

# "The Lion Is the Lamb"

Revelation 1 and 5

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connect  
groups

## PATH

There's something marvelous about restored vintage objects. Collectors respect antique cars and love to restore vintage vehicles, spending time and talent on them so they may be enjoyed by all. In a similar way, God loves to restore people. The Lord takes broken people who have been damaged by sin and restores them fully—redemption through Jesus' resurrection. Because Jesus lives, so can we!

I. The Scene (Revelation 1:10-18; 5:1-4)

II. The Savior (Revelation 5:5-7)

III. The Song (Revelation 5:8-10)

## POINTS

### The Scene

- The book of Revelation is a collection of prophecies concerning the future—the end of the age and a glimpse of heaven. John, one of Jesus' inner circle, recorded Revelation on the island of Patmos, a Roman penal colony. John saw a vision of the future which revealed God's glorious second coming—His final victory.
- John used many symbols to illustrate the prophecies in Revelation: lampstands, trumpets, bowls, creatures, etc. The greatest symbol used is the lion and the lamb. The contrast of lion and lamb shows two sides of Jesus' character: meek and mighty. In this passage, we see the Lion—a living, resurrected Christ—glorified and magnified.
- The scroll holds the fate of the earth and must be opened by the only one qualified to open it. The scroll—the title deed to the earth—belongs to God; He created the world and gave it as a gift to humans. God allowed Satan to invade the earth, infecting it with sin through man's fall and taking ownership of the earth (see 2 Corinthians 4:4), causing creation to groan (see Romans 8:14-22).
- "Who is worthy to break the seals on this scroll and open it?" (Revelation 5:2, NLT). Only Jesus has the divine right, authority, and power to rule the earth (see Revelation 5:5).

### The Savior

- The phrase "Lion of Judah" is used to refer to Jesus twenty-four times in Revelation. It was first introduced in

Genesis 49:8-10, in reference to Jacob, the future ruler of the tribe of Judah.

- The Lord promised King David that his offspring would rule forever. The apostle John knew the prophecies, so he understood the connection to Christ, the Messiah. John saw the Lion of Judah, the heir to David's throne, mighty and enthroned. John also saw the Lamb, the final sacrifice. Lambs were associated with Passover, a sign of violence and suffering, a sacrifice for sin.
- John saw Jesus with His scars; in heaven, Jesus may still have scars and marks of the cross. But instead of reminders of humiliation, they'll be badges of honor, showing what He did to save the world.
- Notice the words "now standing" (v. 6, NLT). The Lamb is not lying down; He is alive, ready for action. Jesus has the meekness of a lamb, but the majesty of a lion. These two characteristics qualify Him as the liberator and restorer of the world.
- In His first coming, Jesus came as a lamb; in His second coming, He'll come as a lion. Jesus rescued the world as a lamb and will rule it as a lion.

### The Song

- In verse 8, we read Jesus "took the scroll." This is the greatest act in history, an act of God's sovereignty over creation. Everything John was describing culminated in this moment. Jesus took the title deed of what was lost and took control, bringing everlasting change.
- "And they sang" (v. 9). Worship is the only earthly activity that will continue

in heaven. Every Christian should be a singing son or daughter. Easter is the moment Christians should break forth in song; it's the pinnacle of our Christian priorities.

- God is not impressed with secret admirers, so practice praise now—give Christ the glory.
- Jesus is worthy to rule the world as the Lion because He died for the world as the Lamb (v. 9). It is the shed blood of Christ that affords transformation.
- The Bible mentions blood 424 times; blood symbolizes human life, and human life was infected with sin. When Jesus shed His blood, He took the sin of the world on Himself so that all who believe are restored in their relationship with the Father. Either humanity pays for sin, or someone pays the price for us—something only Jesus could do.
- John summarized the immensity of the moment with one sentence: "Behold... a Lamb" (v. 6).
- The Old Testament asked the question: "Where is the lamb?" (Genesis 22:6); the New Testament answered the question: "Behold! The Lamb..." (John 1:29). In heaven, God's children will sing "worthy is the Lamb" (Revelation 5:12).
- Jesus made a great decision: "No one takes [My life] from Me, but I lay it down" (John 10:18). Because Jesus laid His life down for us, we must make a decision: whether or not to follow the Lamb—the one who will provide a divine blood transfusion, bringing you from the darkness to the light.

## PRACTICE

**Connect Up:** The resurrection of Jesus is the cornerstone of the Christian faith. As we've seen throughout the *Bloodline* series, it was not an isolated or unknown event, but was promised and prophesied. Discuss how Jesus fulfilled the following Old Testament prophecies.

- Psalm 22
- Psalm 41:9
- Isaiah 53:3
- Hosea 6:1-2
- Zechariah 11:12

**Connect In:** For the church, the resurrection is the reason we exist. Because He is risen, we the redeemed live in and through Him. There are too many passages in the New Testament regarding the resurrection to list. A record is found here: <https://carm.org/death-and-resurrection-passages-new-testament>. As an example of the New

Testament references, use the book of Ephesians to discuss the importance of the resurrection to the Bible and church. Look up the following to discuss:

- Ephesians 1:7—Redeemed through blood
- Ephesians 1:20—Jesus exalted
- Ephesians 2:6—Raised up to sit with Christ
- Ephesians 2:13—Made right by the blood of Christ
- Ephesians 2:16—Reconciled by the cross
- Ephesians 5:25—Christ gave Himself for the Church

**Connect Out:** It was the resurrection that caused the Church to evangelize, telling the world about Christ rising from the dead. In Acts 2 we see a model of the church (v. 42: apostles' doctrine, fellowship, communion, and prayer); we are also given a model for evangelism (see Acts 2:36-41). This model includes several aspects:

- Preaching: proclaiming the crucified and risen Lord (v. 36)
- Piqued attention: the people were "cut to the heart" (v. 37)
- Penitence: the people repented (v. 38)
- Public testimony: a call for baptism, a public statement of faith (v. 38)
- Promise: once they believe, the person is given the gift of the Holy Spirit—they were saved (vv. 38-39)

The result of Peter's evangelism is that many were saved (Acts 2:40-42). Discuss how these elements are needed in our proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection. Take time to pray for those that gave their life to Christ this past weekend and pray for more people to repent and believe.