



**Sunday December 20, 2020**  
**The Lion and The Lamb**

**INTRODUCTION**

The way we celebrate Christmas this year may be a lot different from what we are generally accustomed to celebrating over the past years.

Despite the limitations and restrictions on us, the joy, happiness and festive spirit will not be dampened when we have a complete understanding of the Jesus we celebrate. What do we really know about Jesus? Who is Jesus anyway? It may seem an easy question to answer. Let me elaborate on why I asked you these questions.

Based on our experiences, encounters and our relationship with Jesus, each one of us would have a favorite image of Him in our mind, which is good, but this could lead to danger. We may choose to think of Jesus in those terms – and NOT in others. There is always a danger of our focusing on one true aspect of Jesus' character and, by overemphasizing that; we end up misunderstanding and thus misrepresenting the person Jesus is.

Throughout the Bible we see God revealing Himself and His Son to mankind.

**REVELATION OF JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

In the Old Testament, there are more than 300 prophecies concerning the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus. All these prophecies were fulfilled in the person and the work of Jesus.

The first prophecy regarding Jesus was in the Garden of Eden when God said in

**Genesis 3:15**

**And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.**

In the Garden of Eden, God announced the coming of our Messiah. God said that Satan would wound the Messiah but the Messiah would crush Satan.

In 2 Samuel 7:12-13, we have this prophecy which was actually spoken by Samuel to King David reaffirming that Jesus is from the line of King David and His kingdom would be forever:



## **2 Samuel 7:12-13**

**12 When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.**

**13 He shall build a house for My Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.**

From the prophecy of Micah 5:2, we know Jesus was born into the tribe of Judah in the town of Bethlehem.

## **Micah 5:2**

**But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.**

In Genesis 49:8-10, Jacob calls his sons together and tells them what will happen to each of them in the days to come. Here Jacob is speaking in a prophetic language. When he gets to his son Judah, he says,

## **Genesis 49:8-10**

**8 Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's children shall bow down before you.**

**9 Judah is a lion's whelp; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; and as a lion, who shall rouse him?**

**10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people.**

In this prophecy we see the scepter shall not depart from Judah. The reference to the Lion of the tribe of Judah points to the conquering, victorious king who would descend from Judah's lineage. This lion was pointing to only one person, Jesus Himself, God in human form, who is the lion of the tribe of Judah.

From the prophecy in Isaiah 7:14 we know that He was born from a virgin.

## **Isaiah 7:14**

**Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.**

The name Immanuel means "God with us" indicates the divinity of Jesus.



The prophecies concerning Jesus' suffering called as the "servant songs" or the "songs of the suffering servant" in Isaiah. There are four songs, but I would like to draw our attention on the one in Isaiah 53.

#### **Isaiah 53:4, 5, 7**

**4 Surely He has borne our grief's and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken and smitten by God, and afflicted.**

**5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities;"**

**7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.**

From these few revelations of Jesus in the Old Testament, I would like to mention the two main images and names of God used in scripture that describe the person and work of Jesus.

- Here we have the image of a Lion of the tribe of Judah describing Jesus as the conquering and victorious King.
- The other of a Lamb describing the full, sufficient and perfect sacrifice Jesus made on cross for the sins of mankind.

### **THE REVELATION OF JESUS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

Let's look at a few prophecies or revelations of Jesus in the New Testament.

In Luke 1:31-32, we read the angel said to Mary:

#### **Luke 1:31-32**

**31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.**

**32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.**

An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said,

#### **Matthew 1:20-21**

**20 Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.**



**21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.**

God could have just told Mary and Joseph that he had a plan to fulfill, hence Mary as a virgin will give birth to a son. But God revealed to them Jesus' identity, His uniqueness, His greatness and the purpose of His birth. Mary and Joseph needed to know who Jesus is and they needed to see the greater or whole picture so as to face and overcome all the difficulties that would unfold in their lives.

One difficulty they faced was when they travelled to Bethlehem. They tapped on every hotel door but there was no place anywhere.

A stable! Was this the place the Son of God was to be born? However, we see Mary and Joseph accommodated themselves to what was available and they enjoyed peace, joy, a great contentment and fulfillment on seeing the face of the Son of God.

Why do you think they sensed this in the midst of hay and animals? I think it was the revelation they received of who this child is and what He would accomplish which was greater than any frustration, disappointment or the closed doors and hardship they faced.

Maybe some of you are facing closed doors in your life. There seems no end to seeing closed doors. Finally something opened up but you're terribly disappointed because like the stable, it is something you never imagined or thought of. It does not fit in your plan or dreams. You're telling God I thought you had great, big plans for me, plans to prosper me and give me a big prosperous future. Is this small, unimpressive, simple and mediocre plan for me?

One revelation of God is that He always has the best plans for His children. Yes, He can do exceedingly and abundantly more than you ask, think or even imagine... but there is another side of what He has revealed in His Word. He is a God of simple, small and humble beginnings.

### **Zechariah 4:10**

**For who has despised the day of small things?**

Don't despise the day of small beginnings. Through small and humble beginnings, God will reveal His greatness. Rejoice and celebrate the small beginnings. Remember from a small seed grows a big tree.



## REVELATION OF JESUS AT THE BEGINNING OF HIS MINISTRY

Let's move on to God's revelation of His Son just about the time He began His earthly ministry. The Jews sent priests and the Levites to John the Baptist to ask him if he was the Messiah or the Christ. John denied both of these titles. The very next day when John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him, he said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29).

This revelation by John the Baptist was revealed at the right moment. The Jews needed to hear this. The Jews were under the Roman rule. Tyranny and oppression was real, taxes were high, hope was small, unemployment was high and the future was bleak. People were desperately waiting for the Messiah the King who would deliver them, save them from the Roman dictatorship and give them freedom.

When Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey; the crowds who went before Him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' Hosanna in the highest!" (Matthew 21:9)

Hosanna to the Son of David! The people openly gave Jesus the titles appropriate for the Messiah. Hosanna means "save now!" Or save us now. It was originally a cry for help: Save!

When the people were shouting Hosanna, they were not thinking of salvation and forgiveness of sins. They wanted the Messiah to save them from the Roman rule and oppression.

From His birth and His life on earth, Jesus did not match up to the status or role of an earthly King. Jesus told everyone why He had come: "the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:28, NIV)

When Jesus did not fit in their expectation of a King, the same crowd shouted crucify Him.

The Jews knew the OT prophecies concerning the Messiah. They heard it from John the Baptist as well - the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. But based on their situation of struggles and hopelessness, they focused on one true aspect of Jesus' character and by overemphasizing that, they ended up misunderstanding and thus misrepresenting the person and work of Jesus.

Based on the prophecies, was Jesus truly the Lion and the Lamb? If He was, did He fulfill them both?



Yes He did.

## **JESUS THE LION AND THE LAMB**

In Revelation 5, John sees a vision of the throne room of God.

In this room, God is right at the center. The right hand of him who was seated on the throne was a scroll.

John saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice,

### **Revelation 5:2**

#### **Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?**

No one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. John begins to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. He weeps for his own sin and for the sins of mankind.

But that's not the end of the story! One of the elders told John not to weep; he said there is one who is worthy! There is one member of the human race who has not sinned:

### **Revelation 5:5**

#### **Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.**

This is clearly referring to Jesus Christ, because he was the descendant of King David and of the tribe of Judah.

Remember the prophecy I mentioned earlier in Genesis 49. The scepter will not depart from Judah. The scepter was a symbol of His kingly authority and lordship.

The angel tells John the Lion of the tribe of Judah is worthy to open the scroll.

Why was He worthy to open the scroll? Because He was the one who conquered sin, satan and death on the cross. He was victorious over sin, satan and death. As a king, Jesus established His Kingly authority and Lordship over sin, satan and death.

As we read earlier in Genesis 3, the first prophecy in the Garden of Eden is where God announced the coming of the Messiah. God said that satan would wound the Messiah



but the Messiah would crush satan. As a King—the Lion of Judah defeated satan on the cross.

So John expects to see a mighty, powerful, majestic Lion. But that is not what he sees at all:

### **Revelation 5:6**

**And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain.**

Imagine John's surprise: He does not see a Lion but a Lamb! And even the Lamb is not mighty and powerful, but one who was slain.

Why did the lamb look as though it was slain?

Remember the prophecy in Isaiah 53, the passage about the suffering servant, dying for His people. V7 says He was like a lamb that is led to the slaughter.

Why? Because "the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all" (v 6).

With this revelation, John confirmed Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God.

How was Jesus the Lamb of God?

Just before the Hebrew people left Egypt, they were instructed to take the blood of an unblemished lamb and smear it on the doorposts of their homes (Exodus 12:1-13). That night, as the angel of the Lord passed through Egypt to strike down the firstborn of each household, those with the blood of the lamb on their doorposts would be passed over and spared. From that day on, the Lord commanded the Israelites to celebrate an annual Passover feast to celebrate and remember their deliverance from Egypt and commemorate God's provision in their lives. In Old Testament law, the unblemished lamb was again used as a sacrifice as a covering for human sin. In those days, an innocent lamb would take the place of the one who had sinned, as the penalty for sin was death. With the sacrifice of the lamb, sin was just covered but not completely removed.

### **CONCLUSION**

Jesus Christ came to pay the penalty for sin once and for all. Through his death on the cross, Jesus became the perfect sacrifice, the pure and innocent Passover lamb who took our place, atoning for sin and ushering in a new covenant of eternal salvation for all who believe and call upon his name.

Jesus came the first time to take care of mankind's big problem. The people's political problem was real and He will fix it when He comes back the second time. But we had a



way bigger problem than politics. Our problem was not out there, but the bigger problem was in here...in our Heart! Jesus came the first time to take care of the big problem – sin. He took of first things first.

As important as it is to know God as the Lion, that wouldn't have mattered much unless he became the Lamb. He would still be God. He would still reign forever. He would still ultimately triumph over his enemies. However, we would still be lost. What makes Jesus all the more impressive is that His road to being the Lion came through suffering. He didn't redeem us by keeping his status as a Lion. He redeemed us by becoming humble as a lamb.

Jesus Christ, as the Lion, conquered sin and death so that we could share in the glory of His eternal kingdom. This victory was made possible through His work on the cross, in which He stepped in as the innocent Lamb to be sacrificed for our sin once and for all.

Our Lion has given us victory over sin and has removed the penalty of death and replaced it with the promise and hope of eternal life. You can celebrate, because you are victorious today. You are no longer under the penalty of sin.





LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**Sunday December 20, 2020**  
**The Lion and The Lamb**

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

**Preparation**

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at [apcwo.org/sermons](http://apcwo.org/sermons) . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

**Welcome**

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

**LISTEN to God's Word**

Read the following Scripture passages: *Genesis 3:15, 2 Samuel 7:12-13, Genesis 49:8-10, Isaiah 53:4, 5, 7; John 1:29 and Revelation 5:1-14.*

**INVESTIGATE God's Word Together**

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

- 1) *How did Jesus fulfill the role of being the Lion and the Lamb?*
- 2) *What does Jesus being the Lion and the Lamb, mean today to each one of us?*
- 3) *What preparations are you making to meet the coming of the Lion of the tribe of Judah?*
- 4) *Pray for each other that we would complete surrender every area of our lives to God. We'll allow God to be Lord over every area of our lives.*
- 5) *Pray for each other declaring victory over areas of sin, addiction, weakness and strongholds. Welcome the work of the Holy Spirit to cause this to happen.*



If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

**FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey**

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

**ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another**

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, families to be protected and strengthened*
- 2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*
- 3, God's divine destiny to be fulfilled in each one's lives in 2021.*

Close by thanking God together.



**USEFUL RESOURCES**



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

**YOUTUBE:** <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

**WEBSITE:** <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

**CHURCH:** <https://apcwo.org>

**FREE SERMONS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

**FREE BOOKS:** <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

**JESUS CHRIST:** <https://examiningjesus.com>

**BIBLE COLLEGE:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

**E-LEARNING:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

**WEEKEND SCHOOLS:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

**COUNSELING:** <https://chrysalislife.org>

**MUSIC:** <https://apcmusic.org>

**MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP:** <https://pamfi.org>

**CHURCH APP:** <https://apcwo.org/app>

**CHURCHES:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

**WORLD MISSIONS:** <https://apcworldmissions.org>