The Lamb of God

Revelation 5:1-7

The stage is set. The glowing introduction has built to a climax. We eagerly await the next moment, when we will finally meet the One so long promised: the Mighty Conqueror, the Root of David, the King of all Kings, the Lion of Judah. At last we are about to see the One who is worthy to bring to living reality all the magnificent plans and magnificent promises of our sovereign, loving God. All the sprawling creation is about to meet the One through Whom it was created, its hope, its Redeemer. But behold the Man! The Lion is a Sacrificial Lamb. The Mighty Conqueror is One slaughtered, still bearing His wounds. The King of all Kings is a Servant. The Lord of all Lords is a homeless peasant, without power, status, or any attractiveness whatsoever. Yet this One has overcome all evil everywhere, for all time. This one has conquered through self-sacrifice, not self-fulfillment, through complete dependence, not complete self-sufficiency, through weakness, not strength. And this One stands with His arms outstretched, calling to each of us and all of us: "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me." (Matthew 16:24, NASB)

This is our all-conquering hero. This is our Leader, This is the One against whom all rightness, all success all victory is measured: He is Christ crucified.

Hymn: Christ Crucified

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