

**3/23-29:#40 The Lion-Lamb:** I. The book of Revelation is a picture of Jesus Christ; the twenty-two chapters of this book are a single portrait portraying and depicting Jesus. **Rev. 1:1** The revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave to Him to show to His slaves the things that must quickly take place; and He made it known by signs, sending it by His angel to His slave John. **II. "Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome" (Rev. 5:5a):** A The lion is a symbol of Christ, portraying Him as a strong fighter against the enemy, as revealed in Genesis 49:8-9. **Gen. 49:8** Judah, your brothers will praise you; Your hand will be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's sons will bow down before you. **9** Judah is a young lion; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He couches, he stretches out like a lion, and like a lioness; who will rouse him up? **B** Christ's overcoming qualifies Him to open the scroll and its seven seals. **Rev. 5:5** And one of the elders said to me, Do not weep; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so that He may open the scroll and its seven seals. **C** The title Root of David signifies that Christ is the source of David; therefore, David, His forefather, called Him "Lord". **D** As the Lion of the tribe of Judah, Christ overcame and defeated the rebellious Satan, the enemy of God, and as the redeeming Lamb, He took away the sin of fallen man: **1** By so doing, He removed the hindrances to the fulfillment of God's purpose. **2** The result is that He is worthy to open the scroll concerning God's economy. **III. "I saw in the midst of the throne...a Lamb standing as having just been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth" (Rev. 5:6):** A In chapter 5 is the scene in the heavens after Christ ascended there: **6** And 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 just been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. **7** And He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sits upon the throne. **1** He was recommended to the apostle John as the Lion of the tribe of Judah, but He appeared to John as the Lamb. **2** As the Lion, He is the Fighter against the enemy; as the Lamb, He is the Redeemer for us. **3** He fought to redeem us, and He won the battle over the enemy and accomplished redemption for us. **4** To the enemy He is a Lion, and to us He is a Lamb; hence, He is the Lion-Lamb. **B** As far as redemption is concerned, Christ sat down at the right hand of God in the heavens after His ascension, whereas regarding the carrying out of God's administration, He is

still standing in His ascension. **C** Having just been slain indicates that the Lamb had just been slain and also that the scene in the heavens that is depicted in Revelation 5 took place immediately after Christ's ascension into the heavens. **D** The Lord has seven horns: **1** Horns signify strength in fighting. **Deut. 33:17** And his horns are the horns of the wild ox; with them he shall drive peoples to the ends of the earth together. **2** Christ is the redeeming Lamb, yet He has horns for fighting. **3** He is the fighting Redeemer; His fighting is complete in God's move, as signified by the number seven. **E** Eyes are for observing and searching: **1** Christ as the redeeming Lamb has seven observing and searching eyes for executing God's judgment upon the universe to fulfill God's eternal purpose, which will consummate in the building up of the New Jerusalem. **2** In Zechariah 3:9 Christ is prophesied as the stone, the topstone with seven eyes for God's building. **Zech. 3:9** Here is the stone that I have set before Joshua—upon one stone are seven eyes. I will engrave its engraving, declares Jehovah of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day. **3** These seven eyes are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth, and they run to and fro through the whole earth. **4:10** These seven rejoice when they see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel; they are the eyes of Jehovah running to and fro on the whole earth. **4** According to Greek grammar, the antecedent of which is seven eyes. **5** The seven Spirits of God refer only to the seven eyes of the Lamb, and not to His seven horns. **IV. "The seven Spirits of God":** **Rev. 1:4** John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is coming, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, **5** And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. **3:1** These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God... **4:5** And out of the throne come forth lightnings and voices and thunders. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God; **A** Revelation 1:4 speaks of "the seven Spirits who are before His throne": **1** The seven Spirits are undoubtedly the Spirit of God because They are ranked among the Triune God in Revelation 1:4-5. **2** As seven is the number for completion in God's operation, so the seven Spirits must be for God's move on the earth. **3** In essence and existence God's Spirit is one; in the intensified function and work of God's operation, God's Spirit is sevenfold: **a** This is similar to the lampstand in Zechariah 4:2. **Zech. 4:2** And he said to me, What do you see? And I said, I see that

there is a lampstand all of gold, with its bowl on top of it and its seven lamps upon it, with seven pipes for each of the lamps on top of it; **B** In its existence it is one lampstand, but in its function it is seven lamps. **4** At the time that the book of Revelation was written, the church had become degraded: **a** The age was dark. **B** The sevenfold intensified Spirit of God was needed for God's move and work on the earth. **B** In Matthew 28:19 the sequence of the Triune God is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; in Revelation 1:4-5 the sequence is changed: **Matt. 28:19** Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **1** The seven Spirits of God are listed in the second place instead of the third. **2** This reveals the importance of the intensified function of the sevenfold Spirit of God. **3** This point is confirmed by the repeated emphasis on the Spirit's speaking in 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22; 14:13; and 22:17. **Rev. 2:7** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God. **C** At the opening of the other Epistles, only the Father and the Son are mentioned: **1** From the Father and the Son grace and peace are given to the receivers. **2** In Revelation 1:4-5 the Spirit is included; from Him grace and peace are imparted to the churches. **3** This indicates the crucial need of the Spirit to counteract the degradation of the church for God's move. **D** The seven Spirits are working in the churches, so the churches will surely go forward. **E** Today we need to see and experience the sevenfold Spirit, the intensified Spirit, the Spirit of recovery. **V. "They sing a new song, saying: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain and have purchased for God by Your blood men out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation" (Rev.5:9):** **2** And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the scroll and to break its seals? **3** And no one in heaven nor on the earth nor under the earth was able to open the scroll or look into it. **4** And I wept much because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or look into it. **5** And one of the elders said to me, Do not weep; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so that He may open the scroll and its seven seals. **10** And have made them a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign on the earth. **A** The song here is new because the Lamb whom it praises had just been slain. **B** In the whole universe no one is worthy to open the mystery of God's economy but Christ, the overcoming Lion and the redeeming Lamb: **1** As the

overcoming Lion, He defeated Satan for God. **2** As the redeeming Lamb, He put sin away for us. **3** Christ is the only One qualified to unveil and carry out the mystery of God's economy. **4** We need to realize that Christ is worthy to open the seals of the secret of the divine economy; this aspect of the Lord's worthiness is universal and immeasurable. **5** Christ is worthy of our praises; He is worthy even of our lives.

**Testimony** At present, the world situation is changing rapidly. When I see wars and economic conflicts between nations, I become very anxious. In such moments, I am compelled to come to Christ, who is both the Lion and the Lamb, and I pray: **"Lord Jesus, You are the only One who can open up the mystery of the divine history behind human history and show it to me. Do not let me be troubled by looking only at the outward shell of human history. Grant me to see Your move within the shell."** As I prayed in this way and considered the world situation, my inward anxiety and fear disappeared. I began to understand the move of God's economy behind these events. I also felt that since the Lord's coming is near, I need to cooperate more actively with the Lord, follow the move of the Holy Spirit, and advance in the work of the gospel and shepherding. Furthermore, when I prophesy in the meetings, I have been able to speak with a greater burden. Since to prophesy is to minister God's word to people for God, I feel that it is necessary to speak with an understanding of God's move behind the world situation. This week, I was helped by the following portion from *Morning Nourishment*, page 152: "According to Revelation 5, Christ's worthiness is a matter of His being qualified to open the secret of God's economy. The universe is a mystery which the scientists cannot unravel. They simply do not know the meaning or the purpose of the universe because it is a secret kept from them. But Christ is worthy to open this secret, for He is worthy to open the seals of God's economy. Christ has received from God the authority to administrate the entire universe. Christ is the real Administrator of the heavens and all the nations on earth. ... The One who was sitting on the throne was holding a scroll sealed with seven seals. God was sitting on the throne holding this scroll, the schedule of His administration in the entire universe. This scroll is like a timetable of what will take place from the ascension of Christ to the New Jerusalem. The seven seals with which the scroll is sealed are actually its contents. These seven seals are the seven secrets of the universe, which are the mystery of God's economy."