The Power of the Lamb

Revelation 5:5–6

"Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed…' Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne…"

Holy Week has always had special significance to the church. It is the final week of the "Son of Man" called Jesus. During Holy week, we trace the steps of Jesus from Palm Sunday to the empty tomb. However, in the last book of the Bible, the Lion of Judah is transformed into the self-giving Lamb of God. This vision changes John's understanding of how God, in the person of the Lamb, operates. This last week of the life of Jesus not only tells us what Jesus did, but it also tells us who He is.

In Revelation 5, John is told to look for a Lion, but what he sees is a Lamb. That shift is everything. It is everything for John, and it is everything for the church. What is so radical in its concept is not that Jesus stops being the Lion. It's that He chooses to act like a Lamb. This single transition changes everything regarding who the church, the Body of Christ, is called to be. It signals to the world how the church and everyone who represents the cause of Christ are supposed to conduct themselves.

The Lion Becomes the Lamb

The Lion of Judah was the long-expected hope. The conquering king. The one who would rid Israel of the domination of the Roman Empire and other nations that threatened her existence. This is so revolutionary because of the way the Lion wins, the way the Lion transforms the world; and the way he rescues us from the bondage of sin and death. The Lion does not win by roaring or frightening. The Lion wins by surrendering. John is looking for a Lion but sees a slain Lamb that is still standing instead. It is this demonstration of who God in Christ is that baffles people and makes them feel most uncomfortable. Because God shows the Lamb is worthy precisely because He is slain.

During Holy Week, Jesus showed the transition from the Lion of Judah to the Lamb of God.

- On Palm Sunday, the crowds expected a Lion. This is why they were waving palms for a king.

- Monday, the Lion of Judah roars, but not the way people expected. Monday, He throws the money changers out of the temple for turning His father's house into a den of thieves.
- Tuesday, He confronts the religious leaders for their hypocrisy.
- Wednesday, Judas is convinced of who Jesus is and betrays Him
- Thursday, the long-sought-after warrior king is the servant of all.
- Friday is the day of sacrifice. This is the day Jesus offers Himself as God's gift to the world. Jesus, the Lamb of God, bleeds in silence and offers no resistance.
- Sunday, the Lamb stands, alive, vindicated, and victorious.

This is the movement from Lion to Lamb. From someone who spoke truth to power. To someone who offered Himself up in total surrender to the service of God.

This is how the Lion wins, not through dominating power, but through self-offering. Not through force, but compassion. Not by crushing His enemies, but by loving them to the end.

This is the revolutionary call of the Child of God. This means that everything we thought we knew about power has been reframed. Transformed in these two verses.

Revelation 5 redefines power through the lens of the Lamb of God. Not through the Lion of Judah. Power is no longer about conquest. It is about character. It is not how loud you roar, but how deeply you love.

This is an important aspect of Revelation 5:5-6. The lion's authority and the Lamb's humility are not in conflict. There is no compromise. There are no adjustments. They remain aligned and the same. There is no change in their character. The last week of Jesus' life reflects this. He did not run, He surrendered. He did not condemn His accusers. He loved them.

What we have to learn is that the "God kind of victory" comes through vulnerability. The slain is a symbol that isn't symbolic; it's total surrender. It is the offering, the giving of Himself in a way the world had never before.

It is a gift that can never be repaid. It is a gift that expects nothing you do not choose to give. The gift offers vulnerability in the hope that you embrace the gift and be transformed.

The Lamb is slain but still standing. Death does not have the last word. The Lamb saves, and the Lamb rescues.

During Holy Week, do not merely reflect on what Jesus suffered. We remember how He suffered. Don't just think about what He overcame, think about how He overcame.

Revelation 14:4 says the faithful are those who "follow the Lamb wherever He goes." That means we are called not just to admire the Lamb, but to be shaped by Him. In a world that rewards force, the Lamb calls us to gentleness. In systems that value power and control, the Lamb teaches us to surrender.

This Holy Week, don't just walk with Jesus to the cross, let's watch how He walks. The Lamb doesn't scream. He doesn't threaten. He absorbs the blow. And somehow—He *stands*. And that's why Revelation 5:5-6 is not just the key to Revelation and Holy Week, it's the key to the Kingdom.

Because the Lion is the Lamb.

And the Lamb is standing.

Blessings,

Pastor Gool