

# KING OF THE JUNGLE

SERMON TITLE: THE ROARING LAMB

REVELATION 5:1-14

In the “[Chronicles of Narnia](#),” the allegorical fiction of CS Lewis, a lion named “[Aslan](#)” represents our Lord Jesus. A little girl named “[Lucy](#),” illustrates the growing Christian. *One night Lucy sees Aslan in the moonlight.*

He appears huge, and shines brightly. She races to greet him and buries her face in his lush, silky mane.

The mighty lion rolls over on his side and cradles Lucy between his paws. His warm breath surrounds the little girl. She gazes into his large, wise eyes...

Aslan greets her, “[Welcome, child.](#)” Lucy says with astonishment, “[Aslan, you are bigger.](#)” The lion answers, “[That’s because you’re older, little one.](#)”

She asks, “[Not because you are?](#)” He explains, “[I am not. But every year you grow, you will find me bigger.](#)”

And this is what happens as we grow in our faith - we discover our Lord Jesus is *bigger* and *brighter* and *better* than we imagined. He is magnified in our hearts.

Jesus doesn’t grow, our knowledge of Him grows.

And this is what happens in Revelation 5. This is one of the most *Christ-exalting, mind-expanding, heart-exploding, praise-producing* chapters in all the Bible.

You approach Revelation 5 with kindergarten faith, but you walk away from it with a faith that's matured.

After Revelation 5 the already mighty Lion - the King of the Jungle - seems even *bigger, brighter, bolder!*

When John penned the book of Revelation the first century of Christianity was coming to a close. John was the last remaining disciple of the original twelve.

And I'll bet not a day went by that someone didn't ask John, "*What do you remember most about Jesus?*"

John had seen and heard the Lord firsthand! He had a myriad of memories on which he could draw...

A surprise catch of fish... jars of water into vats of wine... multiplying the loaves and fish... John was there for the healings, and the Last Supper, and the crucifixion, he even outran Peter to the empty tomb...

Fifty years later John still had a crick in his neck, after straining so hard to see Jesus ascend to heaven.

But this vision in Revelation 5 alters forever how John will look on His Lord Jesus. John suddenly sees the Christ not *as He was* - but *as He is, and will be*.

Nothing is familiar any more. John first met Jesus on earth. In Chapter 5 he encounters Jesus in Heaven.

At his first coming the ministry of Jesus encompassed an area the size of New Jersey. Now His ministry transcends the whole Earth. John senses the scope of His influence is now cosmic - universal.

I get a chuckle whenever I invite someone to church without telling them I'm the pastor. *They're surprised!*

Folks get use to me in one setting - *I'm their kid's coach, or a neighbor, or the guy in the grocery store...*

Then they come to Calvary Chapel and see me in a different environment. I've had baseball players ask their parents, **"What's Coach Sandy doing on stage?"**

In a sense this is what happens in Revelation 5. Jesus is revealed to John in a different environment.

And in one glimpse his faith is forever ramped up!

John gets a revelation – **Jesus is a lion that looks like a lamb - and He is a lamb that acts like a lion!**

We'll track John's vision by noting *seven "S"s...*

This chapter revolves around a **Scroll**, a **Sob**, a **Sibling**, seven **Seals**, some **Scars**, the **Supplications** of the saints, and a new **Song**. Pay attention today, and you too might have a faith-expanding experience...

First, John sees a **scroll**. Verse 1, **"And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals."**

The only other biblical reference to a sealed scroll is in Jeremiah 32. It's a title deed to a parcel of land.

Ancient deeds were written on double-sided scrolls or **opisthographs**. Written on the outside was a legal description of the property and its owner. The inside contained covenants and terms required to take possession. Often scrolls were lengthy, and bound at intervals with waxed seals. *This* scroll had seven seals.

When a property changed hands, once the price was paid, the seals were broken. The parcel belonged to a new owner, but the breaking of the seals disclosed the steps he had to follow to take possession of the land.

The scope of interest in *this* deed indicates it's a very strategic document. Its appearance in heaven tips us off that a very significant real estate transaction is about to take place. *A deed is about to change hands!*

On April 30, 1803, the greatest land acquisition in history occurred. For a paltry \$15 million the US purchased from Napoleon and France 530 million acres. The tract extended west from the Mississippi to the Rockies – and north from New Orleans to Canada.

The land was eventually carved into 15 states. The Louisiana Purchase was the biggest bargain of all time.

Yet even a Louisiana Purchase pales in comparison to what's about to take place in heaven before John's very eyes. He's about to see *the deal to end all deals!*

Verse 2, "Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it."

We see a *scroll* - and now John **sobs** because no one is worthy to open the deed! Obviously, this real estate venture is an agonizing experience for John.

I don't know about you, but every real estate purchase I've ever engaged in has been an ordeal. The process of buying a house can bring you to tears.

Your first concern is to make sure you're buying a quality home, and you can't trust the ads... Common phrases take on new meaning in a real estate ad...

For example... **"Much potential"** means *"expensive repairs needed."* **"Unique urban home"** means *"once a warehouse."* **"Daring design"** is *"still a warehouse."*

**"Reduced to move"** means *"been on the market for years."* **"Close to school"** means *"backs up to a basketball court."* **"Luxury living"** means *"overpriced."*

**"Cozy"** is *"smaller than a phone booth."* **"Fixer Upper"** - *"think Berlin after World War II."* **"Country charm"** means *"cows graze in your neighbor's front yard."* And **"real potential"** is *"enter at your own risk."*

As far as I'm concerned real estate transactions are stress producing. Like John, they cause you to sob!

But John isn't sobbing because he's unsure of the quality of what's being purchased, or worried that it's being misrepresented. To the contrary, John weeps because he knows what's at stake! You cannot overestimate the value and costliness of this parcel.

I believe, like many Bible students, that the scroll in verse 1 is actually the title deed to the universe.

Understand, God is into land. He has an interest in real estate. He gave a parcel of property to Abraham.

He set up boundaries, and carved out plots for each of Israel's tribes. He set aside a special tract of land for David's heir to build the Temple. God gave Israel laws to govern ownership and transference of real estate.

God is the first and foremost realtor.

From centuries before Christ until **Century 21** (get it, we're in "Century 21") - at various times, God has dealt in real estate, in anticipation of one final deal.

John is sobbing because he sees no one worthy to open this scroll and take possession of this property.

*Realize the problem our universe faces...* The dilemma effects your quality of life every single day.

When God created the universe the crown of His creation was mankind, *the creature made in His image*.

God put Adam and Eve in a garden to till and cultivate it, and eat its fruit. Because He loved the man and woman He gave them dominion - supremacy and control - over the entire Earth. In naming the animals man expressed his authority over the animal kingdom.

You can't imagine the beauty of life in the garden.

Work was no sweat. All Adam and Eve had to do was pick fruit off a tree. They inherited a perfect utopia.

We're so use to disappointment, and pain, and injustice, and illness, and corruption we can't imagine what life was like before sin entered into our lives...

But we ruined paradise! Adam listened to the snake, and rebelled against God. And instantly life changed.

Everything under man's dominion began to buck against his authority. The creation became subjected to randomness. Mother Nature went nuts. Hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, and tsunamis now plague us.

And ever since Satan has had a field day. Since man is blind to God and the things of God, Satan preys on our ignorance. We're easily deceived and manipulated. And Satan has wrestled the world from man's control.

Today, it's obvious Satan has at least semi-control of the world we live in. Jesus acknowledged this in John 12:31 when He called Satan "the ruler of this world."

Satan is the usurper. When mankind divorced ourselves from God, Satan stole control of the planet.

In Matthew 4 Satan offers Jesus the kingdoms of the world. All He asks in return is for Jesus to worship him.

Of course, Jesus rejected the devil's diabolical deal, but He never questioned the devil's right to make the offer. Jesus knew this world is in Satan's clutches.

This explains the awful shape the world is in today.



**Our fallen condition is not God's fault.** If you blame God for the suffering of innocent people, or cancer, or child abuse, or senseless accidents, or war, or famine, or birth defects, or Alzheimer's - *or the terrible calls the referee made yesterday* - you owe God an apology.

The world today is not as God created it to be.

It was gifted to man - then stolen by Satan. The miserable conditions we live in are the result of man's dominion and Satan's influence – not the control and authority of God. This world was given over to man, then forfeited to Satan... and as a result John sobs...

Imagine a teenager who takes the keys to his dad's new Mercedes, goes cruising without his permission, and wraps the car around a telephone poll... He was trusted with a valuable possession, wrecked it, and now he doesn't have what it takes to make the repairs.

John feels this pain. It's humanity's predicament.

This is why John weeps convulsively. If no one is worthy to open the deed and retake possession, the universe will remain in Satan's hands forever. One man paraphrases John, **"I wept and wept and wept..."**

John hears a strong angel offer this challenge, ***"Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"***

But immediately the situation looks grim. This is a strong angel - maybe the archangel Gabriel - but he can't open the scroll. *Ok, strong angels are out - who's left... A member of the human race is a step down...*



Not even Abraham, Moses, David, *a pastor's wife* is capable – the great saints aren't as strong as angels.

Verse 3 makes it official, “*no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.*” They can't find anyone worthy enough to even give it a gaze. No wonder John cries like a baby.

It reminds me of the newlyweds who went shopping for their first house. They didn't have much money.

They told the realtor their salary, then they asked, “Do you think you have a house in our price range?”

The agent answered, “Yes, its current owner is a German Shepherd named “Prince.” This is why John sobs profusely – *all mankind is in the doghouse!*

Which brings us to the third “S” – the **sibling**.

God knew how man would foolishly throw away his dominion, so early on in the annals of Israel God established laws that governed the control of real estate. He even added a provision for *redemption*.

Every property transaction in Israel came with a clause. The original owner retained the right to buy back the land if he could afford the redemption price.

In ancient Israel, families lost their land in two ways. Either the owner died without an heir - or the property was used as collateral for a loan that couldn't be paid.

If the owner was unable - or even dead - a fellow sibling could step in and redeem the land for his family. This relative was called a “Goel” or “**sibling redeemer.**”

*John understood these Laws of Redemption...*

That's why he scans heaven for *a rich relative*, but finds no one worthy. John is afraid the *fallen world*, and *fallen mankind*, will remain stuck in their *fallen state*.

That's when one of the elders sitting by God's throne walks up to John, throws his arm over his shoulder...

*“Cheer up, Johnny.”* And John never forgot his good news, verse 5, **“But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”** There's One who has prevailed!

There's a Lion from the tribe of Judah who *matched the requirements* and who *satisfied the terms of the redemption*. There is One who can *bankroll the scroll!*

**Revelation 5:5 is one of the most strategic moments in history.** The opportunity to take back this fallen world is about to expire - when suddenly, One emerges who can right all wrongs and redeem all that's been lost.

He's the **“Lion of Judah”** and the **“Root of David.”**

The ancestral tree of Israel's kings had the family of David as its branch, and the tribe of Judah as its trunk.

Jesus was born a man - both of the *right tribe* and *right family* - of *Judah* and of *David*. This gave Him the perfect pedigree to be mankind's *sibling-redeemer*.

And Jesus is *a rich relative* - *rich in righteousness*.

Through *His perfect life* and *His sacrificial death* He earned enough equity in righteousness to pay the debt our sin had caused. Put it all together and *Jesus is the One*. He has the credentials required to pop the scroll.

And realize Jesus' motivation, He endured the brutalities of the cross, and paid our debt - not just because He wanted to buy back a parcel, or a planet.

We'll learn later of a new heaven and new earth. Jesus is able to start over... *why pay for what's lost?*

Matthew 13 reveals this mystery in a parable. Jesus says, "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

The man buys the land not to have another field, but to possess the treasure. And *you* are Jesus' treasure.

He loves you. He values you. He buys back the title deed of the universe to make you part of His family!

How amazing is that!

Which brings us to the fourth "S" - what about those seven **seals**? Jesus doesn't just open the scroll – He breaks the *seals*. Little wax seals bound up the deed.

It was one thing to buy back a piece of land – but it is another task altogether to force the person living on the property to vacate, so the new owner can move in.

And the breaking of each seal revealed another step toward eviction. *The last seal...* well, it *sealed* the deal.

I read of a woman in Miami who recently moved into a foreclosed home. It sold two years ago for \$400,000.

She signed for electricity, and water hook-ups - even got an internet connection. The only problem was she didn't own the house. She's a modern day squatter.

Well, Satan is also a squatter. Adam and Eve turned the world God gave them over to an interloper. Satan has usurped his place, and now he refuses to move.

I heard of a homeless man who pitched a tent in the front yard of the public library and refused to vacate. He decided he wanted to live there. He called it home.

When negotiations failed, *he was removed by force...*

What if you were headed to the library when you saw the police manhandling this hostile, homeless fellow.

You might be tempted to cry, [“police brutality.”](#)

This is why chapter 5 is so crucial to what happens in the rest of the Revelation. Jesus is going to rough-up this rebel planet. He will evict Satan, his demons, and the legions of humans who've joined their coup d'etat.

Each time Jesus pops a seal in Heaven sparks fly on planet Earth. Terrible judgments are unleashed.

But don't forget Revelation 5! Jesus holds the title. He owns the universe! He is worthy to take the scroll!

This world rightly belongs to Jesus. And He will eliminate everyone who stands in the way of His rule.

For centuries now a stubborn Satan has been *having his way*... a rebellious man has been *getting his way*...

We live in an age that might be call “*the day of man.*”

But coming soon is a time the Bible refers to as “*the day of the Lord.*” Revelation 6-19 describes a period of time when God will have His say in the affairs of mankind, and Satan will get bounced from the planet.

We’re jumping ahead a bit, but sometimes it’s helpful to know the end from the beginning. When the smoke clears Chapter 20:10 tells us, “*The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*”

Hey, Gentle Jesus also knows how to play hardball!

The same wicked world that nailed Jesus to the cross will get nailed by His judgments. A rebellious planet will find itself in the path of a Lion on the prowl!

In verse 5 the elder refers to John’s *sibling*, our Redeemer, as “*The Lion of the tribe of Judah.*”

The lion is considered *the king of beasts*. Go to the zoo and watch a lion swagger as he walks. The other animals shutter in fear when they hear him roar.

Examine his jaws, his teeth, the sweep of his paws.

A lion is a picture of courage, power, dominance, agility, ferociousness... *and a perfect type of Jesus!*

There's an excerpt from CS Lewis where Lucy talks to Mr. and Mrs. Beaver. Lucy asks, "*Who is Aslan?*"

Mr. Beaver is astonished, "Why, don't you know? He's the King, He's the Lord of the whole wood."

Lucy replies, "*Is He safe? I'll feel quite nervous about meeting a lion.*" Mrs. Beaver jumps in, "That you will, dearie, anyone who appears before Aslan without their knees knocking is either braver than most, or just silly."

Again, Lucy asks, "*But is He safe?*" That's when Mr. Beaver utters his famous line, "Safe? Don't you hear what Mrs Beaver is telling you? Who said anything about safe? Of course, He isn't safe, but He's good. He's the King, I tell you." Revelation proves Jesus isn't a tame lion. He's good, but He's not necessarily safe.

Jesus will one day bring the wicked to their knees.

He'll clean up the mess we've made. Jesus will stop the insanity, even if he has to halt the earth on its axis.

Jesus the Righteous Judge will bring to order a universe in contempt. If you're looking for real hope and change - vote Jesus! *He is the King of the Jungle.*

Notice another "S" - it's a surprise. Jesus takes the *scroll*, and ends the *sob*, and is the *sibling*, and breaks the *seals*... but whatever you do don't miss the **scars**.

The elder calls Jesus a lion, but when John turns his head, we're told in verse 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, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the*

earth. Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.”

“*Horns*” are a symbol of strength. “*Seven eyes*” speak of His omnipresence. He’s empowered with the seven-fold anointing of the one Holy Spirit. He’s King.

*But surprise!... The Lion looks like a Lamb.*

What a paradox! The word translated “*Lamb*” in verse 6 is “*little lamb.*” “*Mary had a little lamb*” and He’s now the conquering King in heaven - *the roaring Lamb.*

Lambs or sheep are the most talked about animals in the Bible - but usually in connection with sacrifice.

*The lamb was God’s sacrifice of choice in the OT.*

A river of blood flowed from the Temple. The only way Israel could come before God was with a sacrifice.

And all those sacrifices were leading up to the ultimate, perfect sacrifice. When the Baptist came out of the wilderness, and identified Jesus as the Messiah. He pointed to Jesus, and told the nation, “*Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.*”

Now at this critical moment in the universe’s history the Son of God steps forward to take the title deed to God’s creation and open the seals of judgment.

Heaven and its angels have always known Him as the Lion. But here Jesus appears as a sacrificed Lamb.



If I asked you, “What are the only man-made things in heaven?” How would you answer... “Well, the only man-made things in heaven are the scars of Jesus.”

We know that after the resurrection Jesus showed Thomas the nail scars in His hands and feet... But the lance left a scar in His side... The scourging left crisscrossed scars on His back... Puncture holes from the crown of thorns were in His forehead... Even His face was disfigured when they plucked out His beard...

If the wounds in his hands were visible why not His other scars? When Mary first saw the risen Lord she didn't recognize Him. She mistook Him for a gardener. It's probable His face bore marks of severe scarring.

Isaiah 52:14 prophesies of Jesus, “His visage was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men.” Hebrew scholars Kiel and Delitzch translate, “So disfigured, His appearance was not human, and His form not like that of the children of men.” Jesus was beaten beyond human recognition...

I believe when our Lord Jesus was taken off the cross His face looked like it belonged to a heavyweight boxer who had just gone 15 rounds in a slugfest.

His body looked as if it had been torn and tethered in a devastating airplane crash. Trust me, if a funeral had been held for Jesus it would've been *closed-casket*.

Thus, when John sees Jesus the Lion in heaven He gasps... “(there) stood a Lamb as though it had been slain...” Here is a lion that looks like a butchered lamb.

I heard of a little girl who's mom's face was severely disfigured. Cruel classmates called her a monster.

The girl started to resent and hate her mom for the humiliation she caused. Until one day mom sat her daughter down and explained how she got her scars...

When the girl was a baby, the house had caught fire.

The mom raced through the burning inferno to rescue her little girl. The scars on her face were from the burns the mother endured to save her daughter.

Needless to say, from that moment on the little girl was never again embarrassed by her mother's scars.

In fact, those scars became a point of great pride.

I think at first we'll be shocked. We might even recoil in terror when we see His scars. I'm not sure anything can prepare us for our first look into the face of Jesus.

But it won't take long for us to recall that His scars represent the price He paid so we could be redeemed and made part of God's family. Suddenly those scars will become *a source of pride and a catalyst for praise!*

I believe when a million years expire in heaven - I'll keep going back to those scars, and there I'll learn the depths of my King's marvelous love for me.

This is where Jesus shatters the perception of how we viewed Him on earth. He was beaten because He made Himself vulnerable. He let cruel men to take, torture, crucify Him. The Lion willingly became a lamb.

"As a lamb before its sharers is silent, He opened not His mouth." Yet today, you can hear the Lamb roar!

Jesus is no longer vulnerable - He's overcome. He's won the victory! He's a Lamb, but He's a roaring Lamb.

Jesus is a Lamb who forevermore acts like a lion.

The scars will always be there as eternal reminders of the price Jesus paid - *but the Lion suffers no more.*

His face speaks of love, but there's fire in His eyes.

The hands that cradled babies, and opened blind eyes, and passed out bread and fish - now breaks open seven seals that wreak havoc on the Earth.

Billions of hard, rebellious sinners will die as a result.

And in this one moment, John's faith matures.

He realizes that redemption is only half the Savior's work. After Jesus takes the scroll, He breaks the seals.

Judgment will flow from the same spigot where mercy now streams. In Heaven today, God's throne is called the "mercyseat" - soon it'll be a *judgment seat*.

And here is where *our* faith can grow up, and get strong. We should see Jesus not just as He once was while on Earth, but as He now is and will forever be..

Jesus is King of the Jungle. The Master is more than a sacrifice. His ambitions are far greater than just our forgiveness. **The Lion is a Lamb - the Lamb is a Lion.**

Before this vision I imagine John was a lot like us...

He quibbled about life's injustices. Every illness caused him to wonder about God's love for him. How could a *good God* allow *bad stuff*? His faith was fragile.

But after this vision John stops his quibbling, and wondering, and doubting... He knows that soon - very soon - righteousness will prevail. Our fractured world will be reset. Evil will be punished, and faith rewarded.

From now on John hangs, not only his hopes for his own soul, but for the whole world, on the roaring Lamb.

And here John joins the heavenly host in what happens next. Verse 8, “**Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.**” These are prayers... Here's another “S.” Call it the **supplications** - or *requests* - of the saints.

Realize your prayers really do matter. At times it's hard to see this truth from our vantage point on earth...

A few weeks ago I prayed at the bedside of an old friend. *The next day he died.* And I struggled. We're suppose to pray, and God is suppose to answer... but at times I don't see it - at least not in the way I want.

But here we get a glimpse of heaven - God's throne - and guess what's there? **A bowl full of our prayers.**

Don't say the prayers you hoist up to God get lost in the shuffle, or don't matter, or get ignored. To the contrary, God puts angels and elders in charge of your prayers. They're kept in close proximity to His throne.

We'll see later, God addresses this bowl of prayers.

Eventually every cry for justice, or deliverance, or blessing, or peace, or even retribution is answered by God - but in His way and in His time - not our own.

And notice our final "S" - a **song!** It's true, "In the end every prayer will become a praise." It may take 10 days or 10 years, or 10 million years, but it will happen.

Verse 9 tells us, "And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."

Who is this in heaven singing? Who but the church can sing such a song? Who fits the description... "*redeemed out of every tribe, tongue, people, nation.*"

This is certainly not Israel. Only the blood-bought Church of Jesus can sing this song of redemption.

This means that while the seals are broken - *when the gloves come off, and God pummels the Earth with judgment* - the Church is in heaven singing His praise.

And I love this idea of singing a new song!

When heaven witnesses the roaring Lamb taking the scroll, and opening the seals, they respond with praise.

This is how we should react to the glory and greatness and grace of our Lord Jesus... with praise!

*And with a new song...* not with an old, stale song you sing mindlessly and mechanically. Make it fresh.

The Bible begins and ends with a song. When Adam was created the first recorded words that came out of his mouth were a song. He welcomes Eve by singing her a love song. His words are lyrical and melodic, “*This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh...*”

Some scholars suggest that before sin entered the world, Adam and Eve always sung to each other.

After the fall of man, the world substituted prose for song. Yet today singing is still the language of heaven.

Verses 11-12 provides us lyrics to Heaven’s song...

John writes, “*Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands...*” In other words, too many angels to count.

“*Saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!"* Heaven is amazed most not by the Lion’s claws, or paws, or teeth, or roar... *but those scars.* For time eternal whenever we see His scars we’ll bow and worship.

The Lion is hailed as “*the Lamb who was slain.*”

The story of Robin Hood is legend, but the story's backdrop is historical. While the English King Richard was away fighting crusades his greedy brother John usurped his authority and reigned in Richard's place.

John abused the Brits and misused the throne.

Then one day, Richard returned. He marched straight to His throne. The revolt toppled like dominos.

*“Richard the Lion-heart”* as he was called, was hailed and praised by the British people. Bells of joy rang out all over England for weeks after his return.

Everywhere Richard went people lined the streets, and shouted, *“The Lion is back! Long live the Lion!”*

And this is what happens at the end of chapter 5.

The Lamb that came to earth the first time to pay the redemption price is the Lion who is returning to take back possession from Satan. Today heaven praises the Lion that's like a Lamb, and the Lamb that's a Lion.

And worship never dies down in Heaven. About the time one voice fades another eruption of praise occurs.

*“And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them...”* Now all creation joins with Heaven in the worship and adoration of the Lamb...

*“I heard (them) saying: “Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!”* Then the four living creatures said,



"Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever."

Here's what I think, I think it's time for us to stop *our* quibbling. Yes, we live in a fallen world. Yes, life isn't always fair. Yes, life can throw some nasty curveballs.

*Injustices occur. Accidents happen. Disasters strike.*

Life doesn't always turn out the way we'd hoped.

But a grown up faith realizes it's only temporary. A Lamb roars from Heaven. He's worthy to rule. He has a deed in hand, and He's about to settle every score.

Stop *wondering* and *worrying*, and start *worshipping!*

John's few moments in heaven taught him to remember those scars, certainly! *But don't stop there...*

Don't just see Jesus as He once was, but as He will be. John learned to hang all his hopes - for a better life *and* a better world - on Jesus, the Roaring Lamb!