

## 20230129 The Lion and the Lamb

### Introduction

In the Bible, Jesus is represented as both a Lamb that was Slain and- Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

I want to contrast those two pictures and look at how they might affect to our lives.

As the Lamb that was Slain ... Jesus ...

- >sacrificed His life for us- died in our place

- >so our sins would be forgiven and we could live eternally with God

As the Lion of of the Tribe of Judah ...

- >Jesus is a mighty warrior with a two-edged sword in His mouth

- who will return to defeat- enemies

- establish His Kingdom here on earth

### **Philippians 2:9–11 (NASB95)**

**<sup>9</sup>For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,**

**<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every**

**knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,**

**<sup>11</sup>and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

What Paul is saying is that ...

- >believers will willingly/joyfully bow before Jesus and confess that He is the Lord

- >unbelievers will be confronted w/God they did not believe in- but will have no choice but to bow before Jesus/confess- He is Lord

I have had people tell me-believe in God but they-

- >have their own concept of who God is
- >they create a god- fits their belief system
- >they make a god in their own image

I have seen Christians do this as well ...

- >either willfully or through ignorance
- >create a god they are comfortable with
  - one that does not contradict the way they want to live their lives.

However, we do not get to change who God is.

**Jesus always fulfills who He is, not what we think He should be. Steven Furtick**

This is why we need a clear understanding of scripture- it defines who God is/ways of God.

### **Biblical Warning**

Jesus gives us this warning ...

**Mat 21:44 “And he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust.”**

Those who fall on the stone are those who ...

- >stumble over who Jesus is- they find it hard to believe in ...
  - His virgin birth
  - that He can forgive sin
  - that He was God

They fall/stumble on- stone and are broken/hurt- but still have- opportunity to repent/be saved.

Those on whom the stone falls are those who ...

- >put themselves in opposition to Christ
- >openly reject who Christ claimed to be

The Stone falls on them w/vengeance and destroys them with no hope of recovery.

For too long man has been under the delusion that he is in charge of his own destiny.

Every man/woman will face their day- reckoning.

Every government leader- president, prime minister- will bow before the King of Kings.

### **Jesus as the Lamb that was slain**

Israel was required by the Law to sacrifice a lamb as an offering for their sins.

The lamb was sacrificed in their place so they would not face- wrath of God for their sins.

When Jesus came along He presented Himself as the Lamb that was slain.

John the Baptist testified to this ...

**John 1:29 ... "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"**

John the Revelator says ...

**Revelation 5:12 ... "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."**

Isaiah gives us another picture of lamb-was slain-  
**Isaiah 53:3–5 (NASB95)**

**<sup>3</sup>He was despised and forsaken of men,  
A man of sorrows and acquainted with  
grief; And like one from whom men hide  
their face He was despised, and we did  
not esteem Him.**

**<sup>4</sup>Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And  
our sorrows He carried; Yet we  
ourselves esteemed Him stricken,  
Smitten of God, and afflicted.**

**<sup>5</sup>But He was pierced through for our  
transgressions, He was crushed for our**

**iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.**

Jesus the Lamb that was slain- was beaten, crushed, broken so we could enjoy eternal life. His suffering also provided for us physical healing. On the night of Jesus arrest- Peter, thinking he was defending the Lord- cut off the ear of the slave of the High Priest.

How Jesus responded to Peter is significant- first He healed the man's ear back ...

**Matthew 26:53 "Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?"**

Jesus' life was not taken from Him- He willingly sacrificed His life for the sake of humanity.

**Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

Jesus loved us in-middle of our sin/waywardness. The lamb that was slain is a picture of God's unending love for mankind.

In the same way we are called to sacrifice our lives for God and for the blessing of others.

**1 Jn 3:16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.**

Not only did Jesus lay down His life so we would experience eternal life- BUT He also ...

He empowered/called us to lay down our lives in a practical way for the benefit of others.

**Jesus did not die to give us a better life-  
He died to make us a new creation in  
Christ. P Tony Hauck**

Receiving Jesus Christ as the Lamb that was slain will affect every area of our lives.

**Matthew 20:28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”**

In the same way we are called to serve others. Too often we want to be served and get offended when we are overlooked and not served.

But Jesus has set the example for us.

As Christ came to serve- we are called to ...

>serve- regardless of the cost to ourselves

>love others with a sacrificial Christ like love

**Gal 6:9 Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.**

As Jesus sacrificed His life and died for mankind- God has called us to lay down our lives- die to ourselves and serve His divine purposes.

**Jesus as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah**

The Lion of the Tribe of Judah originates in- book of Genesis when Jacob blesses his 12 sons ...

**Genesis 49:9 (NLT) Judah, my son, is a young lion that has finished eating its prey. Like a lion he crouches and lies down; like a lioness—who dares to rouse him?**

The lion is a symbol of strength and courage.

The Lion of the Tribe of Judah takes on more significance in the person of Jesus Christ.

**Revelation 5:1, 4-5 (NASB95)**

**1**I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals.

**4**Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it;

**5**and one of the elders said to me, “**Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.**”

David and Solomon were both kings who ruled over Israel- came from the Tribe of Judah.

Jesus is the rightful heir to King David's throne and therefore the rightful King of the Jews.

**Revelation 19:11, 13-16 (NASB95)**

**11**And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.

**13**He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

**14**And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses.

In contrast to His first coming as a baby, Jesus will return on a white horse as King of kings. He will execute the wrath of God against those with unrepentant and unbelieving hearts.

**15**From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod

**of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.**

**<sup>16</sup>And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”**

There are powers and principalities that are at war with God and His people.

As warriors we must boldly stand for the truth of God’s Word/the testimony that God is alive.

We will not be intimidated by the world and we will not shrink back even in the middle of adversity.

We serve a higher authority than any power or authority in this world ...

**2 Timothy 2:4 No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.**

As warriors in God’s Kingdom we must be more God-focused than self-focused.

One of the last words Jesus spoke to His disciples-  
**Matthew 28:18-19 (NASB95)**

**<sup>18</sup>... “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**

**<sup>19</sup>“Go therefore ...**

I believe that Go therefore is to go into the world with that same authority that that Christ had.

**Matthew 10:7–8 (NASB95)**

**<sup>7</sup>“And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’**

**<sup>8</sup>“Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.**

We are commissioned by the Lord to minister out of what He has already given to us.

**Isa 42:13 The Lord will go forth like a warrior, He will arouse His zeal like a man of war. He will utter a shout, yes, He will raise a war cry. He will prevail against His enemies.**

As warriors in God's army we are called to prevail

### **The Lamb and the Lion**

So- as followers of Christ- we are both a ...

Lamb ...

- >willingly laying down our lives to serve God and bless others
- >setting aside our own agendas for the purposes of God
- >crucifying the flesh, with its carnal desires, in order to live godly lives

Lion ...

- >courageously fighting for hearts and souls of men- including our own heart and soul
- >taking every vain/immoral ideology captive and bringing them into alignment with the Word of God
- >fighting courageously to-
  - destroy the works of the devil
  - establish- the KofG on earth as it is in heaven

We called to be as ...

- >gentle as a Lamb
- >fierce as a Lion

### **The Lamb versus the Lion**

The Lamb that was Slain came before the Lion of the tribe of Judah.



As believers, we will only ...

>exercise the power of God, to rule/reign in life- as seen in- image of Lion of Judah

>by first embracing the cross- represented by the image of the Lamb that was slain

Dominion/power came after- Lamb that was slain.

**Rev 5:12 ... “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.”**

We will never move in- power/authority of God if we have not first laid down our life before- Lord

**Aside: Young people- you will never walk in the authority God has for you- in this life- if you have not first learned to walk under the authority of another. You can tell me all you want that you walk under the authority of Christ, but if it is not demonstrated in your relationships with others-elders, parents, teachers, bosses- it is not a reality. I have seen too many young people think they know better than their elders/parents and never embrace- work God wants to do in them to bring about in them a yielded/broken heart. It is only through this brokenness that you will receive power to reign in this life. ALSO- it is not about whether your elders/parents have it right or wrong. It is an issue of your heart before the Lord. He is more concerned with your heart than whether your parents**

**have it all right or all wrong. You may have to lay down your right to be right.**

Also, to walk in-power of God we must remain properly connected to- head- which is Christ.

**Jn 5:30 “I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.**

Jesus said ... **As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just-** the judgments Jesus made were JUST because He honored the Father’s will above His own.

His judgments were aligned w/heart of the Father.

We make a lot of judgments everyday about people and situations- but are they just?

Our judgments will only be just if we seek His will first, His perspective, over above our own.

Otherwise our judgments will be filled with self-preservation/self-justification- and hardly just.

## **Conclusion**

Many elements of the church today have diluted the gospel message to fit into the world.

They have bowed to cultural pressures.

They have in essence restrained the Lion of the Tribe of Judah from fully expressing Himself.

**The Gospel was never meant to be fragile. It came in power and supernatural force. Christ did not die for our comfort, He died for our consecration. Kris Vallotton**

We must not hold back the roar of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah that is within every believer.

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God is looking for lambs that have been slain so  
he can raise up and release lions to boldly  
demonstrate the message of the KofG.