

Message Five

Experiencing and Enjoying Christ as Everything in the Church as a Miniature of the New Jerusalem

Scripture Reading: Rev. 5:1-10; 22:16; 1:10-11; 21:2, 9-10

- I. In the book of Revelation we see a vision of the all-inclusive Christ as the center of God's administration; He is Jesus Christ (1:5), the Son of God and the Son of Man (2:18; 1:13), the faithful Witness (v. 5; 3:14), the First-born of the dead (1:5), the Ruler of the kings of the earth (v. 5), the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End, the Alpha and the Omega (v. 17; 2:8; 22:13), the living One (1:18), the Holy One (3:7), the true One (v. 7), the Amen (v. 14), the Origination of the creation of God (v. 14), the Root and the Offspring of David (5:5; 22:16), the Lion of the tribe of Judah and the Lamb (5:5-6; 21:23; 22:1), the King of kings and the Lord of lords (19:16), the Word of God (v. 13), the morning star (22:16), the lamp (21:23), the Husband (v. 2), and another Angel (7:2; 8:3; 10:1; 18:1).**

- II. In Revelation 5:1-10 we see Christ as the Lion-Lamb in the midst of the throne, opening the seven seals of God's universal administration:**
 - A. Christ was recommended to the apostle John as the Lion of the tribe of Judah, but He appeared to John as a Lamb; as the Lion, He is the Fighter against the enemy; as the Lamb, He is the Redeemer for us—vv. 5-6.
 - B. The main figure in the book of Revelation is Christ as the Lion of the tribe of Judah—5:5:
 1. The title *the Lion of the tribe of Judah* signifies Christ as the triumphant King—v. 5; 1:5; 19:16.
 2. The Lion-Lamb indicates that Christ the Redeemer has become the Victor as the Lion; in His heavenly ministry, as the Victor, He will conquer all His enemies and bring in His kingdom to the earth—11:15; 12:10.
 - C. The Lion-Lamb standing has seven flashing, burning eyes, "which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth"—5:6; 1:4b; 3:1; 4:5:
 1. These seven burning and searching eyes are for executing God's judgment upon the universe to fulfill God's eternal purpose—v. 11; 21:2, 10-11.
 2. The way that Christ as the Lion-Lamb carries out God's universal administration is by the seven Spirits as His eyes—1:4b; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6.
 3. The seven eyes are for transfusing all that the Lion-Lamb is into our being so that we may become the same as He is for God's building—Zech. 3:9.
 - D. As the One enthroned to be the heavenly Administrator in God's universal government, Christ as the Lion-Lamb, the overcoming Redeemer, is worthy to open the scroll of God's economy—Rev. 5:1-5, 9:
 1. The Lion-Lamb removed the hindrances to the fulfillment of God's purpose; therefore, He is worthy to open the scroll concerning God's economy—v. 5.
 2. The Lion-Lamb is worthy to open the secret of God's economy; this aspect of the Lord's worthiness is universal and immeasurable—v. 9.
 3. This scroll is the new covenant, the new testament, the grand title deed in the universe, enacted by the Lord Jesus with His own blood for God's redemption of the church, Israel, the world, and the universe—Matt. 26:28; Heb. 13:20; Eph. 1:10:

- a. All the mysteries and all the things that happen in the created universe are recorded in this scroll—Rev. 5:1, 5, 7, 9.
 - b. Christ as the Lion-Lamb is qualified to open the scroll, that is, to open the mystery of God's economy and to carry it out; this indicates that Christ is the One who has received the authority to administrate the entire universe—Matt. 28:18.
- E. We all must worship Christ, the Lion-Lamb, as the Administrator, as the One in the heavens administering all things for the fulfillment of God's economy—Rev. 5:9-14.

III. We may experience and enjoy the all-inclusive Christ in the church as a miniature of the New Jerusalem—1:4a; 22:16a; 21:2-3, 10-25:

- A. The New Jerusalem is the unique pattern in the Scriptures concerning the church, the building up of the church, and the church life—22:16a.
- B. Today the church is a miniature of the New Jerusalem—1:4a; 21:2:
 - 1. The proper church life in its genuineness is a small model of the New Jerusalem—22:16a; 1:11-12, 20; 21:10-11, 16, 18.
 - 2. In the miniature of the New Jerusalem as the paradise of God, we enjoy the crucified and resurrected Christ as the tree of life—2:7.
 - 3. The Body-Christ, the corporate Christ, is the church as a miniature of the New Jerusalem—1 Cor. 12:12; Rev. 21:2, 9-10.
- C. Various aspects of the holy city, New Jerusalem, are expressed in the church as a miniature of the New Jerusalem—1:10-11; 22:16a:
 - 1. The New Jerusalem is the consummation of the mingling of divinity and humanity; in the church as a meal offering we experience the mingling of divinity and humanity—21:12, 21; 22:2; Lev. 2:4; 1 Cor. 10:17.
 - 2. The Divine Trinity is the basic structure of the New Jerusalem, and the Divine Trinity is also the basic structure of the church life—Rev. 21:18-21; Eph. 3:15-16a; 4:4-6.
 - 3. The New Jerusalem is the ultimate consummation of the new creation; in the church life we are a new creation, walking in newness of life and serving in newness of spirit—Rev. 21:2-3, 5; 2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 6:4; 7:6.
 - 4. The city of New Jerusalem with the throne at its center symbolizes the kingdom of God; today the churches are the kingdom of God as the realm of the divine life—Rev. 21:2; 22:1; 1:6, 9, 11; John 3:3, 5; Rom. 14:17.
 - 5. The New Jerusalem is a universal golden lampstand as the consummation of the local churches, which, as the testimony of Jesus, are golden lampstands—Rev. 21:11, 18b; 1:11-12, 20.
 - 6. The New Jerusalem, as the bride, the wife, of the Lamb, is the consummation of the divine romance; the church life today is also a life in the divine romance—21:2, 9-10; 22:17; 2 Cor. 11:2; S. S. 1:3-4.
 - 7. In the New Jerusalem, a city of fellowship, there is the flow of the river of water of life; fellowship, the mutual flowing among the believers, is the reality of the church life—Rev. 22:1; 1 John 1:3; 1 Cor. 1:9; 10:16-17.
 - 8. The New Jerusalem is a mutual habitation, a mutual dwelling place, for the redeeming God and His redeemed, regenerated, transformed, and glorified elect; the church today is the house of the living God, a mutual dwelling place for God and His redeemed, regenerated people—Rev. 21:3, 22; John 14:3; 15:4a; 1 Cor. 3:16-17; 1 Tim. 3:15.