

Sermon Outline

LIVE AT THE END:

GOSPEL ENCOURAGEMENT FROM REVELATION 7:13-17

(OR “ESCHATOLOGICAL, GOSPEL TRUTHS TO EMBRACE IF YOU WANT TO STAY FAITHFUL TO KING JESUS IN AN AGE OF MONSTER SECULAR STATES, SEDUCTIVE PAGANISM, RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION, HEARTRENDING SUFFERING, UNAVOIDABLE MORTALITY, AND OTHER GREAT TRIBULATIONAL REALITIES”)

THE LAMB KING (REVELATION 7:17)

I. The Great King

II. The Enthroned Lamb

- A. Verse 17 states: “For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”
- B. The Lamb is “in the midst” of the throne of God.
 - 1. The Lamb is standing either *in front* of the throne or perhaps even *on* the throne with God himself.
 - 2. The Lamb shares the highest position in the universe with God himself.
 - 3. Either way, the Lamb occupies the central position in the throne room of heaven.
 - 4. He stands at the apex of the entire universe with God the Father.
- C. In Revelation 5, we see that the seven-horned, seven-eyed Lamb is the object of worship (vv 6-14).
 - 1. Seven is the numerical symbol of perfection.
 - 2. The fact that the Lamb has seven horns and seven eyes tells us that the Lamb is a symbol of perfection (v 6).
 - 3. He has absolute power and absolute authority.
- D. The Lamb shares in the very identity of God himself.
 - 1. He is worshiped together with God.
 - 2. He shares the throne of God.
 - 3. He is, in fact, part of God himself.
 - 4. The Lamb has absolute power and absolute authority. He stands at the Center of heaven and earth. He is the divine King who holds the cosmos together by the Word of his power. He summons the

adoration the allegiance of all of his people. The Lamb is the LORD God of the universe.

III. The Shepherd Lamb

- A. But we must also pay attention to how the Lamb's lordship is described. He is called a *shepherd*. And that too is a very interesting title, because it conveys both humility and majesty.
- B. Shepherds are people who tend to herds of sheep (of lambs, interestingly enough). The shepherd is a leader of a very earthy, dusty kind.
- C. But in Scriptures, the shepherd also has royal connotations.
 - 1. There are passages in the Old Testament prophets where the leaders of God's people are called shepherds.
 - Isaiah 56:11: "The dogs have a mighty appetite; they never have enough. But they are shepherds who have no understanding; they have all turned to their own way, each to his own gain, one and all."
 - 2. In Jeremiah 6, God warns his people that they are going to be invaded by other shepherds, i.e, leaders of foreign nations:
 - Jeremiah 6:3: "*Shepherds* with their flocks shall come against her; they shall pitch their tents around her; they shall pasture, each in his place."
 - 3. In Jeremiah, the Lord calls Israel to repent of their sins and promises new shepherds for his people.
 - Jeremiah 3:15: "And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding."
 - Jeremiah 23:4: "I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the LORD."
 - 4. God himself promises to be the shepherd of his people.
 - Ezekiel 34:12: "As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness."
 - Ezekiel 34:15: "I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD."
 - 5. God promises that he will send his servant David to be the shepherd of his people:
 - Ezekiel 34:23: "And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd."

- Ezekiel 37:24: “My servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall walk in my rules and be careful to obey my statutes.”
- D. What can we glean from the above passages?
 1. “Shepherd” is a metaphor for national ruler/leader.
 2. One day, God himself will be the great Shepherd of his people.
 3. God will shepherd his people through his new Davidic king.
 4. When God sends his new shepherd-king, God’s people will receive rest, nourishment, leadership, and instruction.
- E. All this sets us up for what we will read in the New Testament. What do we hear Jesus calling himself in John 10:11?
 - John 10:11: “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”
- F. The Holy Spirit is showing us that Jesus the Lamb of God is...
 1. the long-awaited King of God’s people,
 2. the new David who comes to feed his people, guard them from their enemies, and give them much needed rest for their exhausted souls
 3. God himself.

IV. Springs

- A. The divine Shepherd-Lamb will do for his people: “...and he will guide them to springs of living water” (v 17).
- B. What are these waters? A possible clue is in John 7:37-39.
 1. Jesus is at the temple in Jerusalem for the final day of the Festival of Booths (v 37).
 2. On this day, there is a water ceremony, where the priests draw water from the pool of Siloam near the temple.
 3. The basis of this particular ceremony is in Isaiah.
 - Isaiah 12:3: “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.”
 4. The water ceremony served to call people to remember God’s promises for final restoration: One day, God will give his people the water of salvation.
 5. While the water procession was in the background of the day’s events, Jesus declares to the people at the temple that he is the Giver of the water of salvation.
 - John 7:37-38: “On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”

6. Verse 39 offers the interpretation of Jesus' words:
 - John 7:39: "Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."
 7. The water of salvation is the Holy Spirit.

—At the end of the day, salvation is not a "thing," or merely a state of being, or "going to heaven when you die." But as with all of God's greatest gifts, salvation is nothing less than an impartation of God himself. *Salvation is the Holy Spirit.*
- C. The Water that the water that the Lamb of God gives to his flock is the Holy Spirit.
1. The Holy Spirit is the divine Water that the Lamb gives to his sheep.
 2. The Holy Spirit is the *life* of God's people, which is why we will no longer hunger, or thirst, or be scorched by the sun. The Holy Spirit grants us immortal and indestructible life.
- D. If we are in Christ, the Holy Spirit has already been given to us.
- 1 Corinthians 12:13: "For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit."
- E. How do we reconcile the present enjoyment of the Holy Spirit and the future enjoyment of the Holy Spirit?
1. The difference is likely one of degree.
 2. Our enjoyment of the Holy Spirit is presently hindered by remaining sin and degrees of remaining unbelief.
 3. But a day is coming when the Holy Spirit will finally overcome all unbelief and sin in our lives. He will cause us to enjoy him completely, without hindrance.

V. Only the Lamb King Gives the Spirit

- A. We must not forget that the One who gives us the Holy Spirit is the Lamb. Only the Lamb of God can guide us to the Spirit of God and every other good gift that comes with that Spirit. The Lamb gives the Spirit only to those who belong to him.
- B. One temptation that is always present in this great tribulation is the temptation to trust sinful human beings to give what only God can give (Ps 146:3).
- C. One of the most extreme forms that human-worship can take is the worship of the state.

- Revelation 13:4: “And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, ‘Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?’”
 - Revelation 13:7-8: “Also it [the beast] was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, ⁸ and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.”
- D. While state worship is an extreme form of refusing to trust in Christ, its roots lie in our tendency to trust in sinful humans to give what only God-in-Christ can give.
1. When we allow other human beings (our husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, boyfriends, girlfriends, teachers, pastors, etc.) to give us *ultimate* meaning, *ultimate* value, *ultimate* security, *ultimate* love, *ultimate* everything, we are making ourselves susceptible to deception and oppression. We are also committing idolatry and losing sight of the Gospel of Christ.

VI. Our Great King

If we want to stand firm in the Lord against the falsehoods and false gods of this great tribulation, we need to know who our true King is. He is the humble, lowly, and compassionate Lamb of God who removed all our sins with his own blood and now leads us to the waters of the Holy Spirit. The Gospel is the good news of the Lamb King. If we want to stand firm in the Lord, we need to believe the Gospel that we have heard. We need to keep our hopes firmly and fully on our King, Jesus Christ.

Questions for Reflection

1. Was there anything in particular about today’s sermon that blessed and encouraged you?
2. Was there anything that you disagree with or found difficult to accept?
3. What kind of shepherd-ruler does God promise to send his people?
4. What is the nature of the living water that the Lamb gives to his people?
5. What are some temptations that threaten to shift your hope away from your King Jesus?
6. How do you protect your heart from seeking our ultimate glory and hope in sinful human beings? What steps can you take every day to help keep your heart on the Lord Jesus Christ?