

## PICTURES OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION - PART 2

### The Lamb of God

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Preaching passage:	Revelation 5
Subject:	Who is worthy to open the scroll and is worthy of worship and praise
Complement:	The Lamb that was slain.
Exegetical idea:	The Lamb that was slain is worthy of open the scroll and is worthy of worship and praise.
Homiletical idea:	<b>Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, wants to take away your sin!</b>
Purpose:	To present a clear picture of Jesus as the Lamb of God and to encourage my hearers to trust Jesus as their personal Savior.

#### Introduction

The last book of the Bible is called the Revelation of Jesus Christ. It is the Revelation by Jesus Christ to His servant John concerning the things which are to come. But this book is also the Revelation about Jesus Christ. In this series of messages, we are going to examine five pictures of Jesus in the book of Revelation.

At the beginning of this book of Revelation a blessing is promised for all who study it. Listen to the words of the apostle John, recorded in Revelation 1:3. “The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw--that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.” So there is a blessing promised as we study this Revelation of Jesus Christ. And we will also be blessed as we watch an artist capturing this message in a picture.

The picture of Jesus in the book of Revelation that we are going to examine today is Jesus as the Lamb of God. There are 30 references to the Lamb in the book of Revelation. 30! The first reference is found in Revelation chapter 5. I invite you to take a Bible and open it to

the last book of the Bible, the Revelation of Jesus Christ, chapter 5. This chapter is one of the most glorious passages in all of Scripture.

“Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?’ But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. 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. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.’ Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song:

You are worthy to take the scroll

and to open its seals,

because you were slain,

and with your blood you purchased men for God

from every tribe and language and people and nation.

You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,

and they will reign on the earth.

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang:

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength  
and honor and glory and praise!

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing:

To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
be praise and honor and glory and power,  
for ever and ever!

The four living creatures said, ‘Amen,’ and the elders fell down and worshiped.”

What an amazing revelation given to the apostle John and also to us. Who is this Lamb described in Revelation chapter 5? We have a clue in Revelation 5:12. He is described as “the Lamb who was slain.” Having opened all of the seven seals, the Lamb appears again in Revelation 7:9-17. “After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:

Salvation belongs to our God,  
who sits on the throne,  
and to the Lamb.

All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying:

Amen!

Praise and glory  
and wisdom and thanks and honor  
and power and strength  
be to our God for ever and ever.

Amen!

Then one of the elders asked me, ‘These in white robes--who are they, and where did they come from?’ I answered, ‘Sir, you know.’ And he said, ‘These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’”

In Revelation 12:11, the saints overcome Satan “by the blood of the Lamb.” In Revelation 14:1, we read, “Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.”

In Revelation chapter 15, the redeemed sing the song of Moses and the Lamb. And Revelation 21:27 we are told that only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life will enter the New Jerusalem.

Who is this Lamb? Revelation 17:14 tells us, "They (that is the enemies of God) will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings--and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers." And Revelation 21:14 we discover that "the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb."

Who is the Lamb of the book of Revelation? Jesus Christ! There are 30 references to Jesus Christ as the Lamb of the book of Revelation! Did you know that the apostle John was not the first to present Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God? Many years earlier, at the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, John the Baptist had referred to Jesus as the Lamb of God. Jesus came to be baptized by John at the river Jordan, and John the Baptist cried out, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:34 "I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God. John the Baptist also identified Jesus as the Lamb of God.

But John the Baptist was not the first to refer to Jesus as the Lamb of God. Seven hundred years earlier, the Holy Spirit had given this revelation to the prophet Isaiah. Listen to this inspired description of Messiah, recorded in Isaiah 53:4-7. "Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the

iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.” That prophesy was fulfilled in the life of Jesus. Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Fifteen hundred years before the time of the prophet Isaiah, more than 2000 years before the time of Jesus, the LORD God had promised that He would provide the lamb that was needed. The story is recorded in Genesis 22:1-14. We read in Genesis 22, beginning with verse 1, “Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, ‘Abraham!’ ‘Here I am,’ he replied. Then God said, ‘Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.’ Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. He said to his servants, ‘Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.’”

Notice the faith of Abraham. He didn’t understand how God would provide. But he had faith to believe that God would provide. Even if it meant raising Isaac from the dead. “We will come back to you,” Abraham said to the servants!

“Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, ‘Father?’ ‘Yes, my son?’ Abraham replied. ‘The fire and wood are here,’ Isaac said, ‘but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?’ Abraham answered, ‘God

himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.’ And the two of them went on together. When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, ‘Abraham! Abraham!’ ‘Here I am,’ he replied. ‘Do not lay a hand on the boy,’ he said. ‘Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.’ Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. (Yahweh Jireh. Jehovah Jirah.) The Lord will provide. And to this day it is said, ‘On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.’

And the LORD did provide. Not just that day, but more than 2000 years later, on that very mountain, the LORD did provide. Mount Moriah is also Mount Calvary. Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, laid down His life for the sins of the world. The LORD did provide. Hallelujah!

We see the Lamb of God promised and the Lamb of God revealed from Genesis to Revelation! How should we respond to this picture of Jesus as the Lamb of God? I want to suggest that we should respond the same way that angels responded in Revelation chapter 5. With praise. With worship. Listen again to their testimony in Revelation 5:12-13. “In a loud voice they sang: ‘Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!’ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: ‘To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!’”

But I believe that we need to do more than praise and worship Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. We need to ask Jesus, the Lamb of God, to take away our sin. We need to let God provide for us personally. And I have good news for you today: **Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, wants to take away your sin!** He wants to forgive you. He wants to cleanse you. He wants to provide salvation for you. **Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, wants to take away your sin!**

And so, I'm going to invite you to pray a simple prayer today. Some of you may have never prayed this prayer before. Others may have prayed this prayer, but I'm going to invite you to pray it again. Here it is: Jesus, Lamb of God, please take away my sin. That's a simple prayer, isn't it? But it is a prayer that can alter your eternal destiny. The angel told Joseph to call Mary's baby Jesus because He would save His people from their sins. Jesus came as the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world. But each one has to make a personal decision to accept that gift. "Lord Jesus, Lamb of God, please take away my sin."

Is there anyone here today, or watching via television or on our web church, or listening on the radio, and you want to say, "Lord Jesus, Lamb of God, please take away my sin"? Just raise your hand, wherever you are. Whether here on campus, or around the world? Just raise your hand. Praise the LORD! With your hand raised, will you praise with me, "Lord Jesus, Lamb of God, please take away my sin."

Hallelujah! Some names were written in the Lamb's book of life today! Don't ever forget this important truth: **Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, wants to take away your sin!** Jesus can save you from the penalty of your sin, which is death. And He can also save you from the power of sin so that you can walk in newness of life! Hallelujah! Behold, the Lamb of God

who takes away the sin of the world. **Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, wants to take away your sin!**

So let's worship Him today. Let's praise Him today. Let's give Him glory today.  
Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Behold, the Lamb of God who has taken away your sin. Behold, the Lamb of God, who has taken away my sin.

Worthy, worthy is the Lamb.

Worthy, worthy is the Lamb.

Worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain.

Glory, Hallelujah.

Praise Him, Hallelujah.

Glory, Hallelujah, to the Lamb!