
Church in Campbell Weekly News

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THE WORTHY LION-LAMB

In chapter four we see the scene in heaven after Christ's ascension. The throne of God is the center of the scene in chapter four, and God is sitting on the throne ready to execute His universal administration for the fulfillment of His eternal purpose. In chapter five we have the same scene after Christ ascended there. As we shall see in this message, the center of this scene is the worthy Lion-Lamb.

I. THE SECRECY OF GOD'S ADMINISTRATION

Revelation 5:1 says, "And I saw on the right hand of Him Who sits upon the throne a scroll, written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals." God's administration is a secret, a mystery. Throughout the centuries, many wise men have earnestly tried to learn what the secret of this universe is. Because they did not have the revelation, they failed. In the book of Revelation, the last book of the Bible, we have an unveiling of God's economy.

In 5:1 the One sitting on the throne has a scroll in His hand sealed with seven seals. These seven seals are actually the contents of the scroll and the contents of the book of Revelation, for this book is the opening, the unveiling, of the seven seals. The scroll itself must be the new covenant, the grand title deed enacted with the blood of the Lamb. The new covenant is a scroll covering the redemption of the church, Israel, the world, and the universe. The book of Revelation is a record of God's thought concerning the church, Israel, the world, and the universe. When Christ died on the cross, He tasted death not only for man, but for everything (Heb. 2:9). Here we see the secrecy of God's administration in the universe. While the New Testament was enacted by the death of Christ, it has been a mystery to mankind. The new covenant is the secret of the universe and the content of the book of Revelation. As we read Revelation, we must realize that in vision after vision we are seeing what is included in this new covenant, what is contained in this secret and sealed scroll. Now, after Christ's ascension, there should no longer be a secret, for it has been unsealed by Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension. Before His death, there was a mystery that no man knew anything about. But by His death, resurrection, and ascension, He has fulfilled all of God's requirements. Thus, as we shall see, He has opened the mystery and revealed it to John, charging him to commit it to writing. Therefore, this book is just the opened secret, or scroll, in God's hand. It is no longer a secret--it is an open mystery. Now, as we are reading the book of Revelation, we are reading the contents of the scroll that has been unsealed by the ascended Christ. This is a great matter, and

few Christians are aware of it. Most Christians have the book of Revelation, but not many have the unsealed scroll, because they do not realize that Revelation is the unsealed scroll.

II. NO ONE WORTHY

In 5:2-4 we see that no one in heaven, on earth, or under the earth was worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. When John first saw the scroll, it was still sealed.

If we had been there, we, like John, certainly would have been desirous to see what was contained in that scroll. But John "wept much because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it." If actually no one worthy was found in the whole universe, we would surely need to weep, for the whole universe would be vanity, with none qualified to unveil its secret. If there were no Christ in this universe, the whole universe would weep. But there is Christ, and we do not need to weep.

III. THE WORTHY LION-LAMB

A. The Lion of the Tribe of Judah

While John was weeping, one of the elders said to him, "Do not weep; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome to open the scroll and its seven seals." This refers to Genesis 49:8-9, where Christ is portrayed as a lion, which is a symbol of Him as a strong fighter against the enemy. We have pointed out that nearly everything in Revelation is a fulfillment of what is mentioned in the Old Testament. Christ is the fighting, victorious, and overcoming Lion. He has won the battle. Hence, His overcoming qualifies Him to open the scroll and its seven seals.

Although the angel told John to behold the Lion of the tribe of Judah, verse 6 says, "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 been slain." The angel recommended Christ as the Lion, but John saw Him as the Lamb. As the Lion, He is the Fighter against the enemy; as the Lamb, He is the Redeemer for us. He has fought to redeem us, and He has won the battle over the enemy and accomplished redemption for us. To the enemy, He is a Lion; to us, He is a Lamb. Although the angels do not need redemption, they need someone to defeat the enemy of God, for one among them became God's enemy. Thus the angels realize that there is a need for someone to defeat this rebel. To the angels, Christ was the Lion who defeated the rebel, but to us, including the Apostle John, Christ is the Lamb, the redeeming One. We need Christ's redemption. As we have already pointed out, in the universe there are two main problems--Satan and sin. As the Lion, Christ has defeated and destroyed Satan, and as the Lamb, He has taken away our sin. He has won the victory and He has accomplished redemption. Now He is the Lion-Lamb.

WHAT IS PRAYER

Issue No. 1 The Present Testimony (Br Nee)

How do we bind what God intends to bind? How do we loose what God intends to loose? The Lord's answer is to ask "in harmony." This is the meaning of prayer, and this is the prayer of the Body. The highest point of our working together with God is to ask in one accord for God to accomplish what He intends to accomplish. The true meaning of prayer is for the praying one to seek for the accomplishment of the will of the One to whom he prays. Prayer is an indication that we want God's will. It is to say that our will is standing on God's side. Without this kind of prayer, there is no real prayer.

How many prayers today are for the expression of God's will? How many prayers are a setting aside of oneself and a seeking for the accomplishment of God's will? How many believers are there who truly work together with God in prayer? How many believers echo back to God His heart's desire daily before Him and empty out their hearts to seek after God and to ask for God to accomplish what they understand as God's will? Oh! Let us realize that a selfish heart is no less prominent in prayer than in other things! How many of our own requests are standing in the way! How numerous are our own wills, our own desires, our own plans, and our own cravings! With so many things of our own, it is difficult to expect that we can forget about ourselves completely in prayer and seek after God's will alone. One should, of course, deny the self in everything, and to deny the self in prayer is as important as to deny the self in our walk. We should know that as saved ones we should live unto the Lord who died and resurrected for us. Therefore, we should henceforth live completely unto Him, not reserving anything for ourselves. Among all the things in our life of consecration, prayer should also be one consecrated item. One great and common error in our thoughts is to consider that prayer is an expression of our needs and that prayer is but our cry to God for help. Little do we realize that prayer is to ask God to fulfill His need. We have to realize that God's intention is not for the believers to accomplish their will through prayer. God's intention is to accomplish His own will through the believers' prayer. This does not mean that believers should not ask God to fulfill their needs. It only means that believers should first understand the meaning and principle of prayer.

Every time believers have a lack, they should first ask whether or not such a lack will affect God. Is it God who ordains that they have such a lack? Or is it God's will that they be supplied? Only after one has seen that it is God's will that his needs be met, should he pray for God to accomplish His will (with regards to meeting his need). Only after one has understood God's will, should he pray

for the will of God which he has understood and ask that God's will be accomplished. The question now is not whether or not you have a lack or that you need to be supplied. The question now is whether or not God's will is accomplished. Although your prayer may be the same as before, your attention is turned to the accomplishment of God's will in such matters and not to the fulfilling of your own needs. Here lies the failure of many. Believers think that their own needs are the priority. Even after they have understood that God's will is to supply their need, they still pray tenaciously for their own needs. We should never pray for our own needs. There is only one legitimate prayer in the whole universe—only one prayer that pleases God—the prayer that asks for the accomplishment of His will. Our needs must be lost in God's will. Whenever we see God's will concerning our need, we have to drop our need immediately to seek after the accomplishment of God's will. A direct prayer for the fulfilling of needs (whatever kind of need it may be) is never the noblest prayer. All prayers for personal needs should only be made indirectly while one is seeking for the accomplishment of God's will. This is the secret to prayer, and this is the secret to victory in prayer.

God's goal is that we be filled with His will to such an extent that we forget our own interest. God wants us to work together with Him to accomplish His will. The way to work together with Him is to pray. For this reason He wants us to abide in Him to learn His will in various matters and then ask according to His will. (To be continued)

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Burdens for Church Prayers

- Strengthening of prayer in the church life on all levels: personal, husband and wife, vital group, church prayer
- Pray for the English-speaking testimony and gospel preaching on West Valley College campus.
- Pray for the burden of raising up next generation for building up of the body of Christ.
- For GOW training: Vital groups be raised up, attending prayer meeting, prophesying on Lord's day by daily enjoying His word and pursue the truth.

Announcement

- Bible Reading Schedule of Revelations:

LD	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4:6-7	4:8-11	5:1-6	5:7-14	6:1-8	6-9:17	7:1-8

- 12/25 prayer meeting at Campbell meeting hall.
- Jan, 1-4, to receive saints from New Zealand.
- 12/31, 1/1 to receive saints from Taiwan.
- Winter Video training, at Santa Clara meeting hall
- 12/25, 9:00am, 11:10am; 12/29, 9:00am, 11:10am, 5:00pm; 12/30 5:00pm; 1/1, 9:00am, 11:10am.
- Financial needs for Boston Training center and Church in Hayward.