



KEYS TO REVELATION

October 4th, 2025 Meeting Recap.

Revelation's Lamb and God's Plan for Peace

Part 1: Finding Peace in a Turbulent World

The health presentation, delivered by Vicki Griffin-Lawrence, addressed the challenge of finding peace in a "crazy busy world." It argues that while Jesus promised tribulation, he also offered his peace. This peace is accessible through a divine plan with four essential components, which work together as a complete package. Leaving one component out will prevent the experience of genuine peace.

God's Four-Part Peace Plan

The plan is presented as a holistic approach combining physical, mental, spiritual, and faith-based practices.

Component	Description
1. A Lifestyle that Promotes Peace	This involves a combination of healthy choices, not a single solution. It emphasizes physical and mental exercise, proper nutrition, and adequate sleep. God's priorities are meant to "strengthen and empower," not crush. This includes making time for quiet, rest, and balanced living.
2. Attitudes that Produce Peace	The mind is powerful enough to trigger a stress response through imagination alone ("catastrophic thinking"). Conversely, attitudes of "courage, hope, faith, sympathy, and love" can promote mental and physical health. These positive attitudes are said to produce peptides that have profound effects on digestion, stress, and immune function.
3. Spiritual Principles that Secure Peace	This is described as the foundational component. True peace begins with making peace with God by submitting one's own will and saying "yes" to His guidance. Spiritual well-being is positioned at the "center of a healthy lifestyle."
4. Faith that Preserves Peace	This faith is "savior-based," not "outcome-based," meaning trust is placed in the savior regardless of the circumstances. This faith provides the strength to endure difficult times. As stated, "Faith says either make the problem smaller or me bigger."

Key Concepts and Illustrations

- Good is the Enemy of Best: Vicki warned against being so busy with "good things" that one fails to accomplish the "best things," leading to a hectic but barren life.
- The Power of Boredom: Disconnecting from distractions like phones allows for "big picture living" and deeper thinking.
- The Story of John Claypool: A pastor who lost his eight-year-old daughter to leukemia found strength in Isaiah 40. He realized his trial was not a time to "soar" or "run," but a time to "walk and not faint," sustained by God's presence.

- The Ultimate Hope: The promise of a future where God will end all sorrow, pain, and death enables a "brave and hopeful walk today." This is reinforced by the quote from Jeremiah 29:11: *"For I know the thoughts that I have toward you says the Lord Thoughts of peace and not of evil to give you an expected end."*

Part 2: The Centrality and Paradox of the Lamb in Revelation

The second presentation, by Pastor Darrel, focuses on interpreting the Book of Revelation through its most prevalent symbol: the Lamb. This analysis aims to provide a "settled experience" for believers facing a world in turmoil.

The Lamb as the Core Symbol

- The symbol used most frequently in the Book of Revelation is the Lamb, which is mentioned 27 times.
- This Lamb is identified as Jesus Christ, referencing John the Baptist's declaration: *"Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."* (John 1:29).
- Pastor Darrel emphasized the counterintuitive nature of this symbol: *"Who would have thought that a lamb could rescue the souls of men?"* This sets up the central theme of divine power appearing as worldly weakness.

The Paradox of Power: Lion vs. Lamb

The presentation explores the conflict between good and evil through the imagery of a dragon (Satan) versus a lamb. While this appears to be an uneven match, the core message is that the Lamb has already prevailed and the dragon is a "defeated enemy."

This paradox is detailed in the analysis of Revelation Chapter 5:

1. The Crisis: A sealed scroll is held by God on the throne, but no one in the entire universe is found worthy to open it, causing John to weep.
2. The Proclamation: An elder tells John not to weep, because the "Lion of the tribe of Judah... has prevailed." This creates an expectation of a powerful, conquering figure.
3. The Revelation: When John looks, he does not see a lion. Instead, he sees "a lamb as though it had been slain."

Pastor Darrel noted a recurring pattern in Revelation where John *hears* one thing but sees a related, yet different, image.

Scripture	What is Heard	What is Seen
Revelation 5:5-6	A Lion from the tribe of Judah that has prevailed.	A Lamb as though it had been slain.
Revelation 7	The number of the sealed: 144,000.	A great multitude that no one could number.

The Worthiness of the Lamb

The critical question of Revelation 5 is why the Lamb is worthy to open the scroll when no other being, including powerful angels, is. The answer is identified as one of the "greatest mysteries": the unique linking of divinity with humanity.

- Evidence of Humanity: Jesus died, proving he was fully human.
- Evidence of Divinity: Jesus forgave sins and resurrected himself, proving he was fully God.

This unique combination makes Christ the only one able to bridge the gap between God and humanity, making him worthy. Pastor Darrel stated that through this act, humanity is now "closer to God now than if we had never sinned."

God's True Power Revealed

God's ultimate power, or "muscle," is not demonstrated through creation or force, but through the sacrifice of the Lamb.

- Isaiah 51-53: These chapters describe God making his "holy arm" bare, revealing his strength to the nations. This strength is not a warrior, but the suffering servant described in Isaiah 53.
- Quote from Isaiah 53:5: *"He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement of our peace was upon him, And by his stripes we are healed."*
- The Power of Self-Control: The greatest display of self-control in history was Jesus remaining on the cross when he had "legions of angels" available to him. His prevailing was in choosing to "successfully die."
- The Power of Humility: Citing Philippians 2, Pastor Darrel highlighted that Jesus, who was equal with God, "emptied himself" and became a powerless human being in order to die. This act of humility is presented as the greatest demonstration of power the universe has ever witnessed.

Universal Impact and Application

The Lamb's death is shown to have implications beyond the salvation of humanity.

- A Universal Victory: When the Lamb takes the scroll in Revelation 5, not only humanity but all the angels and "every creature in heaven and on the earth" worship him.
- Securing Eternity: The Lamb's sacrifice secured the entire universe, ensuring that unfallen worlds will never fall and that "affliction shall not arise a second time."

The final application for believers is to live in the power of the Lamb.

- Lambs Among Wolves: Jesus sending his disciples out "as lambs amongst wolves" is not a call to be victims, but a call to operate with a different kind of power—one based on dependence on Christ, who prevailed as a Lamb.
- A New Response to Turmoil: This understanding calls for a different response to conflict, false accusations, and powerlessness. It is a call to witness to God's character through patience, forgiveness, and even silence, reflecting the power demonstrated by the Lamb.