

## **Names of God from the Bible**

### **59 – The Lion of the Tribe of Judah**

*The Supreme Paradox! Out of the deepest despair arises the greatest triumph.*

#### **Reading: Revelation 5:1-14**

John was given a vision of the end times. One of the cameos concerned a scroll. It was sealed but needed to be opened. However, although the mighty angel challenged anyone in Heaven and on earth to come and open the scroll, no one was found worthy to do so.

John was heart-broken and struggling with the utter devastation that no-one was capable of opening the scroll or looking inside. However, he was interrupted in his weeping by one of the elders who comforted him by saying that someone called, *“The Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the root of David,”* was able and authorised to open the scroll and its seven seals. The Lion had triumphed. Not *“would triumph at some future date”* but the Lion HAD triumphed.

That undoubtedly brought John up with a jolt; it gave him hope that his mourning would be replaced by inexpressible joy. However, as he turned and looked, through his tears he could not see The Lion. In fact, he couldn't see any lion or anything that remotely looked like a lion.

All John could see was a lamb. The word in the original language meant a 'small lamb'. The total opposite to a lion, let alone The Lion of the elder's prophecy. And there was more – this lamb looked as if it had been slain. A fatally-wounded lamb.

Yet, as John continued to gaze upon the vision before him, his eyes were opened and he was able to focus. It was as if his spiritual eyes were opened as well. For this fatally wounded, small lamb was *“standing in the centre of the throne.”*

Yes, this lamb was not dead; it was alive again. It came and took the scroll, and the whole of Heaven and earth erupted in unbridled praise.

First, the elders fell down and worshipped – *“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals because You were slain, and with Your blood You purchased for God members of every tribe and language and people and nation.”*

Then countless angels joined in – *“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!”*

Then every creature in Heaven, on earth and under the earth, and in the sea responded, saying: *“To Him who sits on the Throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power for ever and ever!”*

The Lamb was worthy. So was the Lamb the Lion? Were they one and the same? What was the reference to David all about? How do we reconcile the paradox?

We can't, without Jesus!

David was the greatest of the kings of Israel, however, he was imperfect and human. Yet out of his lineage, God was going to raise up a Ruler who would govern His people in righteousness. He

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would be the Victor over all their foes and reign forever. David's lineage was from Judah and the Victor would be the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

However, we have to see the Victor as He was – Jesus, the Sacrificial Lamb, who was fatally wounded for us. But He arose from the grave as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, never to die again. Jesus triumphed over all His foes through His death on the Cross and His bodily resurrection from the grave. Yes, those wounds are still visible, proving His Victory over Satan, Hell and the grave.

Rejoice, for the Sceptre of God's power and authority will never depart from His hand. Jesus is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah that has triumphed.

### **What does that name mean for us today**

We know Who wins! Yes, God has revealed the answer to the question, "How will it all end?" It all began with God and it will all end with God. It all began with Jesus, the Word, and it will all end with Jesus, the victorious Lion and Lamb. No matter what happens to us, what challenges, struggles and heartaches we face, we are assured of a brilliant and glorious eternity.

### **Prayer**

*Thank You, Lord Jesus, for recording for us this wonderful vision of the future. Thank You that our faith is not based upon a mythical utopia, a wishful unrealistic dream, but our faith is based upon Your everlasting Word, an ever-living Saviour who has already triumphed and the victorious Lion of the Tribe of Judah. Amen.*

### **Additional Readings**

- Genesis 49:8-12
- Isaiah 11:1-9
- Revelation 22:1-5, 12-16

### **Questions**

1. Why do you think God gave John this vision and made him record it for us?
2. What difference does the truth of this name make to your life?
3. How does Jesus fulfil that name?