

The Lion Lamb

Revelation 5: 5-7

Further comments.

Thanks to Brother Russel for the introduction. Bro Russel emphasised how the Apostle John is like being taken in a time machine, way into the future to witness the glory of all the immortal saints around the throne- in unity with the Father – yet aspects of the same vision transport him back to his own day to see the unfolding of history going forward, so that there is a Revelation of what happens to enable that glory to occur. Our Brother used the term “time loop” which is a helpful idea.

The Hebrew mind was accustomed to thinking like this. Often the end result is described, and then the detail is given on how events lead up to it, and there are many examples of this.

In this case John was part of the future vision in immortality, but also part of the events leading up to it – he wept much. It was because he lived for the future.

5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

Although John would have known full well, that the Lord Jesus Christ had prevailed, he wept. It was part of the vision of course, although he may well have wept in reality as well. The vision seems to suggest that there was a pause, as if a search is made to find someone to unroll the scroll. And no man is found.

Christ Jesus is more than man. Not only did he prevail against his own temptations, his thoughts, he prevailed against his lusts, and against his flesh. But in glory and with the saints in glory with him, around the throne, (in the vision) it is evident that John can see Christ and the saints in unity with the Father. We recall in Psalm

110:1 ... *The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.*

So in every sense the Lord Christ was qualified, having prevailed also over all his enemies, the empires of evil, the false religious systems, – as the unfurling of the scroll would show! Although John was shown the end – the glory of victory, quite how circumstances led to that situation, he in his mortal capacity had no way of knowing. It was all there in the scroll which was sealed.

The unfurling of the scroll did not just represent the revelation of knowledge and information to those who were eagerly awaiting God's Word to be fulfilled.

It also represented the actual occurrence of history. In other words, the one responsible for unfurling the scroll, was the one who would ensure the actual events portrayed in the scroll would actually take place. This is borne out by the comments of the Apostle Peter about the Lord Jesus: 1 Peter 3:22: *Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.*

The unlocking of the seals, represented the manipulation of the authorities and powers by use of the angels given into the charge of the Lord Jesus.

The tremendous victory of the Lord Jesus over his own flesh, throughout his life enabled all other victories to be possible. All hinged upon that combat in Judea, in the life of one man. Brother Russel has already shown us the reasons why such a hero is symbolised as a Lion, with that helpful comparison.

Yet in the vision, John did not see a noble and regal triumphant lion, gazing out across the scenes of his victory. No as he looked at that vision there, emerging from the centre came another creature...



6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.



In the above artist's impression (David J Miles) the Lamb standing that had been slain... (the dried blood on its throat is designed to depict that) This stunning revelation would have not been lost on the

Apostle John, who would have known exactly in every way what that symbol meant. He was an eye witness of the first man, resurrected from the dead, and to then stand – that is to be given eternal life. Resurrected to be immortal, death having no more hold over him. The Lamb – the Passover Lamb, the morning and evening sacrifice Lamb, the continual burnt offering - The *Lamb of God which which takes away the sin of the world*. The Lamb a more powerful figure then, than even the regal lion. The Lamb – the Greek used here is even *Little Lamb* – to emphasis it's humility – Only one in whom there is no blemish, no guile, no spot or wrinkle of any such thing, not a bone of him broken – wholly consumed, and when it was wholly burnt it was transformed into a sweet savour which ascended unto the Father. This is a lovely and beautiful symbol, because the Lord Jesus in his life was never fierce, never used sharp claws, never intimidated, never scared anyone – like a Lion does – even though he could have done. He was Lamb – like in every way - Isaiah 42:3: *A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench:*

John saw this figure, this Little Lamb appear as the central figure in the vision, growing larger and coming to the fore. This Lamb which had shown humility, innocence, dumb before his shearers (Isaiah 53) a lamb without blemish and without spot: *Who truly was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you*, (1 Peter 1:19, 20) was now looked a rather unusual Lamb. It had seven horns, and seven eyes! Lambs which have horns are normally rams, - but not this one. This one did not boss about the flock, or lead by charging and locking horns, instead it led by example. The horns are a symbol of power – prophesied to be given to the Anointed (Christ) in 1 Samuel 2:10 *The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.*(Christ)

The Seven horns represent the ability, the qualification, and the fulfilment of complete power, of the subjection of all his enemies: Philippians 2:9-11: *Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*



The seven eyes represent the all-seeing capability – omniscience of he in which all power is invested, and through who and by whom all consists (Colossians 1:16-18)

In 2 Chronicles 16:9 we can read: *For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him...*

Zechariah 3:9 and 4:10 are Old Testament examples of where seven eyes are a symbol of the immortal saints being the eyes of the LORD. It is worth noting that seven is in Scripture a number which symbolises completeness, but also in the Hebrew, the word seven is *sheva* which is the same word for oath. Thus the Lamb with the

seven horns and the seven eyes represents Jesus Christ and his Flock who are bound to him by the Oath of the Covenant –

After writing down these details of the vision, John then saw how this Lamb

7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

This is thought provoking. In previous classes we have discussed and studied the One Sitting Upon The Throne. This also represents the Lord Jesus. So how can the Lord Jesus take the scroll from the Lord Jesus? we might immediately think.

It is because the two symbols represent two different aspects. The One upon the throne represents Christ Jesus in Kingly aspect, a manifestation of the Father. The Lamb having been slain represents the process whereby he got there – again, it depicts a time loop. Ultimately the power he has at his disposal is derived from the Father, but he is only able to use that power because of the victory he won. Only able to be a Lion, because of the work of the Lamb. True is the Proverb 16:32 *He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that rules his spirit than he that taketh a city.*

A similar idea is found in 2 Timothy 2:12 *If we suffer [endure, persevere], we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:* That is if we would rule, first we must serve. This is supremely exemplified in Jesus Christ – receiving the scroll, and proceeding to unseal the scroll.

History has been in safe hands these last 2000 years. Everything has occurred exactly as the Divine Prophecy dictated. We can be sure that the same safe hands are carrying, holding, guiding us, and will conduct the Kingdom in glory, honour and great joy to those who believe, and who desire to understand these things.

Brother Terry