

# FOLLOWING A BABY SHEEP AND NONVIOLENCE

## *Early Hearings of the Letter from Patmos*

**Genesis 49.9-12**—You are a **lion’s cub, Judah**; you return from the **prey**, my son. Like a **lion** he crouches and lies down, like a **lioness**—who dares to rouse him? The **scepter** will not depart from **Judah**, nor the **ruler’s staff** from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the **obedience of the nations** shall be his. He will tether his donkey to a vine, his colt to the choicest branch; he will **wash his garments in wine, his robes in the blood of grapes**. His eyes will be darker than wine, his teeth whiter than milk.

**Isaiah 11.1-16**—A shoot will come up from the **stump of Jesse**; from his **roots** a **Branch** will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with **righteousness** he will **judge** the **needy**, with **justice** he will give **decisions** for the **poor** of the earth. He will **strike the earth with the rod of his mouth**; with the **breath of his lips he will slay the wicked**. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the cobra’s den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper’s nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. In that day the **Root of Jesse** will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious. In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the surviving remnant of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the Mediterranean. He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth. Ephraim’s jealousy will vanish, and Judah’s enemies will be destroyed; Ephraim will not be jealous of Judah, nor Judah hostile toward Ephraim. They will swoop down on the slopes of Philistia to the west; together they will plunder the people to the east. They will subdue Edom and Moab, and the Ammonites will be subject to them. The LORD will dry up the gulf of the Egyptian sea; with a scorching wind he will sweep his hand over the Euphrates River. He will break it up into seven streams so that anyone can cross over in sandals. There will be a highway for the remnant of his people that is left from Assyria, as **there was for Israel when they came up from from Egypt**.

**Revelation 1.1-3**—The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must **soon take place**. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. Blessed is the one who **reads aloud** the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who **hear it** and **take to heart** what is written in it, because the time is **near**.

### Ancient Jewish Hope

### Two Related Themes:

#### Jesus’ Nonviolent Revolution

#### The Jewish Theme of the Conversion of the Nations

**Revelation 4.1-5**—After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it . . .

**Revelation 5.1-5**—Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?” But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. Then one of the elders said to me, “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.”

**Revelation 22.16**—“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am **the root and offspring of David**, and the **bright Morning Star**.”

“That the world may be healed.” — John 3.17

All Texts Quoted from the NIV Unless Otherwise Noted

**Revelation 11.9-10**—For three and a half days some from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.

**Esther 9.19**—That is why rural Jews—those living in villages—observe the fourteenth of the month of Adar as a day of joy and feasting, a day for giving presents to each other.

**Esther 9.20-22**—Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews throughout the provinces of King Xerxes, near and far, to have them celebrate annually the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar as the time when the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month when their sorrow was turned into joy and their mourning into a day of celebration. He wrote them to observe the days as days of feasting and joy and giving presents of food to one another and gifts to the poor.

**Esther 9.2-3**—The Jews assembled in their cities in all the provinces of King Xerxes to attack those determined to destroy them. No one could stand against them, because the people of all the other nationalities were afraid of them. And all the nobles of the provinces, the satraps, the governors and the king's administrators helped the Jews, because fear of Mordecai had seized them.

**Esther 8.17**—In every province and in every city to which the edict of the king came, there was joy and gladness among the Jews, with feasting and celebrating. And many people of other nationalities became Jews because **fear** of the Jews had seized them.

**Revelation 11.11-13**—But after the three and a half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on. At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were feared and gave glory to the God of heaven.

**Daniel 2.44**—In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.

**Numbers 24.17-19**—"I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. **A star** will come out of **Jacob**; **a scepter** will rise out of **Israel**. He will **crush the foreheads of Moab**, the **skulls of all the people of Sheth**. Edom will be conquered; Seir, his enemy, will be conquered, but Israel will grow strong. A ruler will come out of Jacob and **destroy** the survivors of the city."

**Revelation 5.6-10**—Then I saw a **Lamb**, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because **you** were slain, and with **your** blood you purchased [ransomed/liberated] for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

**Revelation 6.9-11**—When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of **THOSE** who **HAD BEEN SLAIN** because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and vindicate [Thayer] our blood?" Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants and brothers and sisters were killed just as they had been.

**Revelation 14.1**—Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion [Psalms 2], and with him 144,000 who had his name and the name of his father on their foreheads. And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps. And they sang a new song [PSALMS 96 & 98] before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they remained virgins. **They follow the lamb wherever he goes**. They were purchased from among the human race and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb. No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.

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