

The Lion and The Lamb; Revelation 5:3-5

I. A Picture

- A. "A Picture is worth a thousand words"
- B. "A thousand words will not leave so deep an impression as one deed." Henrik Ibsen (a Norwegian playwright)
- C. God gives us pictures in several of His letters to us
- D. One of these is a window into the throne room beginning in Revelation 4
- E. Revelation 5:3–5 (ESV); 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."

II. The Lion

- A. We can talk all we want about the characteristics of a Lion and how it roars over its prey, but this is a picture meant to draw us back to Egypt
- B. Genesis 49:1–2 (ESV); ¹ Then Jacob called his sons and said, "Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you what shall happen to you in days to come. ² "Assemble and listen, O sons of Jacob, listen to Israel your father.
- C. As Jacob gathered his sons to bless them, so God has gathered his children to reveal the blessing
- D. Genesis 49:8–12 (NASB95); ⁸ "Judah, your brothers shall praise you; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's sons shall bow down to you. ⁹ "Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He couches, he lies down as a lion, And as a lion, who dares rouse him up? ¹⁰ "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes, And to him *shall* be the obedience of the peoples. ¹¹ "He ties *his* foal to the vine, And his donkey's colt to the choice vine; He washes his garments in wine, And his robes in the blood of grapes. ¹² "His eyes are dull from wine, And his teeth white from milk.
 - 1. Your version may have something different in verse 10 — the Hebrew literally says "until comes Shiloh"
 - 2. God is giving us a picture of the role of the Messiah
 - 3. Isaiah 63:1–3 (ESV); ¹ Who is this who comes from Edom, in crimsoned garments from Bozrah, he who is splendid in his apparel, marching in the greatness of his strength? "It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save." ² Why is your apparel red, and your garments like his who treads in the winepress? ³ "I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with me; I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; their lifeblood spattered on my garments, and stained all my apparel.
 - 4. Revelation 14:19–20 (ESV); ¹⁹ So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. ²⁰ And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia.
 - 5. Revelation 19:11–16 (ESV); ¹¹ Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵ From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

E. "Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered" v. 5

III. The Lamb

A. Passover

1. From the last plague on Egypt, the death of their firstborn, "from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the handmill"
 - a) Water to blood (the Nile was (and is) the lifeblood of Egypt)
 - b) Frogs
 - c) Gnats (lice)
 - d) Flies (horse fly)
 - e) Egyptian livestock die
 - f) Boils ("something set on fire")
 - g) Hail ("very heavy")
 - h) Locusts ("all that the hail has left")
 - i) Darkness (only over the place where the Egyptians lived)
2. There is one last plague — God is going to require them to make a big sacrifice for their deliverance
3. Exodus 12:3–5 (ESV); ³ Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. ⁴ And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats,
4. The blood of the lamb was to be put on the two doorposts and the lintel
5. The destroyer would 'pass over' all the homes with this blood and would only destroy the firstborn in those homes without the blood

B. The Lamb of God

1. John 1:29 (ESV); The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"
2. "Lamb" — a one year old lamb
3. "For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed." (1 Corinthians 5:7b)
4. As Israel sacrificed a lamb (many lambs) for their deliverance — God sacrificed The Lamb for our deliverance

C. Revelation 5:6 (ESV); 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.

D. "Lamb" — a one year old lamb

E. Standing yet slain — all the marks of a lamb slain in sacrifice yet standing

F. The Lion of Judah has conquered Satan giving us victory over death

IV. The Lion and The Lamb

A. We have a conquering Lion who has won the victory

B. He won through his sacrifice, overcoming the power of sin and death

C. Revelation 14:13 (ESV); And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

D. "A thousand words will not leave so deep an impression as one deed." Henrik Ibsen