

Pastor Clifford
July 26, 2020

The Admirable Conjunction of Diverse Excellencies in Christ Jesus

I think it is safe to assume that when we think of Jesus with His many characteristics we usually tend to favor a particular set over others.

The visions and revelations the apostle John had of the future events of God's providence, are introduced here with a vision of the book of God's decrees, by which those events were fore-ordained. This is represented (Revelation 5:1) as a book in the right hand of him who sat on the throne, "*written within and on the back side, and sealed with seven seals.*" Books, in the form in which they used be made, were broad leaves of parchment or paper, or something of that nature, joined together at one edge, and so rolled up together, and then sealed, or some way fastened together, to prevent their unfolding and opening. As we read of the roll of a book Jer. 36:2. It seems to have been such a book that John had a vision of here; and therefore it is said to be "*written within and on the back side,*" i. e. on the inside pages, and also on one of the outside pages, namely, that which it was rolled in, in rolling the book up together.

And it is said to be "*sealed with seven seals,*" to signify that what was written in it was perfectly hidden and secret; or that God's decrees of future events are sealed, and shut up from all possibility of being discovered by creatures, till God is pleased to make them known. We find that seven is often used in Scripture as the number of perfection, to signify the superlative or most perfect degree of anything, which probably arose from this, that on the seventh day God beheld the works of creation finished, and rested and rejoiced in them, as being complete and perfect.

When John saw this book, he tells us, he "*saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look in.*" And that he wept much, because "*no man was found worthy to open and read the book, neither to look in.*" And then tells us how his tears were dried up, namely, that "*one of the elders said unto him, 'Don't cry, Behold the Lion of the tribe of Judah has prevailed'*" etc. as in the text. Though no man nor angel, nor any mere

creature, was found either able to loose the seals, or worthy to be admitted to the privilege of reading the book, yet this was declared, for the comfort of this beloved disciple, that Christ was found both able and worthy.

And we have an account in the succeeding chapters how he actually did it, opening the seals in order, first one, and then another, revealing what God had decreed should come to pass hereafter. And we have an account in this chapter, of his coming and taking the book out of the right hand of him that sat on the throne, and of the joyful praises that were sung to him in heaven and earth on that occasion.

Observations

1. Jesus is referred to the Lamb.
2. Jesus is referred to the Lion.

Lamb:

- Submissive
- Follows
- Prey
- Passive
- Meek or gentle

Lion:

- Dominate
- Leader
- Predator
- Aggressive
- Proud

At first it seems that these two are polar opposites. It's as if they cannot be about the same theme, subject or person yet in our observation of Jesus in Revelation 4 and 5 they are one and the same!

Thus the title:

The Admirable Conjunction of Diverse Excellencies in Christ Jesus

TO KNOW HIM AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN.

To know Him is a lofty goal! But it's one we are admonished to pursue. To know Him is to know all of Him. To know Jesus is paramount in the life of the believer, it is the reason He created us was to be in relationship with Him.

This taken from The Westminster Confession: The chief end of man is to glorify God by enjoying Him forever.

Genesis 1:26 "Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."

Isaiah 43:7 "Everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

To know Him is to know all of Him, both The Lion and The Lamb.

Jesus as the Lamb

Isaiah 42:3 "He will not crush the weakest reed or put out a flickering candle. He will bring justice to all who have been wronged."

John 8:6-11 "They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, "All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!" Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust.

When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?"

"No, Lord," she said.

And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more."

*"Behold, your king comes to you, triumphant and victorious. **He is humble** and riding on the foal of a donkey."* (**Zech 9:9**)

Isaiah 53:7 “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.”

Mark 14:61 “But He kept silent and did not answer. Again the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, “Are You the the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”

Matthew 19:14 “But Jesus said, "Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

Jesus as the Lion

Isaiah 63:1 “Who is this who comes from Edom, from the city of Bozrah, with his clothing stained red? Who is this in royal robes, marching in his great strength? “It is I, the Lord, announcing your salvation! It is I, the Lord, who has the power to save!”

Why are your clothes so red, as if you have been treading out grapes? “I have been treading the winepress alone; no one was there to help me. In my anger I have trampled my enemies as if they were grapes. In my fury I have trampled my foes. Their blood has stained my clothes. For the time has come for me to avenge my people, to ransom them from their oppressors.”

Revelation 19:11 “Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war. His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him that no one understood except himself. He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the Word of God. The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses. From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress. On his robe at his thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords.”

Jeremiah 30:23 “Look! The LORD’s anger bursts out like a storm,
a driving wind that swirls down on the heads of the wicked.
the fierce anger of the LORD will not diminish
until it has finished all he has planned.
In the days to come you will understand all this.”

The absolute fact of the matter is our God Father Son and Holy Spirit is both:

- The Lion and the Lamb.
- Love and Judgement
- Firm and lenient
- A warm tender and nurturing Mother and an undeterred fatherly disciplinarian.