

## — Our Pastors Speak —



### THE LAMB IN THE MIDST OF THE THRONE

by Rev. Stillman Cameron

"I beheld, and lo! in the midst of the throne.... stood a Lamb as it had been slain." (Rev. 5:6)

While in exile on the Isle of Patmos, the Apostle John was carried up by the Spirit into the immediate presence of God and the host of heaven. He sees an exalted and awful throne, surrounded by an innumerable host of angels and immortal beings. He hears the music of their singing issuing forth with the thunders from the throne of God. He hears the voice of the Almighty, as it were the voice of many waters. While looking in silent wonder upon the scene, his attention is called to a book that is sealed with seven seals. An angel there upon asks, "Who is worthy to open the book?" Silence follows. No one in heaven or earth, or throughout the vast universe, is found worthy, and John begins to weep. Suddenly he is addressed by one of the elders near the throne, and John is told of one able for the mighty work. He turns his eyes to see, and what does he behold? A mighty angel? No! He looks and beholds in the midst of the throne a Lamb, as it had been slain. A lamb, the symbol of gentleness, weakness and death.

What does it all mean? What does it symbolize? Without doubt, this vision is to remind us of God's method of atonement; that it is by the blood of Jesus, as of a Lamb without spot and without blemish. This truth is strongly set forth here, inasmuch as in the very midst of the throne, indicating that God is both pleased and pacified. The blood of the Lamb speaks of itself that the redemption thus provided is in strict accordance with divine justice, and Jehovah is satisfied. Such a prospect affords deep consolation to us, for as certainly as God is satisfied through the shedding of blood, so just as certain is it that blood was shed on our behalf. Thus again, the Lamb is placed in the very midst of the throne of God, that man may never look up to heaven without seeing it, and remembering that by this way and this alone can he be cleansed from sin.

The figure of the slain Lamb locates our attention on two very vital doctrinal truths; that of propitiation and that of substitution. Propitiation is the death of Christ Godwards; the blood on the Mercy-seat to meet the claims of His justice. But substitution is His blood sprinkled upon the Mercy-seat for me. The two belong together. St. Paul speaks of Christ being He, "whom God hath set forth to be the propitiation THROUGH FAITH in His blood." And so, the propitiation side is for God, the Offended; the substitution side is for me, the offender. Go back to that wonderful Old Testament story of Abraham offering his son, Isaac, before the Lord. He learned from that experience the truth of substitution. But when did he learn it? When he was broken and smashed to pieces within. After that God said, "Look behind you; there is a ram. Offer that instead of Isaac. At that moment Abraham learned the blessed truth of

The King's Highway

## On Destiny

by Marguerite Estaver

There is a way that lies ahead  
I do not see,  
And yet its shadowy form  
Impresses me  
With Destiny.

These shifting mists of days to come  
Reveal Him there  
Moving in these plans of His  
With greatest care  
In love for me.

He whose hand has placed the stars on high  
And made them shine  
Is not disturbed to plan  
This life of mine  
Which is His own.

And through it all I see a pattern  
Vaguely formed  
Of service yet undone  
But yet to come  
When I have grown.

The Maker of the universe  
(And every soul)  
As days slip into place, pours over them  
His cornucopia  
of gold—

Making dull and common things  
To shine:  
A prophecy of untold glory  
In light that is  
Divine.

substitution.

We have much need of learning this lesson anew. The materialistic emphasis on mass production has resulted in an attempt to turn out saints quickly and easily. It must ever be remembered, however, that people cannot be hurried into a confession of Christ, nor can they be coddled or coaxed into it. Let them get some feelings of broken-heartedness, some grief, some divine conviction! Any other kind of conversion is not worth having. I sometimes wonder if there haven't been times at our altars when we have pressed people into accepting something too prematurely. Shallow repentance can only end in a shallow conversion. Oh, for the brokenness about sins! Oh, for genuine grief: the arrow of conviction! It is only then that we look up through our tears to see the Lamb in the midst, even Jesus of Calvary!

The day is approaching when all that John saw in vision shall unfold in glorious and awful reality. That which is shrouded in mystery now shall then be made plain. It will be the day of final triumph for the Lamb, and for those who have washed their robes and made them white in His blood. Then the redeemed of the Lord shall know perfect contentment, "For they shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more, because the Lamb that is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and lead them unto living fountains of waters." Then there shall be no more need of sun or moon, for the glory of God shall enlighten the city, and "the Lamb is the light thereof." Dear reader, have you seen the vision of the Lamb in the midst of the throne? Then follow Him whithersoever He goeth, and walk with Him in white.

I will praise Him, I will praise Him:  
Praise the Lamb for sinners slain;  
Give Him glory, all ye people,  
For His blood can wash away each stain.