

## ALPHA COUNSELING SERVICES

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Hello Friends,

I grew up hearing the lion and lamb in reference to March weather. What I remember is if March came 'in like a lion then it went out like a lamb' or the reverse which is 'in like a lamb out like a lion'. In looking up the information on the web I found out the reference had little to do with the weather. One article mentioned that March starts while winter is still in force and by the end of the month spring has arrived. Another opinion is the celestial view where the constellation Leo, the lion, is rising and by the end of the month Aries, the Kid, is ascending. Somehow 'out like a lamb' sounds better than 'out like a kid'.

While searching all this information I realized how early Easter is this year and that started me on another quest. Although I was aware that Easter is connected to Passover I had never paid much attention to the choosing of the dates for either. I learned that Easter is always the first Sunday after the full moon following the Spring Equinox. This year it is very early based on those occurrences and explains why the dates can be so varied on the calendar. More information! The earliest date Easter can occur is March 22 and the latest is April 25. The last time Easter was on March 22 was in 1888 and the next time is 2285. That's right, in 269 years from now. I don't think I'll wait up for that one.

To my knowledge there is only one Person who is referred to as both a lion and a lamb and this month we celebrate His Resurrection! The Bible has many depictions of Christ being a lamb and a lion. Some are very subtle as in Genesis 22: 8. Abraham is being tested by God and his son Isaac asks a logical question. "Father where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham answers "God will provide for Himself the lamb...". And He did! In Genesis 49 Jacob blesses his sons and Judah is referred to as a lion's cub and in verse 10 Jacob prophesized "The scepter (authority to rule) shall not depart from Judah...to him shall be the obedience (submission to authority) of the peoples. BUT WAIT! Revelation 5 depicts a scene in Heaven where the Apostle is loudly weeping because an important scroll goes unopened. An elder declares" Weep no more...the Lion of the tribe of Judah...can open the scroll." Verse 6 "And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain... and He took the scroll." In verse 12 a chant goes up from millions of voices "***Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing! Amen***"  
*Thank you and God Bless Your Easter!*

***Richard and Debi***