

# YAHSHUA AS A LION AND A LAMB



(Revelation 5)

These two contrasted animals both have one thing in common: the Lord YAHSHUA, metaphorically speaking, is both of them at different times, work and circumstances. While the lion is strong and ferocious, the lamb is weak and gentle, dependent and vulnerable to danger. The lion has a strong body, weighting from 330 to 550 pounds. None escapes his strength. Proverbs describe the lion as the mightiest among beasts and turns not back before any (30:30). Ezekiel compares the conspiracy of Israel's prophets as a roaring lion tearing the prey (22:25). The lion's roar causes fear in all the forest animals; a warning that they heed and flee from his sight. YAHSHUA is both lion and lamb in the

fulfillment of prophecy in time past and in future time. In time past He came to be the Lamb of God for the purpose of taking the sins of the world; in future time, as a Lion, He will roar in judgment; He will be King of all the earth.

How do we see Him as a lamb? Many years ago, lambs were used for sacrifice to atone the sins of the nation of Israel once per year. This practice first happened when Adam and Eve sinned against God. It continued throughout the Old Testament. And when He called Israel out of the land of Egypt, He made it official for the people to observe the Passover, based on the day of their freedom from slavery. They were told to sacrifice a lamb or a kid without blemish, a male of the first year; they were to be kept until the fourteenth day of the same month; the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel was [each] to kill [his] lamb in the evening; they were to take of the blood and put it on the two side posts and on the lintel on the houses in which they were to eat [the Passover lamb]; the blood was to be for a token or sign upon [the doorposts of] the houses where they were [that] when I see the blood, I will pass over you to destroy you when I smite the land of Egypt (Exodus 12: 5,7,13). The Passover lamb foreshadowed the crucifixion of the Messiah YAHSHUA. The precursor of YAHSHUA, John the Baptist, introduced Him to the nation of Israel as the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). And as he looked at YAHSHUA, he said again, Look! There is the Lamb of God! (vs. 36). He was introduced metaphorically as a Lamb, so the people, familiar with the practice of sacrificing a lamb to atone for their sin, could understand John's declaration of Whom YAHSHUA was and the purpose for what He had come.

The Prophet Isaiah compared YAHSHUA'S behavior when unjustly condemned to death, to the nature of a lamb when led to his slaughter. He was oppressed, [yet when] He was afflicted, He was submissive and opened not His mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers, is dumb, so He opened not His mouth (Isa. 53:7). The Passover Lamb came and left, but many of His people did not acknowledge Him, neither accepted Him as the Lamb of God Who had come to take the sin of the world, specifically their sin. The apostle Paul warned the Corinthians to purge the old leaven that they may be fresh dough, still uncontaminated, for Christ, our Passover [Lamb] has been sacrificed, therefore, let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, not with leaven of vice and malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened [bread] of purity and truth (I Cor. 5: 7-8). The apostle Peter likewise admits YAHSHUA to be our Passover Lamb Who died to

save us through the shedding of His blood: You must know that you were redeemed from the useless way of living inherited by tradition from forefathers, not with corruptible things such as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a [sacrificial] lamb without blemish or spot (I Peter 1: 18-19).

Thousands of years before He came, there stood in the region of Moriah, Abraham ready to sacrifice his son Isaac, who figuratively portrayed YAHSHUA the Lamb of God, as he submissively let his father lay him on the altar he had built. There the Patriarch Abraham solemnly declared these prophetic words: My son, God Himself will provide a lamb for the burnt offering (Gen. 22). Four thousand years later YAHSHUA was hung on a cross on that same region where Abraham was asked to sacrifice his son. He was the Lamb for the burnt offering, of whom Abraham had declared. His sacrifice was done once and for all, as the writer of the Hebrews' letter well expresses: He (YAHSHUA) then went to say, Behold, [here] I am, coming to do Your will. Thus He does away with and annuls the first order [as a means of expiating sin] so that He might inaugurate and establish the second order. And in accordance with this will [of God], we have been made holy through the offering made once for all of the body of YAHSHUA Messiah (10:9-10).

The victorious Lamb of God came to fulfill the law in its entirety; He came and purchased men for His Father with His precious blood. At the end of things, He will be able to open the scroll, which no one is found worthy to do so, only YAHSHUA, because He was sacrificed and with His Blood, He purchased men unto God from every tribe and language and people and nation. And He has made them a kingdom and priests to God, and they shall reign over the earth. Then John looked, and heard the voices of many angels on every side of the throne and of the living creatures and the elders and they numbered ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands, saying in a loud voice, Deserving is the Lamb, Who was sacrificed to receive all power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and majesty and blessing (Rev. 5: 9-12)! He will be acknowledged before all men; and will be worshiped by all, because He abased and humbled Himself and carried His obedience to the extreme of death, even the death of the cross (Phil. 2: 8b)! As the perfect Lamb of God, He took upon Himself to be the Redeemer Lamb, figuratively speaking. He left nothing unfulfilled that needed to be fulfilled in that position. The opening of the scroll is of great significance, for it is given only to the One Who gave His life as a sacrificial Lamb for the atonement of the sin of the world. That time will be the time when the beginning judgments

will be revealed through the opening of the scroll by Him and only Him- YAHSHUA, the Lamb of God! The scroll is God's testament- His final dealings with men and the universe. The scroll is the written sovereignty of God revealed by His Son, YAHSHUA, Who holds it in His right hand, showing power and authority.

YAHSHUA was portrayed as the Lion of Judah at the same time He was portrayed as a Lamb in Revelation 5: 5: Then one of the elders said to me, Stop weeping! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has won! He can open the scroll and break its seven seals! Jacob, before his death, uttered these prophetic words concerning his son Judah: Judah, a lion's cub! With the prey, my son, you have gone high up. He stooped down, he couched like a lion, and like a lioness- who dares provoke and rouse him? The scepter or leadership shall not depart from Judah, not the ruler's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh [the Messiah, the Peaceful One] comes to Whom it belongs, and to Him shall be the obedience of the people (Gen. 49:9-10). Here Jacob prophesied the Messiah to come from the tribe of Judah. He stands tall and strong above all; He is a lion that will roar His judgment upon the nations at the opening of every seal. When the lion roars he has his prey in sight; his roar is a warning for the animals to flee. The lion expresses royalty, power, dominion, and strength. He is confidence in his power and no one second-guess his ability to kill.

When the time comes, YAHSHUA will no longer come as a humble Lamb to die for the sin of the world, but as a Lion to roar judgments upon the wicked and upon the earth. Jeremiah pictured the Lord as a Lion when he prophesied against the nations: The Lord shall roar from on high and utter His voice from His holy habitation; He shall roar mightily against His fold and pasture. He shall give a shout like those who tread grapes against all the inhabitants of the earth (Jer. 25: 30). The Lamb of God Who came to take the sin of the world will come as a Lion roaring His judgment and taking His place of kingship over all the earth, above and under the earth. Make sure, my friend, that you will not be found under His judgment, but under His mercy redeemed by His blood which He shed for you while He took the position of the Lamb of God- the Savior of your soul.