

THE LAMB ... the alpha and omega of God's revelation  
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(REVELATION 7: 14; 21: 27; 22: 17)

The Book of Revelation is like a great mountain range, the lower half of which is enshrouded in mists. The picturesque phraseology, the strange figures and forms, the attendant descriptions, are swirling cloud-banks obscuring our vision, and leaving us to guess what unrivalled beauties might lie in the shadows. Attracted rather than repelled by this barrier, many Bible students have plunged into the unknown. Their listeners have marvelled at the expository gems brought into the light ; but some have become a little confused when other Christian mountaineers emerged with interpretations which seemed to contradict earlier findings. Fog can play peculiar tricks with vision, and all youthful Bible teachers might be well advised to explore less dangerous places. Nevertheless, the upper slopes of this great mountain range are plainly visible. They glisten and shine in the light of another world ; their peaks point upward ; and in spite of the underlying fog, they beckon the brave and the resourceful. Cut out in the rocks of these upper slopes, one imperishable name defies the ravages of time. That name is: the Lamb.

#### The Lamb's Blood Redeeming

This is a mountain peak of unrivalled beauty. The glades and glens of the lowlands lead to the sunlit pastures beyond. There the air is clear, and the flowers of Paradise nod in the breeze. Against the sombre background of Sinai, where the law thundered out to trembling man, this celestial eminence rises far above the fog and smoke of earth. It reaches to the throne of God, and provides a path by which all men can draw near to worship. It is truly a remarkable thing that sinners should ever find an entrance into the presence of God ; yet it is far more wonderful that the Son of God should have become personally responsible for getting them there. He entered into the world to save sinners ; and since the law stated that without the shedding of blood there could be no remission, He gladly laid down His life for men. Peter said, " You were not redeemed with corruptible things . . . but with the precious blood of Christ " (I Peter I : 18, 19). The saints in heaven reiterated these sentiments and sang a new song, "Thou art worthy . . . for thou hast redeemed us to God by thy blood " (Rev. 5:9'). When John enquired concerning the people who were present before the throne of God, he was told, "These are they which . . .have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb (7: 14).

#### The Lamb's Book Revealing

" And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.... And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (20: 12-15). John wrote of the Holy City, "And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth . . . but they which are written in the lamb's book of life" (21:27). The text infers three vital things. (i) God's records are true. It may be taken for granted that the account will be accurate. What I am, He will record. (ii) God's appointments are inescapable. John stresses the fact that all men will stand before God. Their reluctance to do so will not provide a way of escape. This is an appoint-

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ment no one can avoid. (iii) God's decisions are final. There  
is no court of appeal. Whatever is meant by the term " the  
lake of fire " is something each individual must consider  
personally. To say the least, any verdict leading to eternal  
rejection can be nothing short of tragic.

#### The Lamb's Bride Rejoicing

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first  
heaven and the first earth were passed away. . . . And I  
John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from  
God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her hus-  
band. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying,  
Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell  
with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself  
shall be with them. . . . And God shall wipe away all tears  
from their eyes ; and there shall be no more death, neither  
sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain "  
(21:1-4). Finally, John recorded the words of his Lord, " I  
am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and  
morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. . . .  
And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him  
take the water of life freely" (22: 16, 17). Earth should be  
more than a playground. It should be the preparatory stage  
where wise people prepare for eternity. The Gospel of God  
says come, and no soul can be deaf when God is speaking.

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