omnipresence). These represent the fullness of God's Spirit, sent in power to conquer (cf. Zechariah 4:6).

- C) The picture we see of Jesus Christ is one of sacrifice (slaughtered lamb) and the powerful Spirit of God (the three sevens). How do we “reflect” the overcoming/ conquering power of God, Christ, and Spirit? We “live like the Lamb,” conquering by sacrificial Spirit-led living!

3) The Scroll With Seven Seals

- A) The seven sealed scroll/book still located to/in God’s right (hand) (Revelation 5:1), is now received by Jesus Christ from God (5:7).
- B) The exclusive authority to receive the scroll, open the seals, and reveal the mysterious message belongs to Jesus Christ by virtue of His sacrificial overcoming (5:5-7).
- C) This is an important moment in Revelation, where God’s authority and power are transferred to the Lamb, who now takes over as the primary character of Revelation!
- D) The implication of the seven sealed scroll is that its contents will be revealed progressively through the rest of the book. Each seal which is broken draws us closer to the contents of the scroll being fully revealed.
- E) Interestingly, the book which Jesus Christ receives from God is not mentioned through the rest of Revelation! There is a similar (but obviously different) book mentioned later (Revelation 10), but this book seems to move to the background. Why?
- F) Simply, this book contains the fullness of the Apocalypse, the complete Revelation of future events (1:1, 19). When this book is completed, it leads to the completion or fulfillment of all things (Revelation 21).

