

- I) V1 INTRO And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside
- II) Over the history of man, many have attempted to become the ruler of the world
We read of Nebuchadnezzar, Darius, Alexander the Great, and the Caesar's of Rome
Later Genghis Khan, Napoleon, Stalin, Hitler and Mao arose with such desires
- III) Ultimately a Satan empowered ruler will rise who will succeed to a great extent
As we will see, the Antichrist's rule will be short lived because he is doomed to failure
- IV) OBVIOUSLY: These men were simply following the lead of the first rebel, Satan
Satan hungered for power and desired to rule the earth, being worshiped as a god
- V) He rebelled, desiring to rise above the angelic hosts in order to be worshiped
Ezek 28:15 (To Satan) You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you
- VI) God knew his sinful plans and God cast him out of heaven
Is 14:12-15 How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!
How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: '*I will* ascend into heaven, *I will* exalt my throne above the stars of God; *I will* also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; *I will* ascend above the heights of the clouds, *I will* be like the Most High.' Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.
- VII) His rebellion was exposed and he came to earth in an attempt to rule as a god
We will see that, in the end, he will be revealed for what he *truly is* and be judged
- VIII) There is only One who has the right to rule and He will take back what belongs to Him
This One is named Jesus, and He is the rightful ruler and King
Ps 2:1-6 The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us." He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure: Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion.

IX) With this in mind we continue our look at heaven, with Jesus as *the center of attention* Jesus being the center of attention is what makes up true worship

Phil 2:9-11 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and *that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord*, to the glory of God the Father.

I) V1 And I saw in the *right hand* of Him *who sat on the throne* a scroll written inside and on

We begin by noticing that God is holding a scroll

This scroll is not in His hand, but is actually on the open palm of His hand

II) This is taking place before a number of witnesses

The twenty four elders representing the raptured saints, the Spirit in His sevenfold glory, the four living creatures and a multitude of angels are before the One who sat on the Throne

III) The majesty of the throne is described as awesome, with diamonds and sardius in appearance, and a rainbow like and emerald.

From the throne proceeds lightnings, thunderings and voices

IV) As John looks, the living creatures and elders cry out praise to God

He is holy, the Lord God Almighty, Who is worthy to receive glory, honor and power

He created all things and by His will they exist, and were created

V) He sees God on His throne, and on His open right hand is a scroll

VI) The *Right hand* is a picture of power, privilege, and authority

Ex 15:6 Your *right hand*, O Lord, was majestic in power. Your *right hand*, O Lord, shattered the enemy.

Ps 16:11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your *right hand* are pleasures forevermore.

VII) He is holding a *scroll* written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals

VIII) A scroll was a book, made from papyrus (a reed plant that grew in a marsh), or leather

Some scrolls could be as long as 148 feet long, but were normally around 1 foot long

IX) This scroll is a legal document

Roman contracts were written on the inner pages and then sealed with 7 seals
Jews drew up title-deeds that were folded, signed, sealed with at least *three witnesses*

- X) This scroll is the *title deed* to the earth which is given to Jesus
The book's theme is *redemption* and it is Jesus who is our Redeemer
1 Pe 1:18-19 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, *as of a lamb* without blemish and without spot.
- XI) This scroll is the *title-deed* of the earth, forfeited through sin in Genesis
It speaks in detail of judgment that is coming to earth
- I) It is similar to what is recorded in Ezekiel
Ezek 2:9-10 Then I looked, and behold, a hand was extended to me; and lo, a scroll was in it. When He spread it out before me, it was written on the front and back, and written on it were lamentations, mourning and woe
- II) It gives a detailed description of *judgment*, but also reveals *redemption* through Jesus
It describes how Jesus will regain what is rightfully His through His work of redemption
- III) When God created Adam, He gave him dominion, or authority on the earth
Gen 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them *rule* over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."
- IV) In his fall Satan came and *usurped Adam's authority*, gaining a foothold over the earth
He deceived Eve and appropriated Adam's authority and began to dominate
- V) Satan spoke of this when he tempted Jesus in the wilderness
Lu 4:5-8 The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been *given to me*, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'
- VI) This gave Satan the opportunity to dominate and have a form of rulership
He is the influencer of all things evil, and the world system is under his power
1 Jn 5:19 We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the *control* of the evil one.

2 Co 4:4 (Paul called him) the god of this age

VII) Jesus also spoke of the authority that he exercises

Jn 14:30 I will not speak with you much longer, for *the prince of this world* is coming and he has nothing in Me

VIII) Since the fall of Adam, God's creation was in need of redemption

Jesus came to redeem the world out of the destructive hand of the enemy
He has the right of ownership by way of creation, and especially by way of redemption

IX) Revelation 5 is a testimony of God's loving and costly redemption through His Son Jesus

X) It reveals the immense value God places on that which He has created, and loves

Mt 13:45-46 The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold *everything he had* and bought it.

I) The scroll has seven seals

The seals on scrolls were intended to prevent unauthorized entry

We will see that when these seals are broken, each one leads to escalating judgments

II) V2 Then I saw a *strong* (mighty, powerful) *angel* proclaiming with a loud voice
An angel of importance is selected to make this *announcement*

III) The description *strong angel* is used twice more in this letter: 10:21; 18:21

The angel proclaims with a *loud voice* (signifying urgency, concern, and challenge)

IV) V2 HE ASKS: Who is *worthy* to open the scroll and to loose its seals

WORTHY: Who has sufficient value to open the scroll

V) This is a challenge: If there is anyone present who can do so, *come forward and do it*

Is there any angel or elder worthy to open the scroll and loose the seals?

The cry is met with silence: heaven is as quiet as a tomb

VI) V3 And no one *in heaven* or on *the earth* or *under the earth* was able to open the scroll or

John stands watching, and as he watches no one stirs: heaven remains silent

The angels cry simply fades into a deep, empty silence

VII) No one in heaven and the authority or virtue to open, let alone to even look, at the scroll

VIII) The angels of heaven shrunk back, eyes lowered, unable to meet the challenge:
Heaven is silent because there is no one who is worthy

IX) How can earth be redeemed, when no one in heaven is found worthy for this work

Who can take back what Adam gave up? What can be done for this broken planet?

X) John stands silent as no one moves

No one in heaven, no one on the earth, nothing under the earth (hades) is able to open it

They can't even look at it in order to open it and read its words

XI) V4 So I wept much because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll or to

His tender heart breaks: Is the earth to remain in sin and sorrow

Will evil continue, oppression reign, sickness and death prevail, sorrow remain?

XII) Is there no future for us at all? Is there no hope? Is there no justice?

Who would want to live in a world that remains like this and even gets worse

There is so much pain, suffering, hate, violence, apathy, cruelty, disease and sorrow

I) This view of the world doesn't reject that there *is good*, but sorrows over what is not good

II) It is this kind of view that provokes believers to live for Jesus and share the gospel

It is the broken hearted believer that is used most mightily to reach the unsaved

Ps 126:6 He who goes forth and weeps, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

III) John desired to see the world rid of sin and death, Satan judged, and Jesus exalted

He is crying because it seemed hopeless: no one could take or look at the scroll

IV) ELLICOTT: The words, '*I wept much*,' can only be understood by those who have lived in great catastrophes of the Church, and entered with the fullest sympathy into her sufferings. Without tears the Revelation was *not written*, neither can it *without tears* be understood."

V) V5 But one of the elders said to me *Do not weep* Behold *the Lion* of the tribe of Judah

Do not weep: There is hope, *God is about to take action*
Jesus is revealed in this passage as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah

VI) This identifies Jesus with the tribe of Judah, the people of Israel, their Ruler
Jacob's blessing: Gen. 49:9-10 You are a *lion's cub*, O Judah; you return from the prey, my son. Like a lion he crouches and lies down, like a lioness --who dares to rouse him? The scepter will not depart from Judah, *nor the ruler's staff from between his feet*, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his.

Is 11:1 A shoot will come up from the root of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

VII) God gave a promise to King David, who was from the tribe of Judah

2 Sa 7:12 When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom.

2 Sa 7:16 Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established *forever*.

Jesus fulfills these prophecies in His 2nd coming and reigns over His kingdom

VIII) V6 And I looked and behold in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and

The 24 elders are forming a circle, the 4 living beasts are before the throne

The lamb is in the middle front of the throne

IX) The lion of the tribe of Judah is a Lamb

He was told the Lion would open the seals, but looks and instead he sees a lamb

X) John saw a *lamb*: Literally he saw a little, small, or pet lamb

The power and majesty of Messiah is clothed in the image of a small lamb

l) His power is actually manifested in what appears to be weakness

2 Co 13:4 For though He was crucified *in weakness*, yet He lives by the power of God.

Weakness speaks of the fact that Jesus, while on earth, could suffer and die

II) Jesus is the Lamb

Is 53:7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led *like a lamb* to the slaughter, and as *a sheep* before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

Jn 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the *Lamb of God*, who takes away the sin of the world!

III) V6 NOTICE: *Stood* a Lamb as though it had been slain

STOOD: To cause or make to stand in the presence of others

IV) V6 As though it had been slain

John can see the wounds on Jesus, but He is standing because He lives forevermore

V) The wounds are intended to reveal that Jesus suffered, and He died but now lives

It is not simply a lamb that is glorified, but the suffering Lamb that is exalted

VI) It is the crucified Lamb that is the center of Heaven's attention

It is the Lamb who was slain that draws people and brings salvation

Jn 12:32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.

VII) This is Jesus' prominence in Heaven: He is before the throne ready to act as *judge*

Ac 10:42 And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God *to be* Judge of the living and the dead.

2 Ti 4:1 I charge you therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the living and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom

VIII) John says that the Lamb has seven horns and seven eyes which are the seven spirits

Horns represent power, and seven is the number of completeness

Ps 92:10 You have exalted *my horn* like that of a wild ox; fine oils have been poured upon me.

The Lamb has complete and total power

IX) **SEVEN EYES: Which are the seven spirits of God (1:4; 3:1)**
This speaks of His omniscience: He can see everything

X) **V6 Finally John says that the seven Spirits of God are sent out into all the earth**
The Spirit of God has works that He performs throughout the world

I) **V7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne**

Dan 7:13-14 I was watching in the night visions, And behold, *One* like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom *the one* Which shall not be destroyed.

II) **Jesus is moving to act as the judge: He takes the scroll from the hand of the Father**

III) **V8 Now when He had taken the scroll the four living creatures and the twenty four elders**

Not only does the Church desire the end of evil, but creation itself looks for its end

The four living creatures as well as the twenty four elders burst into spontaneous praise

IV) **They fell down to worship Jesus: This makes it clear that Jesus is not simply an angel**
We have worship, pictured by harps, and prayers represented by incense

Ps 141:2 Let my prayer be set forth before You as incense

V) **These bowls represent the prayers of believers throughout the ages**
Everything the prophets prophesied and every faith filled prayer of believers is answered

VI) **Jesus is about to put an end to sin, death and the evil works of Satan**
He is preparing to return to earth in Triumph to establish His reign on earth
The curse is about to be forever ended, and Jesus will soon reign and heaven explodes

VII) **V9 They sang a new song saying You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals**

The elders brought forth the bowls of incense representing the prayers of saints

As they do, they sing to the Lamb a new song

VIII) This is the song of the redeemed: This is a picture of the church in Heaven

Angels are not redeemed, but those who are redeemed sing praises to God

Ps 7:17 I will praise the LORD according to His righteousness, And will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.

Ps 33:1-3 Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous! For praise from the upright is beautiful. Praise the LORD with the harp; Make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings. Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy.

IX) V10 And have made us kings and priests to our God and we shall reign on the earth

The church *is a priesthood*, and doesn't have a priesthood: Jesus is the High Priest

X) The church has a king, Jesus, but will rule with Him in His future Kingdom (Rev 3:21; 20:6)

This is seen later in the book, during the Millennial reign of Jesus

I) Believers are called kings and priests

In eternity, we have perfect access as we worship and fellowship with our God

II) V11-12 Then I looked and I heard the voice of many angels round the throne

To the voices of the 4 living creatures and the 24 elders are added a multitude of angels

Here is a picture of over 100 million angels praising Jesus

III) Heaven is filled with worship and song, and praises to Jesus

Heb 1:6 When God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, Let all God's angels worship him

IV) V13-14 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and

All of creation breaks forth in praise to God

Ro 8:19-22 For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.