

# Revelation: The Lion and the Lamb

May 13, 2018

To KNOW Christ and one another more deeply,  
To CARE for one another in truth and in love,  
To GROW as followers of Jesus.  
- CG Mission Statement

## Worship: The Lion and the Lamb by Brian Mark Johnson, Brenton Brown, Leeland Mooring

*(Here is a psalm/song to help your group as you worship.)*

---

He's coming on the clouds, kings and kingdoms will  
bow down  
And every chain will break, as broken hearts declare  
His praise  
Who can stop the Lord Almighty?

{CHORUS}

Our God is the Lion, the Lion of Judah  
He's roaring with power and fighting our battles  
And every knee will bow before You  
Our God is the Lamb, the Lamb that was slain  
For the sin of the world, His blood breaks the chains  
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the  
Lamb  
Oh every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb

So open up the gates, make way before the King of  
kings  
Our God who calls the saved is here to set the  
captives free  
Who can stop the Lord Almighty?

{CHORUS}

Who can stop the Lord Almighty? x5  
Who can stop the Lord?

Our God is the Lion, the Lion of Judah  
He's roaring with power and fighting our battles  
And every knee will bow before You

{CHORUS}

## Icebreaker

---

What is your favorite concert that you have been to? What made it great?

## Text for Discussion: Revelation 5:1-14

---

Turn in your Bibles and read this passage aloud together.

## Aid for Discussion: Sermon Summary

---

Revelation is the exclamation point on the entire Bible. At the center of this vision stands the throne of God. It represents His sovereign control over all that comes to pass – past, present and future. Even when we cannot make sense of the chaotic events of our lives, the throne assures us that we can trust our Father. For there is only One seated on the throne of the universe, and He has a plan.

What do we need to see in this luminous vision of Heaven? Chapter 5 begins with a scroll held in God's right hand. On it is written the entirety of His perfect redemptive plan for creation. But the scroll remains sealed; no one is worthy to open it. John weeps because without these words, we cannot make sense of the pain and suffering that threaten to consume our world.

An elder of Heaven reminds us of our hope, though. The Lion of Judah has already won the decisive victory, conquering death. This isn't a promise of the future but rather an assurance of what has already occurred. For as we look at the mighty lion, what we see is a slain lamb standing before the throne. This is the central declaration of the entire Bible: Jesus, the promised lion, conquered by suffering and sacrificing as the Lamb of God. This is God's redemptive plan, and it is Jesus who can open the scroll.

The entire Bible must therefore be read in the light of Christ. Whenever the Old Testament says lion, we must see a lamb. Whenever the scriptures speak of a victorious Messiah or the overthrow of God's enemies, we must remember that the Gospel recognizes no other way of achieving these ends than the way of the cross. This is God's wisdom on how to live. If we want to be a lion, we must follow the Lamb.

God takes evil and injustice so seriously that He stepped into His creation. The cross tells us that suffering is at the very heart of reality, but it also proclaims that God will one day redeem every anguished cry. Our circumstances may not change, but by receiving a heavenly perspective, how we experience what we endure completely transforms. We still suffer, for there is still injustice in the world. But we no longer suffer alone because in our suffering we are closer than we've ever been to the heart of God.

The rest of history will be the working out of the already-decisive victory of the Lamb. We therefore work from victory, not toward it. This shift to God's perspective keeps us from being worn out or cynical. For the cross isn't just the instrument of our salvation; it is a new way of seeing and being in the world. We walk into the broken parts of creation and bear witness. We shine God's redemptive light as we suffer. We intercede and pray, knowing that evil does not set the agenda. And the things that once brought us to tears are now a reason to sing for joy in praise of the worthy lamb.

## Guiding Question of the Week

*(This question is intended as a target for the whole conversation. Do not ask for responses now. It will be repeated later in the study.)*

---

**How does the vision in Revelation 5 give you a greater vision for who God is?**

## Questions for Discussion

*(Remember it is better to wrestle deeply with two good questions than gloss over many. Sub-bullets are intended for potential follow-up.)*

---

### Opening Questions/Digging In...

- After reading Rev 5:1-14, what stood out to you?
  - What about the heavenly scene impresses you the most?
- What caused John's weeping? What could evoke tears like this?
  - Share how you might identify with John's loud weeping?
  - How does the content of the scroll help us to make sense of this world and life's circumstances?
- Why is the Lamb called "the Lion of the tribe of Judah" and "the Root of David"?
  - What do these titles signify about him?
- Discuss the idea that Jesus is both a lion and a slain lamb who is worthy to open the scroll.
  - What difference does this make to your everyday life?
  - How can you think of the lion, but gaze at the lamb more?
  - Do you look forward to the scrolls being open? Why or why not?
- How does the fact that God is on His throne encourage you to trust Him more in areas that are most difficult to you?
  - How does it help you to know that God is ultimately in control of human history?
- What are some personal ways in which you worship and praise the Lord?

### Application Questions

- How does this text challenge you to worship God with a new song? How does this text give you a whole new way to see the world?
- In what ways does this passage give you a picture of Jesus, heaven, or life's circumstances that is bigger than the one you had before?
  - How is this like a super nova?
- This passage shows us that suffering is at the center of reality. How do you respond to knowing that you are closer to the heart of God when you are suffering?
  - How does having a new perspective comfort you when you are going through trials?
- What spiritual disciplines can you engage in to help you worship God this week?
- What circumstances in your life do you need to have reframed by gazing at the lion who is also the slain lamb?

## Experiment of the week

*(A suggestion for engagement in following the way of Jesus this week)*

---

Meditate on all the worship found in Revelation 5 this week. Add the worship phrases to your prayer time. Share the impact this experiment may have had on you or changed your perspective on life.