



# The Lion & the Lamb

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# Before we look at Revelation 5

## Tips for reading the Book of Revelation

- It's not supposed to be scary...
  - ...but to encourage us in times of great adversity
- It's not predicting specific events
- The Beast is Empire
  - It will be bound
- The False Prophet is Religion
  - It will be silenced
- The whore of Babylon is Hedonism
  - Selfish hoarding of wealth & pleasure seeking will be exposed
- We win!

# Revelation 5 - a revelation of Jesus

- He is the Lion of Judah (v.5)
  - The Messiah expected by the Jews
- He is the Lamb as though slain (v.6)
  - Totally unexpected!
- 7 horns = all powerful
- 7 eyes = all knowing
- 7 spirits = the Spirit poured out on the church
- He is able to judge Empire, Religion & Hedonism
  - But as the Lamb, not as the Lion
  - By sacrifice and laying down of life
  - It's the Lamb who shares the throne of God (5:13, 7:17)

# Revelation 5 – a Lamb on the throne?

- He is not scary
- He will not force his way
  - Not even into the church! (3:20)
  - The end won't come till we want it (22:17)
- When it does come it will be forceful
  - A day or hour of judgement (14:7, Matt 10:15, 2 Peter 3:7, 1 John 4:17)
  - Rider on a white horse (19:11-21)
  - Until then it is the time of his favour (Luke 4:19)



# Revelation 5 – Three key lessons

## 1. Jesus won't force his way into our lives

- Hence we pray, "Your kingdom come, your will be done (Matt 6:10)"
- So we ask to be filled with his Spirit (Luke 11:13)
- He won't force his way into others' lives despite our prayers

## 2. Our prayers are not wasted

- God remembers our prayers
- God lives with them, breathing them in (5:8)
- God answers our prayers as the Lamb

## 3. God is on the throne

- So we do not despair, despite Trump, Brexit & Climate Change
- We are peaceful, but not complacent!