

# REVELATION

**Dr. Gary Hewins**

**Week 3**

## Summary

In this exploration of Revelation chapters 4 and 5, we uncover profound spiritual insights about Christ's role as our 'Shiloh' - the one worthy of tribute. The vision of the heavenly throne room and the sealed scroll presents a cosmic drama that ties directly to Old Testament prophecies, particularly Genesis 49:10. We're reminded that God's plan for redemption was set in motion long before we understood our need for a Savior. The imagery of Christ as both the Lion of Judah and the slain Lamb emphasizes His unique qualifications to open the seals and fulfill God's will. This revelation challenges us to expand our understanding of Christ beyond His earthly ministry and recognize the full scope of His cosmic role. As we contemplate our position as believers 'seated in heavenly realms,' we're encouraged to approach God with both reverence and boldness, fully embracing the access we have to His presence through Christ.

## Key Points

Key Points:

- The importance of understanding Revelation through Old Testament context
- The cosmic tabernacle in Revelation 4 as a fulfillment of the Old Testament tabernacle
- The sealed scroll representing God's plan for creation, sealed due to human sin
- Christ as the "Shiloh" prophesied in Genesis 49:10, the one worthy to open the seals
- The significance of Christ appearing as a freshly slain lamb in the throne room
- The believer's seated position and access to Christ in the heavenly realms



# Scripture References

## Mentioned

Here are the scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon, along with some relevant verses for general themes discussed:

1. Revelation 1-5 (extensively discussed throughout)
2. Exodus 19-25 (mentioned as key passages)
3. Genesis 1-3 (alluded to when discussing paradise)
4. 2 Chronicles 7:14 (paraphrased)
5. Revelation 2:1-7 (Church in Ephesus)
6. Revelation 2:8-11 (Church in Smyrna)
7. Revelation 2:12-17 (Church in Pergamos)
8. Matthew 5:10-12 (alluded to regarding persecution)
9. Isaiah 53:2 (mentioned "root out of dry ground")
10. Genesis 49:10 (quoted and discussed)
11. Isaiah 11:2 (referenced for understanding the seven spirits of God)
12. John 20:17 (alluded to regarding Mary Magdalene at the tomb)
13. Ephesians 2:6 (quoted)

## Main Themes

General themes with suggested relevant verses:

1. Faithfulness in persecution:
  - 1 Peter 4:12-13
  - James 1:12
2. Repentance:
  - Acts 3:19
  - 2 Corinthians 7:10
3. Christ as the Lamb:
  - John 1:29
  - 1 Peter 1:19
4. Access to God's throne:
  - Hebrews 4:16
  - Romans 5:2
5. The unveiling of Christ:
  - Colossians 1:26-27
  - 1 Peter 1:13

## Small Group Guide

### Key Takeaways:

1. The scroll in God's right hand represents His plan for creation, but it's sealed due to human sin.
2. Only someone who is both human and sinless can open the seals.
3. Jesus, referred to as the "Lion of Judah" and "Root of David," is revealed as the worthy Lamb.
4. The concept of "Shiloh" from Genesis 49:10 is connected to Jesus as the one worthy of tribute.
5. Our understanding of Christ should expand beyond His earthly ministry to His cosmic role.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think John wept when no one was found worthy to open the scroll? How does this relate to our own longing for God's plans to be fulfilled?
2. The sermon mentions that Jesus appears as a "freshly slain lamb." How does this image impact your understanding of Christ's sacrifice and ongoing role?
3. Discuss the concept of "Shiloh" and how it relates to Jesus. How does this ancient prophecy strengthen your faith in God's long-term plan?
4. The sermon suggests we might "live so far beneath what is available to us in Christ." What areas of your life might benefit from a greater understanding of your position in Christ?
5. How does the balance between reverence for God and bold access to His throne play out in your prayer life?



### **Practical Applications:**

1. Spend time this week meditating on Revelation 5. Try to visualize the throne room scene and consider how it impacts your view of worship.
2. Reflect on areas where you might be limiting your access to Christ. Write down one way you can practice "coming boldly to the throne of grace" this week.
3. Research other Old Testament prophecies about Christ. How do these connections between Old and New Testaments strengthen your faith?
4. In your prayer time, practice both reverent worship and bold requests, keeping in mind your position as seated with Christ in heavenly realms.
5. Share with the group next week how expanding your view of Christ's cosmic role has affected your daily walk with Him.



## **Day 1: Rediscovering Our First Love Reading: Revelation 2:1-7**

Devotional: The church in Ephesus was commended for their perseverance and doctrinal purity, yet they had forgotten their first love. How often do we, too, become so caught up in doing things for God that we neglect our relationship with Him? Today, reflect on your own spiritual journey. Have you maintained the passion and intimacy you once had with Christ? Remember, God values our love for Him above all else. Take time to rekindle that first love, focusing not on what God can do for you, but on who He is and what He's already done. Pray for a renewed sense of wonder and gratitude for God's unconditional love.

## **Day 2: Faithful in Suffering Reading: Revelation 2:8-11**

Devotional: The church in Smyrna faced intense persecution, yet Christ encouraged them to remain faithful, even unto death. In our comfortable lives, it's easy to forget that following Christ often involves suffering. However, our trials can deepen our faith and reveal God's strength in our weakness. Consider the challenges you're currently facing. How might God be using these difficulties to refine your character and draw you closer to Him? Remember, earthly suffering is temporary, but the crown of life is eternal. Ask God for the courage to remain faithful, knowing that He is with you in every trial.

## **Day 3: The Lion and the Lamb Reading: Revelation 5:1-10**

Devotional: In this powerful vision, we see Christ portrayed as both the Lion of Judah and the Lamb who was slain. This dual imagery reveals the complexity of God's character - He is both powerful and gentle, just and merciful. As you meditate on these contrasting aspects of Christ, consider how they apply to your life. Where do you need His strength? Where do you need His comfort? Thank God for being exactly what you need in every situation. Pray for a deeper understanding of His multifaceted nature and how it relates to your daily walk with Him.

## **Day 4: Worthy is the Lamb Reading: Genesis 49:8-12, Revelation 5:11-14**

Devotional: The concept of "Shiloh" from Genesis finds its fulfillment in Christ, the One to whom all tribute is due. This prophecy, given centuries before Jesus' birth, demonstrates God's intricate plan of redemption throughout history. As you reflect on God's foreknowledge and preparation, consider how He might be working in your own life, even in ways you can't yet see. How does knowing that Christ is worthy of all praise impact your worship and daily choices? Spend time in adoration, acknowledging Christ's worthiness and surrendering every area of your life to His lordship.

## **Day 5: Seated in Heavenly Places Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10**

Devotional: The transcription reminds us that we are already seated with Christ in heavenly places. This profound truth often goes unrealized in our daily lives. We have been given incredible access to God through Christ, yet we often live far below our spiritual privileges. Today, meditate on what it means to be "seated with Christ." How might this heavenly perspective change how you approach challenges, relationships, and your purpose in life? Ask God to help you live from this position of spiritual authority and intimacy. Pray for a greater awareness of your spiritual blessings and the courage to live them out practically.