

there is a God. We look at the world and see something is wrong. We say, What kind of a God is it? Nature does not tell us. From nature you learn of God's existence, of God's power, of God's intelligence. But you don't learn that he is a good God who has given us this wonderful world ~~for~~ or that he is a bad God who sends calamities and problems and misery or death. We don't learn anything about the character or purposes of God from nature.

There's only one way to learn about who God is and what He does and that is from the revelation He has given us in His Word. In the Bible He has given us His revelation. There is the answer to the problem of life. Unless we find it there, we cannot live lives that are worthwhile.

So ch. 5 ~~is~~ begins with the writer weeping because there is a book that explains the problems of life and of how it is going to be worked out as described in the rest of the book, a revelation. And nobody can open the book. Nobody by his human intelligence can tell us what life is about. Or can tell us what purpose there is in it and what meaning. We can only rest on a foundation of unyielding despair.

One philosopher said we should think of ourselves as people in a penal colony where everyone is a murderer, thieves and wicked people and feel miserable and try to keep ourselves safe from it! As people turn away from God it gets more and more like that. But the explanation of life must have something more than that. So he says, I wept much because no one was able to open the book.

Then we read that one of the elders said to me, Do not weep. See the Lion of the Trib of Judah, the Root of David has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals. So we read of the great Lion of the Tribe of Judah. God's power and majesty. The Lion of the Tribe of Judah is giving solution to the questions of life. How marvellous!

He looked and instead of seeing a Lion, he says(v.6), I saw a Lamb looking as it had been slain. What human being could have given us this answer to the problems of life? Out of his ownhead? It ~~is~~ takes divine revelation to tell us. It takes the power of God--the power of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah to solve the problem of life. But in order to solve it He must take the form of a Lamb that was slain. Because man has sinned against God. Man has denied the greatness of God and gone into wickedness and misery. The whole world is full of sin. God in righteousness could do nothing but send us into eternal punishment forever, so great was the sin of everyone of us. And there's nothing we could do to solve it.

But the great God sent His own Son to come as the Lamb. To come and live a humble life and to die on Calvary's cross. The Lamb who was slain for our sins is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. It was God's power shown in a way no human being could have imagined. But shown in the only possible way to solve the problem of our sin. So it's marvellous to recognize