

“The Lion of the Tribe of Juda”

Revelation 4:1-2; 5:1-7 (text v. 5)

➡ Background of text: Scene in heaven after the rapture (Rev. 4:1; 5:1).

There are over 150 references to lions in the Bible. They are mentioned more than any other wild animal.

The Lion is often used as a picture of strength... judgment... nobility... royalty... courage... boldness... and victory.

It is only fitting that Jesus Christ be called ***“THE Lion of the Tribe of Juda”*** (only in Rev. 5:5).

The lion was the most awesome and dangerous wild beast in Canaan.

The lion grows to about eight feet in length and weighs up to 550 pounds of solid muscle. He has eighteen powerful claws to rip, tear, and flay. A swat from his claw is often lethal. His massive jaws are armed with large fierce teeth that can break the neck of it's prey in a single bite. He runs at speeds of 35 mph and can leap 20 feet in a single bound.

In spite of the fact that the lion is so big and heavy, he can move through tall grass so quietly that nobody can hear him coming. He attacks swiftly and suddenly. Jesus will come quickly and suddenly when least expected.

➡ Note contrasts the two sides of the Lord Jesus Christ given in our text.

- Jesus as the Lamb—refers to His first coming—*“Behold the Lamb...”*
- Jesus as the Lion—refers to His second coming—*“Behold the Lion...”*
- Jesus as the Lamb—speaks of His meekness.
- Jesus as the Lion— speaks of His majesty.
- Jesus as the Lamb—speaks of the grace of God.
- Jesus as the Lion— speaks of the government of God.
- As the Lamb, we see His passion.
- As the Lion, we see Him prevailing.
- As the Lamb He is Savior — As the Lion He is Sovereign
- As the Lamb He is judged — As the Lion He is the Judge

➡ You are not afraid of a lamb. But, you don't mess around with a lion if you know what's good for you.

I. The Lion's ROYALTY (Rev. 5:5)—Called “the *king* of the jungle.”

A. The PROPHECY of Jacob (Gen. 49:8-10). Context: “*the last days*”—v. 1.

1. “*Judah is a LION'S whelp*”—Young lion. First mention of “Lion” in the Bible!
2. “...*from the prey, my son, thou art gone up...*” In Christ's first coming He was “*the prey*” (lamb). But in His second coming He as “*gone up*” from being “*the prey*,” to be the Lion who devours the prey.
 - Jacob was prophesying, “When you were young, you were the prey. But now you are grown up to be the lion! You've gone from being vulnerable to the One who is invincible.
3. “*The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet...*” A “*sceptre*” speaks of authority and kingship. Judah is the royal tribe. Every King of Judah from David onward was from Judah (Heb. 7:14).
 - The only “*sceptre*” Jesus had in His first coming was a reed and under the law of Rome. When He comes in His Kingdom, He will rule with a *sceptre* of iron.
4. God promised David he would have a son and “*establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel for ever*” (1 Chron. 22:10). This prophecy extended beyond David's immediate son, Solomon, to “*Jesus Christ, the son of David*” (Mt. 1:1). The Lord Jesus Christ is promised to sit on “*the throne of his father David*” forever (Luke 1:32; Isa. 9:7).

B. The PREVAILING of the Lion. “*Prevailed*” (“prevail” means to subdue... to conquer... to overcome... to get the victory—“to come out on top.”). Jesus will always come out on TOP!

- Proverbs 30:30—“*A lion which is strongest among beasts, and turneth not away for any.*” Jesus is unconquerable. He is afraid of no enemy. He backs down from nothing.

1. Jesus prevailed over the devil in the wilderness.
2. He prevailed over sin at Calvary.
3. He prevailed over death at the grave!
4. He will prevail over the world when He comes again!
5. Jesus Christ is the real LION KING (Rev. 19:16). He is coming to RULE and REIGN!

II. The Lion's ROAR (Amos 3:8—*"The lion hath roared, who will not fear?"* Hosea 11:10—*"...he shall roar like a lion; when he shall roar, then the children shall tremble ..."*).



ILLUS.: I remember taking my daughters to the zoo when they were very young. We would see the lions and Joyce commented how cute they were. That is until they roared! When they roared it seemed like it shook the ground. It was so deafening and frightening that Joyce would begin to cry!

- Sound is measured in decibels, beginning at 0, the threshold of normal hearing. Each 10 decibels is perceived to be twice as loud as the last.
 - The hum of a refrigerator is 40 decibels.
 - City traffic noise is about 80.
 - A chain saw is about 100 decibels.
 - A locomotive reaches 120.
 - A symphony performing Tchaikovsky's *The War of 1812* might crescendo to 130 decibels.
 - Some "rock" concerts reach 140 decibels, the same range as a jet taking off, a jackhammer, or a 44 mag. gunshot.
 - Some North Carolina mountain preachers hit 100 decibels.
 - A lion's roar has been recorded as loud as 114 decibels, and can be heard a mile away when conditions are right.
- A. He'll ROAR at His coming—When Christ comes again, He will not "baaaah" like a lamb. Revelation 10:3 says He'll come *"with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth."*

- Joel 3:16—*“The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake:”*

B. Prov. 28:1—*“The righteous are as bold as a lion...”*

1. **David’s boldness.** David, the lion-hearted. 2 Samuel 17:10 says of King David, *“whose heart is as the heart of a lion...”* David before Goliath— *“...Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.”* (1 Sam. 17:45-46).
2. **Shadrach, Meshach & Abed-nogo** were as bold as a lion before King Nebuchadnezzar—*“...O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up”* (Dan. 3:16-18).
3. **John the Baptist** was bold—*“O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance... I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire”* (Mt. 3:7-8, 11). John said unto Herod, *“It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife”* (Mk. 6:18).
4. **Stephen** was bold before the Sanhedrin—*“Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: Who have*

received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.” (Acts 7:51-53)

➡ **Peter and John** (Acts 4:12-13). When you spend time with Jesus, his boldness will rub off on you.

III. The Lion’s RAGE (Hosea 5:14; 13:8).

- A. God has frequently used lions as **instruments of judgment**.
1. A lion killed the disobedient prophet (1 Kings 13:24-26).
 2. God used a lion to judge a man who refused to obey one of *“the sons of the prophets”* (1 Kings 20:35-36).
 3. God judged the Assyrians with lions after they took Israel into captivity (2 Kings 17:24-26).
- B. The Lord Jesus Christ will come as a roaring lion in judgment.
- He is coming as a King to execute wrath—Prov. 19:12, *“The king’s wrath is as the roaring of a lion.”*
 - Isaiah 42:13, *“The LORD shall go forth as a mighty man, ... like a man of war: he shall cry, yea, roar; he shall prevail against his enemies.”*
1. He opens the seven-sealed book, the book of judgments (Seals; Trumpets; Vials).
 2. He sits on the Great White Throne pronouncing judgment upon all whose names are not found in the book of life (Rev. 20:11-15).

SUMMATION: The devil is a counterfeit lion (1 Pet 5:8). He comes *“as a lion.”* Jesus is *“the Lion.”* Jesus is not only the lion, He is also the “lion tamer” (Rev. 19:20; 20:10). When you are on the side of Lion, you’re on *the winning side!*

Either you accept Jesus Christ as your sacrificial LAMB and be saved, or you will face Him as the LION who will judge you and cast you into the lake of fire. The choice is YOURS.