

Lion of Judah

by Richard E. Bieber

The sermon emphasizes the importance of recognizing Jesus Christ as the Lord over the mountain of chaos and the judge of the earth, and calls believers to rise from slumber and proclaim the gospel of the Cross before the Night of Judgment falls.

Scripture: Luke 21:28

Topics: "Judgment Day", "Gospel Proclamation"

Description

Richard E. Bieber delivers a powerful sermon on the impending judgment of the earth as depicted in Revelation 5 and 6. He warns that the disruptions and dangers around us are signs that should awaken us from spiritual slumber. Emphasizing the importance of recognizing Jesus as both Savior and Judge, he urges Christians to walk in the power of Christ's death and resurrection without fear. Bieber calls for a sense of urgency in proclaiming the gospel before the impending Day of Judgment falls, stressing the need to reach people from all walks of life with the message of salvation.

Transcript

Read: Revelation 5

"Weep not; lo, the Lion of the Tribe of
Judah, the Root of David has conquered,
so that He can open the scroll and its
seven seals."

Current worldwide upheavals have not hit us very hard
in a material way -- yet.

- We're still able to buy gas for our cars.
- We still have some heat.
- The streets are no more dangerous than they

were a year ago.

And it's possible that as time passes the atmosphere of terrorism, war, earthquake, and the shifting sands of world leadership will settle down, and many of us will go back to sleep.

But, at the moment, there is enough disruption and danger going on around us to rouse us, at least somewhat, from our slumber.

It's as if we're living at the bottom of a mountain where, long ago, it was prophesied there would be a landslide that would engulf our village. For centuries the prophecy was ignored. But now, we're beginning to see movement in the very places where it was prophesied the landslide would begin.

- A few rocks have been seen tumbling down from that crack in the cliff near the summit.

- A tree falling here, three trees crashing down over there.

Is this the beginning of the end? Could it be that the fanatics, who have been warning us, were right after all?

As we look up at the mountain, and hear strange noises, and feel ominous vibrations under our feet, we get that sick feeling known as helplessness.

When things go wrong and you can do something about it, that's not so bad. But, when things go wrong and there is absolutely nothing you can do but watch and wait, that can be frightening----especially frightening for

Christians who, all their lives, have never taken any risks,
always played it safe, never exposed themselves
to anything more dangerous than a drive down the freeway
or a flight to Miami.

Christians who, even in their prayers, manage
to stay far enough away from the true and
living God that their lives won't be disrupted.

Who intentionally avoid any encounter with God,
any message of truth, even any thought of God
that might make them tremble,
or weep,
or cover their faces with shame,
or confess their sins,
or destroy their idols,
or change their ways.

Christians who instinctively gravitate to those
doctrines that make them feel comfortable and
who avoid any dealings with people who make them
feel uncomfortable.

Now, all of a sudden, the mountain begins to tremble,
the rocks begin to fall, and we remember the prophecy
of the landslide. And there is no way out of this valley.

All we can do is sit here and wait.

The question we need to ask ourselves, while it's still
only an occasional rock crashing down, is:

Is the Christ we say we believe in Lord
over that mountain up there as well as

over ourselves?

Do we really believe that when the land
slide comes (and we know it will) it will
be His landslide?

What kind of Jesus have we been worshiping all along?
For most of us its been a Jesus who's about as big as
our thumb.

- Small enough to put in your pocket.
- Small enough to carry Him where you want to,
to take of His teachings what we like, and
leave the rest.

No wonder when the mountain begins to shake we feel
helpless.

But the Jesus who died on that cross outside Jerusalem
two millennia ago, and rose from the dead,
and appeared to His disciples,
and who has guided His true followers
down through all these generations, is Lord - not over
our little clubs for nice people, and ecclesiastical
kingdoms, but over the whole earth. He is worthy to
break the seals on that scroll that announces God's
judgment on the earth. And when He breaks the seals
on the scroll, those judgments are no longer just things
written down, they become events - they happen. The
Four Horsemen begin to move.

In other words, the Lamb of God, who by His death has
taken away the sins of the world, is also the Lion of

the Tribe of Judah.

Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say, as with a voice of thunder, "Come!" And I saw and behold, a white horse, and its rider had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!" And out came another horse, bright red; its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that men should slay one another; and he was given a great sword.

When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" And I saw, and behold a black horse, and its rider had a balance in his hand; and I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; but do not harm the oil and wine !"

When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!!!" And I saw, and behold a pale horse, and its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him; and they were given power over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth.

What does all this mean for us, especially in the light of the fact that the face of our mountain is beginning to tremble? It means several things.

First, Jesus Christ is not only earth's Saviour, but its Judge.

When the Lamb begins to break the seals, the Age of Grace is ended and the Day of Judgment has begun.

- just as faithfully as He held to the road of self-emptying and humiliation to lay down His life on the cross in order that not one soul should be barred from the Kingdom by sin,
- just as faithfully as the resurrected Jesus brings life to those who open their hearts to Him now and offers them salvation through His blood,
so faithfully, when the hour comes, will this same Lamb judge this earth and purge it of every lie, every deception, every injustice, every murder, every evil thing, every kind of idolatry.

Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed or hidden that will not be made known. Whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.

Every sin that is not buried under His blood will come out. Everything that cannot stand exposure to the blazing light of His glory will feel the fire of His judgment.

Second, when we look around us, and when we read Revelation 5 and 6 with any fear of God in our hearts, we have to conclude that the hour of judgment is near.

The fact that the scroll in the right hand of the One on the Throne is sealed, indicates that God has restrained the things written on the scroll from happening.

- The astonishing thing is not that the shadow of war is cast over the earth right now, and that authorities and governments are cracking and crumbling,

- the astonishing thing is that chaos didn't break loose long ago!

The real question is:

- How come He hasn't allowed much more?

- How come He hasn't simply given up the human race totally to its own devices?

- How come God has allowed this nation to survive so long without lowering the boom?

In sheer mercy, unspeakable patience, the living and righteous God keeps the scroll sealed. But there approaches a moment when those seals will be broken.

And they will be broken by the same hands that were wounded for this world's transgressions.

And when that moment comes, nobody will be able to com-

plain, "But you didn't give us a chance! You didn't give us any warning! If only we had known!" For the warning is going forth to all the earth even now.

Thirdly, if we are walking with Jesus Christ, in the power of His death and resurrection, we have nothing to fear no matter what happens.

"For thou wast slain, and by thy blood didst ransom men for God. From every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And hast made them a kingdom and priests to our God.

And they shall reign on earth."

He doesn't say we won't have tribulation, or that we won't be killed. But He does say that not a hair on our head will perish. He will sustain us with His presence no matter what we have to go through.

The little disruptions some of us are going through these days, these skirmishes with the kingdom of the enemy some of us are experiencing, are tame indeed compared with what lies ahead. Yet, even through these minor troubles, which seem to upset us no end, we have to learn to walk without panic and without getting discouraged.

We have to remember that our Lord is even Lord over the crazy things that are going on.

Finally, seeing the mountain tremble, and heeding the warning of things to come, we need to get on with the job of proclaiming the gospel of the Cross before the Night of Judgment falls.

We are not here to build churches.

We are not here to start movements.

We are not here to establish kingdoms.

We are not here to make a name for ourselves.

- We are here to shout from the housetops that
the One who is soon going to judge the earth
is now its Saviour.

- We are here to call men from every tribe and
tongue and people and nation. To draw near
and receive His forgiveness.

- Arabs and Jews.

- Rich and poor.

- High and low.

- East and west.

"Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters.

And he who has no money, come buy and eat!

Come buy wine and milk, without money and without price."

The Lion of the Tribe of Judah has not yet taken the scroll
from the hand of Him who sits on the Throne. When He
does, we'll know it.

- It won't be just another bloody outbreak
in the Middle East.

- It will be the start of Armageddon.

- It won't be an occasional government official resigning in
disgrace.

- It will be presidents and prime
ministers and kings all over the

earth falling from their heights.

Meanwhile, against the background of the warnings we now see, comes the call of the Spirit to the Church of the Redeemed to rise from slumber, shake ourselves from the dust, loose the chains of unbelief from our selves, and harvest the earth, beginning right where we are, among the people where God has placed us.

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/richard-e-bieber/lion-of-judah/>

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