

Theme: Many images are used to represent Jesus Christ because His beauty and glory are beyond anything mere words or images can express.

## I. Intro - Many Images, One Christ

- A. We have been looking at four images of Jesus: Man, Lion, Ox, and Eagle
- B. These have often been used in the history of the Church
- C. The text tonight has another one - the Lamb
- D. Why are there so many images of Christ?
- E. What does this have to do with Christmas Eve?

## II. The Many Images of Christ

- A. The four images we have looked at this Advent
  - 1. Man - Jesus is the True Human
    - a. He is truly and fully human
    - b. He has fulfilled our responsibilities to God - obeying in our place, and taking the punishment we were due
  - 2. Lion - Jesus is the True King
    - a. Jesus is the True King
    - b. Jesus came to fulfill our call to rule over creation to the glory of God and for the good of God's people.
  - 3. Ox - Jesus is the True Servant
    - a. Jesus is the True Servant of God, Who also gives Himself in service for His people.
    - b. This King did not come to be serve, but to serve and to give His life for His people.

## 4. Eagle - Jesus is the True God

- a. Jesus is the True God
  - b. Our God is not distant, but took our flesh to redeem and reconcile us to Himself.
- B. Revelation 5:5-6 - The Lion is a Lamb!
- “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”<sup>6</sup> Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. Revelation 5:5–6
- a. John is told to see the Lion who conquers
  - b. When he looks he sees a Lamb that was slain!
  - c. These images appear to be exact opposites - and both are Jesus!
- C. The same is true of the four images we studied - they appear to be polar opposites
- 1. Man and Eagle - Human and God
  - 2. Lion and Ox - King and Servant
- D. This is seen throughout the familiar Christmas story
- 1. Born to poor parents, but given riches by the Magi
  - 2. Immanuel, God with us, is a crying baby
  - 3. Mary cradles her Creator in her arms
  - 4. The infinite God is laid in a manger

E. All of the images and paradoxes are necessary to express the beauty and glory of Jesus Christ

1. What words can express God Who becomes Man?
2. What images can adequately describe the glory of the Creator Who condescends to become One of His creatures?
3. Words and images fail to contain the truth of Who Jesus is and what He came to do for us!

### III. Responding to the Beauty and Glory of Jesus

A. How they respond in Scripture

In a loud voice they sang: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive **power** and **wealth** and **wisdom** and **strength** and **honor** and **glory** and **praise!**”<sup>13</sup> Then I heard **every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them**, singing: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!” Revelation 5:12–13

1. Seven terms of worship - the fullness of worship
2. Every creature in every possible place is worshipping - the fulness of worship

B. The call to us is to worship

1. We can and should meditate on these things
2. But we will never plumb their depths - they are simply beyond human description and ability to understand
3. But they should produce in us awe, that we express in worship to the beauty and glory of Jesus!

4. We then spread this Good News to others, doing all we can to stir up a hunger for God in them

### The Beauty and Glory of Jesus Christ

Revelation 5:13-14

December 24, 2018

Silent Night/Candle Lighting

Revelation 5:9-14 paraphrase

Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas, Jesus; Christology

May our Lord Jesus, the Eternal God and King, Who became a Human and Servant, and Who was slain to purchase people for God from every tribe, and language, and people and nation - may He receive power, and wealth, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory and praise, and may His Presence and blessing fill your lives with every good thing! Go forth, blessed to be a blessing! (Based on Revelation 5:9-13)

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”<sup>14</sup> The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped. Revelation 5:13–14