

Regent University

**Biblical Metaphor Assignment**  
The Lion & The Lamb

PMIN 524  
PREPARATION OF BIBLICAL MESSAGES  
Fall 2007  
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**Title of Sermon:** Jesus Christ: The Lion and the Lamb

**Big Idea:** Recognize Jesus for Who He is – the Lion and the Lamb

## **Topical Message Outline**

### **I. Introduction**

- A. How do you picture or imagine Jesus?
  - 1. Some imagine him the way we see in the movies that depict his life.
    - a. Serious, solemn and holy
    - b. Loving and compassionate
  - 2. Others might picture Jesus suffering on the cross for the sins of the world.
  - 3. Some may imagine a resurrected Jesus full of Glory.
- B. Today I want you to imagine Jesus in 2 ways. As a Lion and a Lamb. In Revelation 5, John is confronted with these two very different images of Jesus back to back: Jesus as the Lion and the Lamb. This is a puzzle. How can this be an accurate description? Today as we examine these two images of Jesus. I pray that God would open our eyes to these truths so we can delight in Him for Who He is – the Lion and the Lamb. Let us first examine the image we most often recognize – Jesus as the Lamb.

### **II. Jesus Christ: The Lamb**

- A. Jesus came the first time as a Sacrificial Lamb
  - 1. John the Baptist proclaimed, “*Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*” *Jn 1:29*<sup>1</sup>
    - a. At the very dawn of His ministry, Jesus is greeted with words that remind Him of his destiny: His sacrificial agony on the cross for the sin of mankind. The shadow of the

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<sup>1</sup> Scriptures quoted from the NASB version.

cross was cast over the entire ministry of Jesus.<sup>2</sup>

b. Word Study – Lamb

- Thayer's Lexicon – “In these passages Christ is likened to a sacrificial lamb on account of his death, innocently and patiently endured, to expiate sin.”<sup>3</sup>

c. The Lamb of God

- the one God-ordained, God-gifted sacrificial offering<sup>4</sup>

d. Takes away the sin

- In the Levitical victims both ideas met, as they do in Christ, the people's guilt being viewed as *transferred* to them, *avenged* in their death, and so *borne away* by them ( Lev 4:15 16:15, 21, 22 ; and compare Isa 53:6-12; 2Cr 5:21 ).<sup>5</sup>

B. Jesus is described as a lamb because:

1. His Meekness

- a. Webster's defines meekness as - enduring injury with patience and without resentment; not violent or strong.<sup>6</sup>
- b. *He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth. Isa 53:7*
  - oppressed--LOWTH translates, "It was *exacted*,

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<sup>2</sup> David Guzik, *Study Guide for John 1*. (Blue Letter Bible Online, 2006) Available from [http://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/david\\_guzik/sg/Jhn\\_1.html](http://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/david_guzik/sg/Jhn_1.html).

<sup>3</sup> J.H. Thayer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1977).

<sup>4</sup> Robert Jamieson, A.R. Fausset and David Brown, *The Gospel According to John. Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*. (Blue Letter Bible Online, 2000) Available from <http://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/jfb/Jhn/Jhn001.html>.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary. Available from <http://www.Merriam-Webster.com>.

and He was made answerable." The verb means, "to have payment of a debt sternly exacted" ( Deu 15:2, 3 ), and so *to be oppressed* in general; the *exaction* of the full penalty for our sins in His sufferings is probably alluded to.<sup>7</sup>

- When Isaiah uses the phrase He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, we should *not* take this as indicating that Jesus was a helpless victim of circumstances, and was helpless as a lamb. Quite the contrary; even in His suffering and death, Jesus was in control (John 10:18, 19:11 and 19:30). Isaiah's point is that Jesus was silent, not helpless.<sup>8</sup>
  - i. "If I were to die for any one of you, what would it amount to but that I paid the debt of nature a little sooner than I must ultimately have paid it? For we must all die, sooner or later. But the Christ needed not to die at all, so far as he himself was personally concerned. There was no cause within himself why he should go to the cross to lay down his life. He yielded himself up, a willing sacrifice for our sins." (Spurgeon)<sup>9</sup>
  - c. Jesus' meekness is demonstrated throughout His ministry.
    - When ministering to sinners and the sick
    - *Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am*

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<sup>7</sup> Robert Jamieson, A.R. Fausset and David Brown, *The Book of the Prophet Isaiah. Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*. (Blue Letter Bible Online, 2000) Available from <http://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/jfb/Isa/Isa053.html>.

<sup>8</sup> David Guzik, *Study Guide for Isaiah 53*. (Blue Letter Bible Online, 2006) Available from [http://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/david\\_guzik/sg/Isa\\_53.html](http://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/david_guzik/sg/Isa_53.html).

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

*gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. Mt 11:29*

- John 13:5-14 when Jesus humbles himself and washes his disciples feet.
- *"Say to the daughter of Zion, Behold, your king is coming to you, gentle, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden. Mt 21:5*

## 2. His Innocence

- His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth. Isa 53:9*
  - The Messiah never sinned, he remained the Holy One, the perfect sacrifice despite all the pain and suffering.
- "And we indeed {are suffering} justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." Lk 23:41*
- Now when the centurion saw what had happened, he {began} praising God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent. Lk 23:47*
- but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, {the blood} of Christ. 1 Pt 1:19*
- Who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in his mouth; 1 Pt 2:22*

## 3. His Sacrifice

- Isaiah 53:4-11
- Exodus 12 - Fulfillment of the Passover Lamb
  - lamb . . . without blemish--The smallest deformity or defect made a lamb unfit for sacrifice
  - The lamb's death was substitutionary. It took the

place of the firstborn child.

c. Jesus became our substitutionary Lamb.

C. Application: What is your reaction to the truth of Jesus Christ as the sacrificial Lamb of God?

1. Have you confessed that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that He died on the cross for your sins?
2. Let us delight in the truth that Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world.

### III. Jesus Christ: The Lion

A. What comes to mind when you think about a Lion

1. Powerful animal
2. King of the Jungle
3. Majestic beast

B. C.S Lewis depicted Jesus as the Lion Aslan in The Chronicles of Narnia

a. Perhaps show a short clip of C.S. Lewis's depiction of Jesus as a Lion.

C. Jesus' second coming will result in His kingly reign

1. As surely He came the first time. Jesus will come again.
  - a. He went out like a lamb, but He'll come back as a lion

D. He is described as a lion because

1. His Majesty

a. *He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. Acts 5:31*

b. *Therefore when he had gone out, Jesus \*said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him; if God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and will glorify Him immediately. Jn 13:31-32*

- It is emphasized in these two verses: glorified . . . glorified . . . glorified . . . glorify . . . glorify. Five

references to glory in two verses! Jesus saw the cross in terms of glory, instead of humiliation.<sup>10</sup>

c. *For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, Phil 2:9-10*

- Word Study – Highly Exalt
  - i. Thayer's – to exalt to the highest rank and power, raise to supreme majesty
  - ii. To extol most highly
  - iii. To be lifted up with pride, exalted beyond measure
  - iv. To carry one's self loftily<sup>11</sup>
    - 1. Like a Lion!

## 2. His Power

a. *And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Mt 28:18*

- Some authority or ALL authority?
  - i. He is the King of Kings

b. *And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, Heb 1:3*

- Upholds all things - --Greek, "the universe."

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<sup>10</sup> David Guzik, *Study Guide for John 13*. (Blue Letter Bible Online, 2006) Available from [http://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/david\\_guzik/sg/Jhn\\_13.html](http://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/david_guzik/sg/Jhn_13.html).

<sup>11</sup> J.H. Thayer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1977).

Compare Col 1:15<sup>12</sup>

c. *and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.*

*Rev 1:18*

- Jesus is the one who has the keys of Hades and of Death. Some imagine that the devil is somehow the “lord of Hell.” Some imagine that the devil has authority or power to determine life or death. Clearly, they are wrong, for only *Jesus* holds the keys of Hades and of Death. We can trust that Jesus never lets the devil borrow the keys.<sup>13</sup>
- Illustration: If I hold the keys to my car then I hold the power to turn it on. Keys to my house I own it.

### 3. His Longevity

a. . . . *and your years will not come to an end. Heb 1:10-12*

b. *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Heb 13:8*

c. *He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.*

*Col 1:17*

- Since He is before all things, He is *before even time*, that is, *from eternity*.<sup>14</sup>
- The Son of God is the *Conservator*, as well as the *Creator* of all things [PEARSON]. BENDEL less probably explains, "All things in Him come

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<sup>12</sup> Robert Jamieson, A.R. Fausset and David Brown, *The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Hebrews. Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*. (Blue Letter Bible Online, 2000) Available from <http://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/jfb/Hbr/Hbr001.html>.

<sup>13</sup> David Guzik, *Study Guide for Revelation 1*. (Blue Letter Bible Online, 2006) Available from [http://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/david\\_guzik/sg/Rev\\_1.html](http://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/david_guzik/sg/Rev_1.html).

<sup>14</sup> Robert Jamieson, A.R. Fausset and David Brown, *The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Colossians. Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*. (Blue Letter Bible Online, 2000) Available from <http://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/jfb/Col/Col001.html>.

together into one *system*: the universe found its completion in Him" ( Isa 41:4 Rev 22:13 ).<sup>15</sup>

- i. A lion is king of the Jungle, Jesus is King of all things created. He is the ultimate powerful King, who holds all things together and will rule forever.

E. Application: What is your reaction to the truth of Jesus Christ as the Lion?

1. Do recognize the power of your Savior Jesus Christ?
2. Are you awaiting with expectancy the time when Jesus will return as the Lion?
3. Let us delight in the truth that Jesus Christ is the Lion who
  - a. rules and reigns on high
  - b. has all power and all authority
  - c. holds the universe in his righteous hand,
  - d. is coming back and will rule forever.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

A. The lion and the lamb are opposites

1. Meekness and innocence vs. majesty and power
2. It defies reason that one person could take on both attributes.
  - a. Only in the person of Jesus Christ can we find such a miracle.
3. Recognize this miracle. Jesus is the Lion and the Lamb. He takes away the sins of the world as the lamb and rules and reigns forever as the lion. He went out like a lamb, but He'll come back as a lion.
  - a. Are you ready for Him?

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<sup>15</sup> Robert Jamieson, A.R. Fausset and David Brown, *The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Colossians. Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*. (Blue Letter Bible Online, 2000) Available from <http://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/jfb/Col/Col001.html>.

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