

EXPERIENCING, ENJOYING, AND EXPRESSING CHRIST (4)

Message Four The Lion-Lamb

RA Hymns: 1122

Scripture Reading: Rev. 5:5-10

- Rev 5:5 And one of the elders said to me, Do not weep; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so that He may open the scroll and its seven seals.
- Rev 5:6 And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a Lamb standing as having just been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.
- Rev 5:7 And He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sits upon the throne.
- Rev 5:8 And when He took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each having a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which bowls are the prayers of the saints.
- Rev 5:9 And they sing a new song, saying: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain and have purchased for God by Your blood men out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
- Rev 5:10 And have made them a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign on the earth.

I. The book of Revelation is a picture of Jesus Christ; the twenty-two chapters of this book are a single portrait portraying and depicting Jesus—1:1-2, 5.

- Rev 1:1 The revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave to Him to show to His slaves the things that must quickly take place; and He made it known by signs, sending it by His angel to His slave John,
- Rev 1:2 Who testified the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, even all that he saw.
- Rev 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood

II. “Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome”—5:5a:

- A. The lion is a symbol of Christ, portraying Him as a strong fighter against the enemy, as revealed in Genesis 49:8-9.
- Gen 49:8 Judah, your brothers will praise you; / Your hand will be on the neck of your enemies; / Your father's sons will bow down before you.
- Gen 49:9 Judah is a young lion; / From the prey, my son, you have gone up. / He couches, he stretches out like a lion, / And like a lioness; who will rouse him up?
- B. Christ's overcoming qualifies Him to open the scroll and its seven seals—Rev. 5:5-10.
- Rev 5:5 And one of the elders said to me, Do not weep; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so that He may open the scroll and its seven seals.
- Rev 5:6 And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a Lamb standing as having just been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.
- Rev 5:7 And He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sits upon the throne.
- Rev 5:8 And when He took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each having a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which bowls are the prayers of the saints.
- Rev 5:9 And they sing a new song, saying: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain and have purchased for God by Your blood men out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
- Rev 5:10 And have made them a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign on the earth.
- C. The title *Root of David* signifies that Christ is the source of David; therefore, David, His forefather, called Him “Lord”—Matt. 22:42-45.

Matt 22:42 Saying, What do you think concerning the Christ? Whose son is He? They said to Him, David's.

Matt 22:43 He said to them, How then does David in spirit call Him Lord, saying,

Matt 22:44 "The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand until I put Your enemies underneath Your feet"?

Matt 22:45 If then David calls Him Lord, how is He his son?

- D. As the Lion of the tribe of Judah, Christ overcame and defeated the rebellious Satan, the enemy of God, and as the redeeming Lamb, He took away the sin of fallen man:
1. By so doing, He removed the hindrances to the fulfillment of God's purpose.
 2. The result is that He is worthy to open the scroll concerning God's economy.

III. "I saw in the midst of the throne...a Lamb standing as having just been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth"—Rev. 5:6; 1:4; 3:1:

Rev 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is coming, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,

Rev 3:1 And to the messenger of the church in Sardis write: These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: I know your works, that you have a name that you are living, and yet you are dead.

- A. In chapter 5 is the scene in the heavens after Christ ascended there:
1. He was recommended to the apostle John as the Lion of the tribe of Judah, but He appeared to John as the Lamb.
 2. As the Lion, He is the Fighter against the enemy; as the Lamb, He is the Redeemer for us.
 3. He fought to redeem us, and He won the battle over the enemy and accomplished redemption for us.
 4. To the enemy He is a Lion, and to us He is a Lamb; hence, He is the Lion-Lamb.
- B. As far as redemption is concerned, Christ sat down at the right hand of God in the heavens after His ascension (Heb. 1:3; 10:12), whereas regarding the carrying out of God's administration, He is still standing in His ascension.

Heb 1:3 Who, being the effulgence of His glory and the impress of His substance and upholding and bearing all things by the word of His power, having made purification of sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Heb 10:12 But this One, having offered one sacrifice for sins, sat down forever on the right hand of God,

- C. *Having just been slain* indicates that the Lamb had just been slain and also that the scene in the heavens that is depicted in Revelation 5 took place immediately after Christ's ascension into the heavens.

Rev 5 be omitted.

- D. The Lord has seven horns—v. 6b:

Rev 5:6b ... having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

1. Horns signify strength in fighting—Deut. 33:17.

Deut 33:17 Like his firstborn ox, he has majesty; / And his horns are the horns of the wild ox; / With them he shall drive peoples / To the ends of the earth together. / Those are the ten thousands of Ephraim; / And those the thousands of Manasseh.

2. Christ is the redeeming Lamb, yet He has horns for fighting.

3. He is the fighting Redeemer; His fighting is complete in God's move, as signified by the number seven.

- E. Eyes are for observing and searching:

1. Christ as the redeeming Lamb has seven observing and searching eyes for executing

- God's judgment upon the universe to fulfill God's eternal purpose, which will consummate in the building up of the New Jerusalem.
2. In Zechariah 3:9 Christ is prophesied as the stone, the topstone (4:7) with seven eyes for God's building.

Zech 3:9 For here is the stone that I have set before Joshua-upon one stone are seven eyes. I will engrave its engraving, declares Jehovah of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.

Zech 4:7 Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become a plain, and he will bring forth the topstone with shouts of Grace, grace to it.
 3. These seven eyes are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth, and they run to and fro through the whole earth—v. 10.

Zech 4:10 For who has despised the day of small things? For these seven rejoice when they see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel; they are the eyes of Jehovah running to and fro on the whole earth.
 4. According to Greek grammar, the antecedent of *which* is *seven eyes*—Rev. 5:6.

Rev 5:6 And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a Lamb standing as having just been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.
 5. The seven Spirits of God refer only to the seven eyes of the Lamb, and not to His seven horns.

IV. “The seven Spirits of God”—1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6b:

- Rev 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is coming, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,
- Rev 3:1 And to the messenger of the church in Sardis write: These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: I know your works, that you have a name that you are living, and yet you are dead.
- Rev 4:5 And out of the throne come forth lightnings and voices and thunders. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God;
- Rev 5:6b ... having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.
- A. Revelation 1:4 speaks of “the seven Spirits who are before His throne”:
 1. The seven Spirits are undoubtedly the Spirit of God because They are ranked among the Triune God in Revelation 1:4-5.

Rev 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is coming, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,

Rev 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood
 2. As seven is the number for completion in God's operation, so the seven Spirits must be for God's move on the earth.
 3. In essence and existence God's Spirit is one; in the intensified function and work of God's operation, God's Spirit is sevenfold:
 - a. This is similar to the lampstand in Zechariah 4:2.

Zech 4:2 And he said to me, What do you see? And I said, I see that there is a lampstand all of gold, with its bowl on top of it and its seven lamps upon it, with seven pipes for each of the lamps on top of it;
 - b. In its existence it is one lampstand, but in its function it is seven lamps.
 4. At the time that the book of Revelation was written, the church had become degraded:
 - a. The age was dark.
 - b. The sevenfold intensified Spirit of God was needed for God's move and work on the earth.
 - B. In Matthew 28:19 the sequence of the Triune God is the Father, the Son, and the Holy

Spirit; in Revelation 1:4-5 the sequence is changed:

Matt 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Rev 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is coming, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,

Rev 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood

1. The seven Spirits of God are listed in the second place instead of the third.
2. This reveals the importance of the intensified function of the sevenfold Spirit of God.
3. This point is confirmed by the repeated emphasis on the Spirit's speaking in 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22; 14:13; and 22:17.

Rev 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

Rev 2:11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall by no means be hurt of the second death.

Rev 2:17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give of the hidden manna, and to him I will give a white stone, and upon the stone a new name written, which no one knows except he who receives it.

Rev 2:29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Rev 3:6 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Rev 3:13 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Rev 3:22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Rev 14:13 And I heard a voice out of heaven, saying, Write, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; for their works follow with them.

Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let him who hears say, Come! And let him who is thirsty come; let him who wills take the water of life freely.

C. At the opening of the other Epistles, only the Father and the Son are mentioned:

1. From the Father and the Son grace and peace are given to the receivers.
2. In Revelation 1:4-5 the Spirit is included; from Him grace and peace are imparted to the churches.

Rev 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is coming, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,

Rev 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood

3. This indicates the crucial need of the Spirit to counteract the degradation of the church for God's move.

D. The seven Spirits are working in the churches, so the churches will surely go forward.

E. Today we need to see and experience the sevenfold Spirit, the intensified Spirit, the Spirit of recovery—vv. 4-5.

Rev 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is coming, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,

Rev 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood

V. "They sing a new song, saying: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain and have purchased for God by Your blood men out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation"—5:9:

- A. The song here is new because the Lamb whom it praises had just been slain.
- B. In the whole universe no one is worthy to open the mystery of God's economy but Christ, the overcoming Lion and the redeeming Lamb:
 - 1. As the overcoming Lion, He defeated Satan for God.
 - 2. As the redeeming Lamb, He put sin away for us.
 - 3. Christ is the only One qualified to unveil and carry out the mystery of God's economy.
 - 4. We need to realize that Christ is worthy to open the seals of the secret of the divine economy; this aspect of the Lord's worthiness is universal and immeasurable.
 - 5. Christ is worthy of our praises; He is worthy even of our lives.