The Song of the Lamb
and Leadership Principles

Gyeongchun Choi

ABSTRACT—The song of the Lamb occupies a crucial position in the book of Revelation. A close relationship between the Great Controversy and the song of the Lamb exists. The followers of the Lamb are the singers and the victors in the Great Controversy. The song of the Lamb contains leadership principles because this song is sung by the victors and followers of the Lamb. The song of the Lamb is the paean which praises their leader, the Lamb, while hedonistic music is the song of self-satisfaction. Christian leadership principles can be found in the musical characteristics of the song of the Lamb: unity in humility (physical), motivation and heart (emotional), transparency and trust (mental), egalitarian relationship (social), and divine character (spiritual). Christian leadership is a joyful and dynamic celebration. Christians are people who enter the kingdom of God with singing. The song of the Lamb is resonated deeply with the saints’ voluntary spirit and love. Christian leadership should result in their followers having unity, transparency, participation, and reflecting the divine character.

Keywords: The Song of the Lamb, The Great Controversy, leadership, unity, motivation, transparency, relationship, divine character, music

I. Introduction

This study aims to find leadership principles from the singing of saints, particularly the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb in the Book of Revelation (Rev 15). Some studies about the issues of worship and music in the Book of Revelation exist (Begbie, 2007, pp. 72–73;
Doukhan, 2010, pp. 102-103; Holmes, 1984, pp. 18-24; Seel, 1995; Waggener, 2011, pp. 37-38), but no attempt to derive leadership principles from the song of the Lamb is known. However, the song of the Lamb offers Christian leadership principles, because the singers are the followers of the Lamb (Rev. 7:9-10; 14:1-5). The attitude and character of the singers infer both leadership and followership.

Particularly, this paper verifies the relationship between the Great Controversy between God and Satan and music to derive leadership principles from it. Music is deeply related historically to not only religious ritual, but also to military confrontation in Scripture and occupies an essential role in the Christian life (Heb 13:15). Revelation uses musical elements in the description of the Great Controversy. Both musical performance and combat circumstances share commonality in terms of leadership. I will examine Christian leadership principles from the song of the Lamb by exploring possible musical elements in the Book of Revelation.

II. The Great Controversy, Music and Leadership

The Great Controversy and the temple in Revelation are closely interrelated with musical elements. Music, especially singing, appears in all the progressions of Revelation. The prophetic part (Rev 4-22) begins with worship in heaven (Rev 4-5). Before the seven trumpets blow, the scene of worship and praise of a great multitude takes place (Rev 7:9-17). After the bloody scene of the battle is described (Rev 12-13) John “heard a voice from heaven” (Rev 14:2), “the sound of harpists playing their harps” (v. 2) and “a new song” (v. 3) sung by “one hundred and forty-four thousand” (Rev 14:1). And in chapter 15 people who have the victory “sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb” (v. 3). Lastly, a great multitude worships and sings (Rev 19) after the description of the judgment for evil.

These three elements (the Great Controversy, the temple, and music) are inextricably linked. Music in worship in Revelation takes place with a cosmic dimension. The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders worship and praise God with their voices with each having a harp (Rev 4). The host of angels is involved in this worship of the Lamb with a loud voice (Rev 5). A great multitude (Rev 7:9), one hundred and forty four thousand (Rev 14:1), sing the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb. They praise their leader God and the Lamb and they sing of the work of