

BEHOLD THE LION AND THE LAMB

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All it takes is a quick glance at the current global affairs to know that people are suffering tremendously around the world. From the military coup d'état in Myanmar, the ongoing tension between Israel and her surrounding nations, to the continuous devastating effects of covid19 mentally, physically, emotionally, and financially in practically every area of the globe.

"Who will step in to restore our democracy and rescue us completely? Will the U.N. send help? Is there someone who is able?"

These are the cries of the Burmese people as they continue to flee their cities to seek refuge elsewhere.

"Will our new Prime Minister, Naftali Bennett, bring forth lasting peace and security for us? Is he able?"

A question asked by the people of Israel, as they slowly move forward after the recent war in Gaza.

"Is there someone, or is there a nation, who can ensure protection from other future life-threatening diseases?"

As much as we desire answers to these questions, the reality is, no matter how hopeful we are toward political and global leaders to address these worldwide concerns, there is no one, no not one, who is able. And if we continue to anchor our hope in the wrong places, we are bound to experience dismay and disappointment.

In Revelation 5:4, Scripture says that John began to weep loudly *because no one was found worthy to open the scroll and break its seals*. To set the context of the passage, there is a

general agreement between biblical scholars that this scroll - held by Him who is seated on the throne - contains the wisdom, promises, and purposes of God. And that in order to open the scroll, and thus bring to fulfillment God's promises and purposes, someone worthy must come and break its seven seals. When no one was found worthy, John had this deep sense of hopelessness.

"How, then, will all this pain, suffering, and chaos end?", the apostle John must've thought. All throughout the Scriptures, **God has promised that His people will forever dwell in safety and security** (2 Samuel 7:10, Zechariah 12:8-9, Zephaniah 3:14-15, Micah 4:6-7, Amos 8:15, Joel 3:20, Ezekiel 37:24-28), **and that He will redeem and restore His people completely and fully** (Ezekiel 39:25-29, Hosea 2:16-20, Hosea 14:4-7, Micah 7:18-20, Zechariah 14:9, Acts 3:21, Romans 8:18-23, Philippians 1:6; 3:20).

But with no one able to take the scroll and open its seals, how will these promises come to fruition? Just when all seemed hopeless for John, the next verses come gushing in like a stream of water in a dry and arid land.

"Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals." - Revelation 5:5

"And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw **a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain...**and when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb..." - Revelation 5:6,8

Weep no more! There is someone who is worthy to take the scrolls, break its seals, and bring into fulfillment all of the promises and purposes of Him who is seated on the throne - to bring forth judgement against the wicked, end all chaos without and all our chaos within, redeem all who are His, and establish the restoration of all things. **Behold, the Lion and the Lamb** - the promised offspring of David, the ultimate King who will rule and reign forever, and the promised offspring of Abraham - the ultimate Sacrifice who will bring salvation to the ends of the earth! **Behold Jesus, the Lion and the Lamb!**

In the same way that John was told to weep no more, I pray that in light of the worthiness of Jesus and the assurance that He will bring to fruition all the promises and purposes of God, that we, too, would weep no more! I pray that we would joyfully anticipate that glorious day when suffering, sorrow, and tears will be no more - that glorious day when all we will do is worship the Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Lamb who was slain, with people from every tongue, tribe, nation, and land, all declaring with one voice,

"Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth." - Revelation 5:9-10

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" - Revelation 5:13 ✠