



"DEAR CHURCH"

A SERIES ON THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

"DEAR CHURCH", PART 10 THE LION AND THE LAMB

September 29, 2019

Pastor Randy Remington

BIBLICAL TEXT(S)

MAIN TEXT(S):

Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. And they sang a new song, saying:

"You are worthy to take the scroll

and to open its seals,

because you were slain,

and with your blood you purchased for God

persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.

You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,

and they will reign on the earth."

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they were saying:

"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,

to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength

and honor and glory and praise!"

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb

be praise and honor and glory and power,

for ever and ever!"

The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped. (Rev. 5:1-14)

SUMMARY

Revelation chapter 5 is intimately tied to the previous chapter. Both chapters give us a "behind the scenes" view of what the world looks like from God's perspective. John sees a scroll with seven seals. There is no one that is worthy to open this scroll. John despairs and weeps. Then, one of the elders present tells John not to worry, because there is one who can open the scroll, the Lion of Judah, the Root of David, who appears as a lamb who was slain. This lamb is worthy to open the scroll because he has sacrificed himself.

This passage, while it may seem mysterious and strange to the modern reader, teaches us something important. In God's economy, power and honor are not gained by conquest or brilliance. Rather, it is through self-sacrifice that one gains power in God's kingdom.

"There is an eternal throne in Heaven and the one who sits on it is worthy of all honor and praise."

—Pastor Randy

Just as Jesus was willing to sacrifice himself for a sinful and unworthy humanity, we are called to do the same. If we want to be like Jesus, to be great in God's kingdom, we are to display our power in the same way Jesus did, by sacrificing ourselves, even for those who are unworthy.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage and the speaker's message, helping them understand and apply the teaching.

LEAN IN

These are icebreaker/warm up questions, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. Have you ever come through what seemed like a hopeless situation? What happened?
2. Have you ever found something out about a friend, family member, or coworker that completely changed what you thought about them? What happened?
3. What first comes to your mind when you hear the word "power"?
4. What was your high/low for this past week (or since group last met)?
What was the best thing that happened and the worst thing that happened?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions on the passage and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. What is John's reaction to the fact that there is no one who can open the seven sealed scroll? What in the text explains why he reacts this way?
2. One of the elders describes the person who is able to open the scroll as "the Lion of the tribe of Judah" and "the Root of David." Looking at Genesis 49:8-12 and from your knowledge of David, why are these titles significant/what do they say about this person? Who are they referring to?
3. John says that he saw a lamb that looked like it had been slain, who takes the scroll. What is the significance of a slain lamb? (see Exodus 12)
4. What reaction do the elders and creatures have to the slain lamb? What reason do they give that the lamb is worthy to open the scroll?
5. What reaction do the angels and all creatures in heaven and on earth have to this lamb? How do they describe the lamb?

LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. John weeps because it seems like there is no hope of finding someone who can open the seal. What things in our world cause people to be without hope? How do people react when they think there is no hope?
2. Jesus is called by many titles throughout the Bible and even in this particular passage. Each of these titles tells us something unique about Jesus. The titles together give us a complete picture of Jesus. What do the titles used in this passage tell us about Jesus?
3. What incomplete pictures of Jesus do people have? How can viewing Jesus through only one title or one aspect of his character cause someone to have an inaccurate view of Jesus?
4. How do people normally try to gain power? What makes someone "worthy" by the world's/normal standards?
5. Jesus is declared worthy because of the fact that he was willing to sacrifice himself. He gains power by giving of himself. How have you seen Christians (either people you know or have heard of) doing this same thing? What are examples of people having power through sacrifice and self-giving?

**DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS,
CONT.****LOOK IN**

These are questions that help you consider personal application.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. What causes you to lose hope? What causes you to have hope?
2. Do you have an incomplete picture of Jesus? What aspects of Jesus' character do you tend to overemphasize? What aspects do you tend to overlook?
3. What kind of power do you trust in? Do you have a hard time trusting in the kind of power Jesus had (through self-sacrifice)? Why or why not?
4. Who are you worshipping, the Jesus of the Bible and described in this passage or a Jesus of your own making? What do you need to do to correct your view of Jesus?
5. What would it look like for you to practice Jesus' self-sacrificial love in your life? How would it change your family, your marriage, your work, your friends, and your other relationships?

LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life.

Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. Do things look hopeless in your life? How can your group pray for you as you seek to find hope in God? If there's anyway your group can support you, share with them so they can help support you!
2. Is there something you need to correct in your view of Jesus? How can your group pray for you as you seek to full picture of Jesus' character?
3. What is one thing you can do this week to practice the self-sacrificial love of Jesus?

NOTE: On the following page (for most weeks) you will find a set of sermon notes created by Charissa Burns, an artist who calls B4 home. We include them purely for your enjoyment and encouragement, courtesy of Charissa. You can follow her on the 'Gram @charissaburnsstudio

REVELATION 9.29.2019

Revelation 5:1-14

FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE
IT ALL MAKES SENSE!

• WHILE WAITING FOR JESUS' RETURN

There is temptation to be one of these

- zealots - fight, take it forcibly
- sadducees - work in the world's systems
- pharisees - remove ourselves the world
- * Jesus' 4th option to come and sacrifice himself. - Through the cross.

How do we live in this moment?
With Jesus' perspective?
- Heaven reorients us!

This chapter can help reshape our thinking about now and the future.

GOD,
WHEN WILL YOUR KINGDOM COME?
HOW WILL YOUR KINGDOM COME?

The scroll is sealed and no one could open the scroll, not in heaven or in earth. No one was worthy to open it. It was sealed 7 times. (it is like the inheritance and ^{title} deeds in that time ... so Jesus is the executor of it. So all that was lost is held in the scroll and Jesus is the one to open it!)

↳ it seems to be held in the scroll.
- We weep ~~with~~ yearning for God's Kingdom.
↳ but we do not need to weep because the Messiah has come and will open the scroll and bring God's Kingdom.
• The Lion of Judah and root of David
↳ the Messiah → Jesus.

We want to fight to bring God's Kingdom, but that is not the way of Jesus.
BUT there is victory in Jesus' way.

GOD CONFRONTED AND TRIUMPHED OVER SIN AND EVIL THROUGH THE CROSS.

- you can never be defined or determined by the circumstances by your situation BECAUSE you are defined by who you are in CHRIST.



Jesus came as a lamb to be slain. He is also the victorious lion, not by shedding others blood, but shedding his own.
• The Lion came to be sacrificed as a lamb.

The Jesus we see in the gospels is the Jesus we see Revelation.
- He came a sacrifice. He would rather lay his life down than have his enemies lose their lives.

"Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8

How are you using power in your life? - as the lamb, the ferocious love of (when you feel offended, are hurt by others, etc.) the lamb.

How do you find the strength to live out a "lamb" life? WORSHIP