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**The Lion of the Tribe  
of  
Judah  
and the symbolism of the  
The Lion**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

# The Lion of the Tribe of Judah and the Symbolism of the Lion.

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## Topics.

- The symbolism of a lion.
  - The lion of the tribe of Judah.
  - A lion, ox, face of a man and a flying eagle.
  - A mighty angel calls out like a lion roaring.
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## THE SYMBOLISM OF A LION

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### The lion signifies:

- The king of wild animals.
  - An exalted position of royal and kingly power.
  - Fearlessness and courage.
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## THE LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH

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- **Revelation 5:5:** And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”

**Christ is referred to as a lion for the following reason:** when Jacob called his sons together, to tell them what will happen to them in days to come he said of his son Judah:

- Judah is a lion’s cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him? (Gen. 49:9).

So, the lion became the ancient symbol of the tribe of Judah and it was from this tribe Jesus came. The standard of Judah in Israel’s camp is said by Jewish writers to have been a lion. The lion is the king of beasts, the monarch of the forest, and as such became a symbol of strength, courage, and sovereignty, and an emblem of kingly authority and power, and since Christ is King above all, and has power over all principalities, powers, and authorities he is likened to the lion. The lion is the representative of the royal house of David and Jesus is from the bloodline of David, and sprung up from David as a shoot springs up from a fallen tree as the following verses show:

- There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse (David’s father), and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. (Isaiah 11:1).
- In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious. (Isaiah 11:10).
- Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Behold, the man whose name is the Branch: for he shall branch out from his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD. (Zech. 6:12).
- I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star. (Rev. 22:16)

Jesus is called:

- The Son of David, and the branch of David.
- The root of David, and David's Son and Lord.
- The Lamb slain, and the Lion of Judah.

In the book of Revelation, we read:

- **Revelation 5:5:** And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered (prevailed in KJV), so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”

Jesus overcame:

- Self-will (i.e., not my will but yours be done) (Luke 22:42).
- The devil.
- Death.

As, a result of his overcoming victory his heavenly Father counted him worthy to open the seven-sealed scroll that contained His future judgments, plans and purposes for the church and the world.

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## A LION, OX, FACE OF A MAN AND A FLYING EAGLE

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In the book of Ezekiel, we read:

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- **Ezekiel 1:10:** As for the likeness of their faces, each had a human face. The four had the face of a lion on the right side, the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and the four had the face of an eagle.

**The lion:** signifies courage, and Christians who in the face of persecution, suffering, hardships, troubles, and sorrows, show great strength of character and endure in faith.

**An ox:** is a working animal and as such signifies, Christians working to extend the Lord's Kingdom.

**The face of a man:** the face is used to signify the whole person, (i.e., their character and nature). Each face is compared to what is most excellent in its kind:

1. The lion in strength.
2. The ox in patience and labour.
3. The eagle in speed and high flight.
4. The man in knowledge, intellect, and wisdom.

Together they signify faithful Christians sharing the Gospel with others.

**The flying eagle:** signifies faithful believers carrying the Gospel, to every country, language, people, and nation. In every age, faithful Christians not only manifested remarkable patience in the face of fierce persecution and opposition and held fast their faith with renowned courage and fortitude while suffering, prison, torture, and death, but also continued

proclaiming God's word and the Gospel with tremendous success. In this sense the church can be likened to the lion, the ox, and to the face of a man and flying eagle carrying the Gospel, as it were upon its wings to every kindred, language, people, and nation.

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## A MIGHTY ANGEL CALLS OUT LIKE A LION ROARING

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- **Revelation 10:2-3:** He (a mighty angel) had a little scroll open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea, and his left foot on the land,<sup>3</sup> and called out with a loud voice, like a lion roaring. When he called out, the seven thunders sounded.

Here we read of a mighty angel calling out with a loud voice like a lion roaring, identifying the voice with the roar of a lion, signifies courage, strength, power and authority, and the presence of the lion of the tribe of Judah (Rev. 5:5), which was heard far and near, throughout the whole world, by the testimony of his people, bringing life to those who receive it, and condemnation to those who reject it.

The lion is king of the woods, and his roar instils terror, signifying the power with which the angel spoke and the awe he instilled as the roar of the lion keeps the dwellers of the forest in awe. What he said, John understood, but we are not told, since the angel told John not to write it.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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