



Lamb! Slain! Standing! Reigns!

Daniel 7:13-14 Ephesians 1:17-23 Revelation 5:1-14

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In the book of Revelation, the first five chapters are **preparatory**, teaching us how to live in the End Times. The first five chapters give us a **Christian worldview**, they **focus** our lives on Christ, they **assure** us that all things are under Christ's power and authority, and they teach us to live **faithful** Christian lives of **repentance** and **patient endurance**. The first five chapters *escalate* to a **GRAND VISION OF CHRIST** where **ALL** of creation worships Him in majesty and splendor.

The Bible teaches us that 40 days after His resurrection, Jesus **ascended into Heaven** and sits at the **right hand of God** the Father almighty. In the Small Catechism, we learned it like this:

"With this expression '**Right Hand of God**', Scripture teaches that Christ, as true man, is not only **present everywhere**, but also now fully exercises His **divine power over the whole universe**."

Luther's Small Catechism, #147, 1991 edition

When Jesus ascended into Heaven, He was coronated as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. **Revelation chapter 5 gives us a glimpse of that Coronation!**

The vision begins with John weeping because **no one is worthy** to take the **Scroll of the End Times** from God the Father's right hand and open it. It appears that **no one is worthy** to reveal the Last Days; it appears that **no one has the power nor the authority** over the events that will happen. *John weeps because it looks hopeless.* He knows that our sin not only separates us from the Father, but it leaves us helpless in sin, evil and death. But as **John weeps, Jesus appears!**

I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals." Then I saw a **LAMB**, looking as if it had been **SLAIN, STANDING** at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. REVELATION 5:4-6

Jesus is the **Lamb** of God who was **slain** for the sins of the world; yet He **stands! He is no longer dead, but He has risen!** This is a powerful vision of the **death and resurrection of Jesus** for the sins of the world! **The LAMB who was SLAIN is now STANDING and REIGNS forevermore!** Throughout all eternity, this is what Jesus will be known for: His death and resurrection that triumphs over sin, evil, death and the devil! **He alone is worthy; and He alone has been given the power and authority over all things!**

The LAMB who was SLAIN is now STANDING and REIGNS forevermore!

The Old Testament prophet Daniel saw the same vision of Christ's coronation. Here is how he described it:

"I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a **Son of Man**, and He came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. 14 And to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him; His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom one that shall not be destroyed. DANIEL 7:13-14

The Lord Jesus alone has been given POWER AND AUTHORITY over all things because of His *death and resurrection*.

The Lamb of God was sacrificed with your sin. Jesus took your sins upon Himself and He died in your place, as your substitute. Since your sins were placed on Him, *you are now set free*. You get to live since Jesus died for you. Your new life is one of holiness and godliness. It is a new life of peace with God and love towards others. As you live your new life in Christ, you strive to remain **faithful** to God in all things; always **repentant**, and **patiently enduring** any pain, suffering, or persecution.

Revelation 5 serves to emphasize the fact that the Lord Jesus Christ is the center, the focal point, **OF ALL REALITY**.

Jesus is the **LAMB who was SLAIN but is now STANDING REIGNS forevermore!** His death and resurrection is the focal point of all heaven.

As Jesus takes the **Scroll of the End Times** from the right hand of God the Father, all heaven and earth burst into praise and worship. By taking the Scroll, Jesus has assumed authority and control and power over all things. Whatever will happen in the End Times, including whatever will happen in your life, is done under His watchful eye, His gracious control, and with His mighty power at work. The Lord Jesus reigns as King of all; this majestic vision of Christ's coronation is meant to give you rock solid conviction that the Lord knows you, and is working in every area of your life for your good. Nothing escapes His notice; nothing is allowed to hurt you.

The Lord Jesus is the **LAMB who was SLAIN but is STANDING REIGNS forevermore!**
He is the **Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David!**
He has **triumphed!**
He has **ransomed** you!

He has made you **a Kingdom and a priest**; that means that you live in the Kingdom of God and live your life by its values; and you have direct access to God like priest!

All of this means that your life has changed! You belong to God! **You are safe** as you live in these corrupt and evil End Times.

THIS GRAND VISION of the crucified and risen Savior coroneted as the King is meant to overwhelm you with peace and confidence. Because you know that Jesus is reigning over these ever increasingly evil End Times, you are free to live your life for Him. **You don't have to live in fear.**

- † Don't let past guilt **sour your life**; your sins are completely forgiven and your guilt is 100% removed from you. Jesus is the Lamb who was slain on a cross for you! You have peace with God.
- † Be **bold and courageous** in doing the right thing – no matter what kind of push back you get --- do the right thing, because the Lord is the King of all, and He is directing your life.
- † Live a **repentant** life, remaining **faithful** to the Lord and **patiently enduring** whatever difficulties come your way. You can be faithful, *even unto death*, because your life is squarely in the hands of the Savior Who reigns in Heaven.
- † Be **zealous** in your faith! The word “zeal” means to burn, it's fire, it's boiling: it means **be hot in your faith**. The days we live in are evil and corrupt: your “*hot faith*” stands out and is a powerful witness. Few people are zealous in faith: be one of them.

You don't have to live in fear.

THIS GRAND VISION of the crucified and risen Savior coroneted as the King is meant to overwhelm you with peace and confidence.

Finally, one other thing.

In this grand vision of Christ's coronation, all creation erupts in praise and worship of the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ. All of creation, tens of thousands (10,000 = *myriad*) of angels, and the people of God **ALL** sing their praises to Him.

Our worship services here on earth are a foreshadow of the worship in Heaven. In worship, we join with *angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven* in praise and worship of the crucified and risen Savior. Worship is important. It is serious. It requires your presence and participation.

The same Lord Jesus who stands in the center of Heaven stands in the center of our worship services as well. Like in Heaven, our focus is on the **LAMB who was SLAIN but is now STANDING REIGNS forevermore!** Jesus' death and resurrection is the center of all that we believe, teach, and confess. Everything we do in worship is focused on Him; we hear, learn and obey His Word; we are washed clean with His water; He forgives us with His body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Our songs praise and glorify Him.

Lutheran Worship is not designed to be an *emotional experience* for you; Lutheran worship is designed to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ and to proclaim His work as the crucified and risen Savior of the world. In worship, God forgives your sins through Word and sacraments!

Of course, worship affects our emotions; but worship is NOT primarily about how you feel; it is primarily to glorify the Lord Jesus: to praise, honor and confess the Lord Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world! When we glorify the Lord Jesus, our sins are forgiven, and our hearts rejoice and burst forth in joy!

**Lutheran Worship is centered on the
"LAMB who was SLAIN but is now STANDING and REIGNS
forevermore! "**

As you come to the end of chapter 5 in the book of Revelation, the preparation for the End Times is now over. The first five chapters of Revelation have prepared us to live in the Last Days.

The grand vision of Christ's coronation in chapter 5 teaches us that the crucified and risen Savior holds the **Scroll of the End Times** in His Hands.

Christ reigns and is full control in these Last Days; we have FULL CONFIDENCE that the crucified and risen Savior Jesus Christ is at the right hand of God; and *fully exercises His divine power over the whole universe for our good!* Amen!

