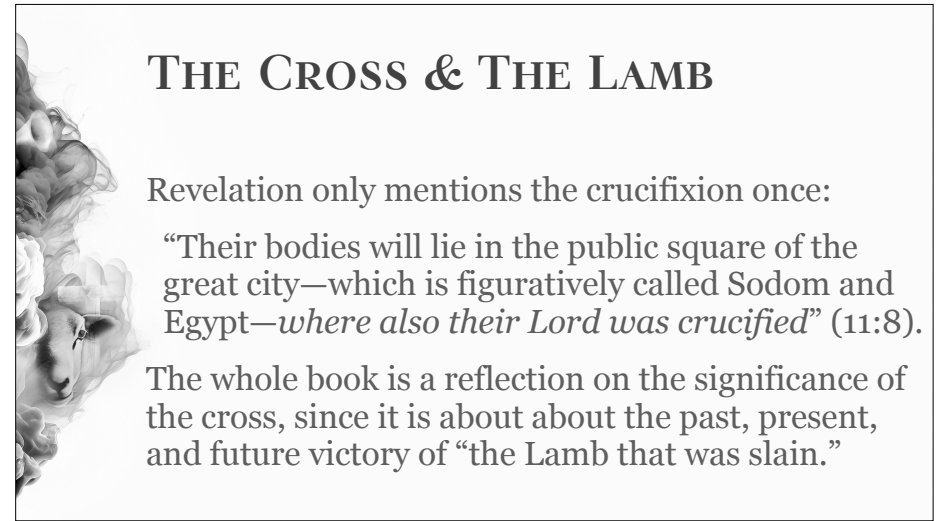




THE CROSS & THE LAMB

Good Friday | March 29, 2024
Pastor Tyler Williams

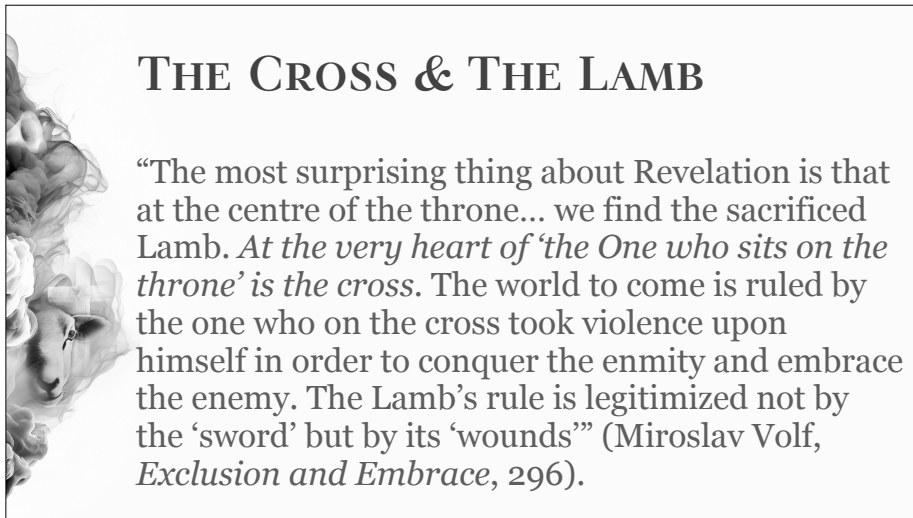


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Revelation only mentions the crucifixion once:

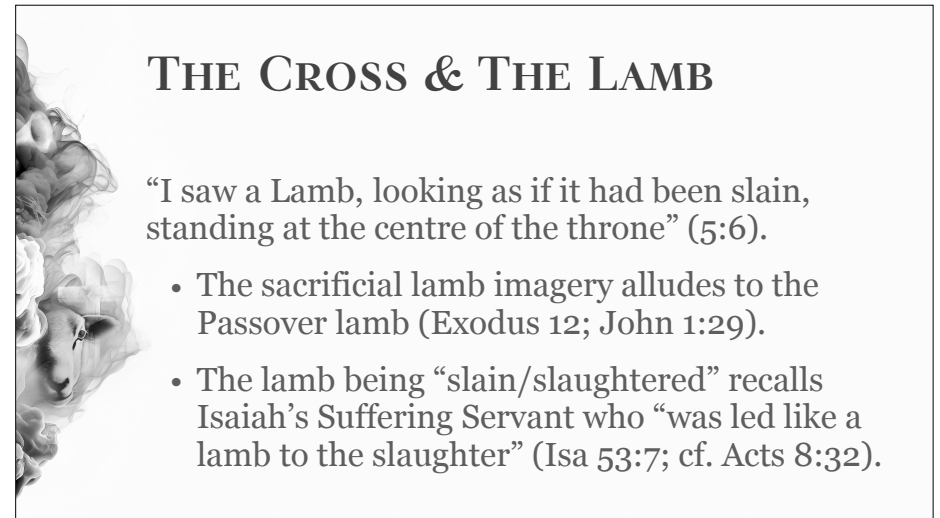
“Their bodies will lie in the public square of the great city—which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt—*where also their Lord was crucified*” (11:8).

The whole book is a reflection on the significance of the cross, since it is about about the past, present, and future victory of “the Lamb that was slain.”



THE CROSS & THE LAMB

“The most surprising thing about Revelation is that at the centre of the throne... we find the sacrificed Lamb. *At the very heart of ‘the One who sits on the throne’ is the cross.* The world to come is ruled by the one who on the cross took violence upon himself in order to conquer the enmity and embrace the enemy. The Lamb’s rule is legitimized not by the ‘sword’ but by its ‘wounds’” (Miroslav Volf, *Exclusion and Embrace*, 296).



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“I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the centre of the throne” (5:6).

- The sacrificial lamb imagery alludes to the Passover lamb (Exodus 12; John 1:29).
- The lamb being “slain/slaughtered” recalls Isaiah’s Suffering Servant who “was led like a lamb to the slaughter” (Isa 53:7; cf. Acts 8:32).



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- Beyond the more general sacrificial imagery, the language of the Lamb’s “blood” is used throughout Revelation as a metonym for Jesus’ sacrificial death on the cross.
- These passages can unpack the significance of the cross in the book of Revelation.



THE CROSS IS REDEMPTIVE

“You are worthy... because you were slain and *with your blood you purchased for God* persons from every tribe, language, people, and nation” (5:9).

- Jesus’ death “purchased” a people for God (14:3-4); similar language is also found in Eph 1:7; and 1Cor 6:20.
- Jesus redeems us at the cost of his precious blood (1Peter 1:18-19).



THE CROSS IS LIBERATING

“To him who loves us and *has freed us from our sins* by his blood” (1:5).

- Jesus’ death is liberating as it sets us free from sins (John 1:29; 1John 1:7; 2:2; 4:10).
- Connects with the exodus motif.
- “The overcoming of sin lies at the very heart of the meaning of the crucifixion” (Flemming Rutledge, *The Crucifixion*, 185).



THE CROSS IS VICTORY

The followers of the Lamb “triumphed over him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb...” (12:11).

- Victory over every power of evil — the Dragon, the Beasts, Babylon, Death — has been won by the blood of the Lamb.
- Jesus alone is “Christus victor” (Luke 10:18; John 12:31; Col 2:13–15; Rom 16:20).
- Our victory is only because of the Lamb’s victory.



TAKEAWAYS

The faithful death of the slaughtered Lamb is both *the source* and *the shape* of our salvation!

- Redemption
- Liberation
- Victory