

Have No Fear, The End is Near

A Practical Discussion on the
Book of Revelation

10.14.09

The Lamb

Revelation 5:1 Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴ and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals." ⁶ And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne.

⁸ And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, ¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth." ¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" ¹³ And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" ¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

The Lamb

- The scroll
 - God's plan and destiny for the world (Daniel 12:4)
 - Also relevant – A legal will at that time often had seven seals and seven witnesses
 - Opening the scroll = God's plan being carried out
- The lamb – Jesus
 - Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Jacob's prophesy in Genesis 49 concerning a ruler from Judah)
 - Note the significance of being described as both a lion and a lamb... fierce, powerful, but also gentle and merciful.
 - Root of David – In his line, but also greater than...

The Lamb

- "as though it had been slain"
 - Victory through sacrifice
- "among the elders"
 - If they represent God's people, then this is another reference to Jesus being with His church!
- Bowls on incense
 - Prayers of the saints – significant later on
- Trinitarian vision
 - Father, Son, and Spirit all present
 - 7 eyes – omniscience, 7 horns - omnipotence
- Worship is directed to the worthy Lamb

The Lamb

- "every tribe and language and people and nation"
 - Affirming the Great Commission, racial diversity of the kingdom
- "a kingdom and priests"
 - Again, affirming the inclusion of the Gentiles and the priesthood of all believers

Summary

- Jesus being clearly identified as God.
- Jesus alone is worthy to carry out the Father's plan and enter into His inheritance.
- He is with His church in carrying out God's plan.
- He is worthy of praise from all creation.
- His gospel is for all people groups and that diversity came at great cost.