

# The Book of Revelation

Page 24

## THE LION AND THE LAMB

*Revelation 5:1-14*

### The Scroll

- **Old Testament Connection**

*Ezek 2:1 – 3:15*

The context of this portion of Ezekiel is similar to Revelation, where we also have a scroll written on both sides. In Ezekiel, however, God's judgment is on Israel – a rebellious and unbelieving people. In Revelation, God's judgment is on the whole world. One event becomes a microcosm and pre-cursor of the other.

- **The Content of the Scroll**

The scroll seems to refer to God's purposes of redemption and judgment. It may well be the rest of the book of Revelation. Thus to open the scroll would be to complete the plan and purposes of God; to bring about their culmination. No open scroll means no ultimate triumph. Thus the challenge rings out, "Who is worthy to reveal and carry out God's plan to completion?"

### The Lamb

- **The Challenge**

A mighty angel challenges the whole universe. Who will bring about the ultimate fulfillment of God's purposes? To take the scroll, you'd have to approach this thrice holy, omnipotent God, and take the scroll from His hand. John weeps because there was no one worthy in the universe to open the scroll, and thus it appears that the church's suffering is for naught.

- **Lion of the Tribe of Judah**

Jesus Christ alone is the worthy one, who alone can solve the judgment issue.

*Gen. 49:9-10*

The prophecy concerning the coming Redeemer clearly says that the Messiah must come from the tribe of Judah. The picture of the conquering lion depicts the Savior as the one who overcomes in order to purchase a people for himself. (Shiloh means, 'to him to whom it belongs').

- **Root of David**

*Isaiah 11:1,10*

The Messiah must come from the house of David. David is the king God establishes in Israel, but he is not the ultimate king of promise. David is only a picture of Jesus Christ the Savior who is the true king of God's people. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:16).

The exile would make it seem like the Davidic dynasty was cut off, but a sprout would appear. There would be a re-gathering and one born in the city of David would fulfill this prophecy. This sprout from David's seed would grow as a fruitful branch, springing from a root that seemed lifeless and hopeless.

- **The Slain Lamb**

We definitely see that this is not to be pictured. For the lion is a lamb with seven horns slain but it is standing. The lamb will prove to be a military champion (Rev. 14:1-4), whose wrath his enemies fear and wish to flee (Rev. 6:16). It is by his sacrificial death that he has overcome. He died, but is now alive forevermore and ready to open the scroll and execute God's plan to destroy the dragon and his forces, and to redeem a people for the glory of his name.

The Old Testament Scriptures continually speak of the victory of the Messiah and the overthrow of the enemies of God. It is the cross that brings about the fulfillment.

Since horns refer to kings or kingdoms, we would suggest that the seven horns refer to Jesus' complete reign. He is the almighty king. The seven eyes refer to complete knowledge – omniscience.

- **Those purchased by the Lamb**

The great theme in heaven is "Worthy is the Lamb!" Believer, all the history of the universe has revolved around your purchase. The people who delight to proclaim this are those who were purchased or redeemed from all nations (note: 'out of' is clearly not everyone). The atonement of Jesus Christ states that when Jesus died on the cross he actually paid for sins (Isa. 52:13- 53:12; Heb. 9:12). As the Good Shepherd, Jesus laid down his life for his sheep. This is a declaration that the Savior died for a definite group of individuals (John 10:14-16, 27-30).

If Christ had not died for his people, there would be no answer to prayers – only judgment.

- **A New Song**

New songs were composed to celebrate new events, in which the Lord rescued his people (i.e. Ex. 15; Ps. 96:1-4). In Isa. 42:7-10, God promised a future exodus for his imprisoned people. The new song in Rev. 5 celebrates an exodus that makes previous rescues pale in comparison.