

Revelation 5 “Worthy to Open the Scroll”

Remember to Lift Up the Lord Jesus Christ

Chapter 4 Review:

A Throne: Set in Heaven between Heaven and Earth

Sea of Glass: Access to the Throne

4 Living Creatures: Powerful Cherubim

24 Elders: Representatives of the Redeemed

Chapter 4: Heavenly Worship of the **Creator**

Chapter 5: Heavenly Worship of the **Redeemer**; i.e. the “Re-Creator”

Revelation 5

Witness 1: **Creation** Ch. 4

Witness 2: **Resurrection** Ch. 5

Lamb: First coming of Jesus to die for the inhabitants of the earth

Lion: Second coming:

Judge the inhabitants of earth...including Satan

Redeem creation [buy back]

I. Introduction of “The Scroll”

Apostle John in front of the throne with a vision of the **future**:

¹ And I saw in the **right hand** of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written **inside and on the back**, sealed with **seven seals**.

Him who sat on the throne: The **Father**

Right hand [strength/power] was a **Scroll**

Writing on inside/outside and **Sealed with Seven Seals**

² Then I saw a **strong angel** proclaiming with a **loud voice**, “**Who is worthy** to open the scroll and to loose its seals?”

Strong angel: Hierarchy; i.e. “...*this one comes out with prayer/fasting*”

Proclaiming [asking vehemently/shouting]

“**Who is worthy to open the scroll and loose its seals?**”

³ And **no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth** was

able to open the scroll, or to look at it. ⁴ So I wept much, because no one was found **worthy** to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.

No one in heaven or earth **able** to:

Open the scroll

Look at the scroll

John wept because no one was found **worthy** to:

Open the scroll

Read the scroll

Look at the scroll

Question 1: ***What is this Scroll?***

Answer: Daniel's sealed book... waiting to be **unsealed**:

Revelation [Apocalypse; gr. Apocalypse i.e. *Unveiling*] of Jesus Christ and His plan

Daniel 12:1 "At that time [Tribulation] Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands *watch* over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, *Even* to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book. ² And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame *and* everlasting contempt. ³ Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.

⁴ "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase." ⁵ Then I, Daniel, looked; and there stood two others,

one on this riverbank and the other on that riverbank. ⁶ And *one* said to the man clothed in linen, who *was* above the waters of the river,

"How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders *be*?" ⁷ Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who *was* above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that *it shall be* for a time, times, and half a time; and when the power of the holy people has been completely

shattered, all these *things* shall be finished. ⁸ Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, "My lord, what *shall be* the end of these

things?" ⁹ And he said, "**Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.**" ¹⁰ Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand. ¹¹ "And from the time *that* the daily *sacrifice* is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, *there shall be* one thousand two hundred and ninety days. ¹² Blessed *is* he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days. ¹³ "But you, go *your way* till the end; for you shall rest, and will **arise to your inheritance at the end** of the days."

*In effect the scroll is a Title Deed of ownership with regard to creation as demonstrated by Jesus right to do as He wills with the earth and its inhabitants including Satan and as revealed in the contents of this scroll; i.e. **Judgment** followed by complete redemption; things brought to right standing:*

Something is **wrong**:

Isaiah 25:7 And He will destroy on this mountain The surface of the covering cast over all people, And the veil that is spread over all nations. ⁸ He will swallow up death forever, And the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces; The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken.

The **creation** eagerly awaits things to be "made right"

Romans 8:18 ...I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the earnest expectation of the **creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.** ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; ²¹ because the **creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption** into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. ²³ Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even **we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.** ²⁴ For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

The Creator also eagerly awaits things to be “made right”

Luke 12:49 ***"I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!"***⁵⁰ But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished!⁵¹ Do *you* suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. [John 17 eventual unity]

Question 2: Why did John Weep?

Answer: God's plan for this age could not be **completed** if the scroll was left sealed. *The judgments contained therein would not occur; the wicked would not be dealt with, and Satan would continue steal, kill, and destroy while occupying the earth*

Legal Rights

God is bound by His **Word**

HYPERLINK "http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+138:2&version=NKJV" Psalm 138:2 I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have ***magnified Your word above all Your name.***

Adam was created w/out sin and given dominion [governmental authority] over the earth

God commanded Adam and Eve not to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil [choice] or they would die...they did eat... they did die spiritually

They began to die physically as sin entered the world and everything changed [2nd Law of Thermodynamics] Curse

Government of earth given to man now lost by man. Satan gained “legal right” to be “ruler of this world” ...but ***not legal ownership***

“...god of this age” [2 Corinthians 4:4], *“...prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience* [Ephesians 2:2] *“...the ruler of this world”* [John 12:31]

Creation was “bought back” by Jesus [2nd Adam; that is “man”] as He

paid the "purchase price" of redemption; i.e. **His blood**

HYPERLINK "http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+9:22&version=NKJV" Hebrews 9:22 ...according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

The "usurper" still occupies the earth even as God owns it until judgment comes to Satan and those who follow him; i.e. anyone who rejects Christ and His sacrifice

John weeps seeing no one able or worthy to open the seals and to "complete" this last crucial piece of God's plan for this age.

No one Able/Worthy?

Qualifications for a **Kinsman Redeemer**; i.e. the right to redeem what was lost:

Law of Redemption:

The **creation** is God's ***permanent possession*** by right of being **Creator**

Psalm 24:1 The **earth is the LORD's**, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein. 2 For He has founded it upon the seas, And established it upon the waters.

The ***permanent*** right of possession of the Earth is the **anti-type** [fulfillment] of the Law of Redemption in Leviticus 25

Leviticus 25:23 'The land **shall not be sold permanently**, for the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me. 24 And in all the land of your possession you shall grant redemption of the land. 25 'If one of your **brethren** becomes poor, and has sold some of his possession, and if his **redeeming relative** comes to redeem it, then he may redeem what his brother sold.

The earth was lost to man [for a time] at the Garden to the thief...

Satan

Temporary loss as per God's Word:

Psalm 115:16 The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's; But the earth *He has given to the children of men.*

Lost land in Israel could be redeemed by *any* Kinsman [relative] with the purchase price but...

The Kinsman **able/worthy** to redeem the earth lost by Adam and owned by God must be:

Creator Himself [owner]

Kinsman to Adam [Jesus the "second" Adam
w/ out sin; i.e. not a law breaker]

Redemption price in this case cannot be monetary but spiritual and has already been paid! [c.f. Hebrews 9:22]

1 Peter 1:18 ...you were **not redeemed with corruptible things**, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the **precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.**

If the redemption price has already been paid, why is Satan still the "*god of this world*"?

[Old Testament "Redemption Illustration" from Jeremiah 32](#)

Even after the price is paid, the usurper [trespasser] still must be **expelled**:

Jeremiah bought land in Israel from a relative as a Kinsman Redeemer
Jeremiah knew Babylon would invade and take that land for 70 years
Evidence of the transaction was buried until expulsion of Babylon from the land that was legally owned by Jeremiah

Jeremiah 32:14 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Take these deeds, both this purchase deed which is sealed and this deed which is open, and put them in an earthen vessel, that they may last many days." 15 For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Houses and fields and vineyards **shall be possessed again in this land.**"'

The deed was written and sealed

Sealed copy could only be opened by the rightful **owner**

Transaction not finished until owner came forward and broke the **seals**

II. One found Worthy to Open the Scroll: The Lion and the Lamb

Ezekiel 27:27 Overthrown, overthrown, I will make it overthrown! It shall be no longer, **Until He comes whose right it is, And I will give it to Him.**”

⁵ But **one of the elders said** to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the **Lion** of the tribe of Judah, the **Root of David**, has **prevailed** to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”

Key Word: Prevailed i.e. Resurrection/Triumph

Colossians 2:13b... He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, ¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵ Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, **triumphing over them in it.**

One elder speaks comfort to John: Real person; i.e. not a figurative character

One has prevailed:

Lion of the Tribe of Judah: **Second Coming**

Hebrews 7:14 ...it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah... [C.f. Genesis 49]

Root of David: Eternal [also offspring of David in Rev. 22:16]

HYPERLINK "<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Micah+5:2&version=NKJV>" Micah 5:2 “ But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, **From everlasting.**”

HE has PREVAILED; i.e. He has risen! Sacrifice proven **adequate**:

1 Timothy 3:16 ...without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, **Justified [vindicated; i.e. shown to be true with proof] in the Spirit**, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, **Received** up in glory.

⁶ And I looked, and behold, in the **midst of the throne** and of the **four living creatures**, and in the midst of the **elders**, stood a **Lamb**

as though it had been slain, having **seven horns** and **seven eyes**, which are the **seven Spirits of God** sent out into all the earth.

Jesus "standing" in the "midst" [center] of the:

Throne

Elders

Four Living Creatures

Standing: ALIVE, READY and ABLE to take the scroll/Judge

Appearance: Instead of seeing a Lion as expected, John sees:

Lamb Slain: First Coming

Seven Horns: Complete Strength; Omnipotent

Seven Eyes: Complete Knowledge; Omniscient; Holy Spirit

Zechariah 4:10 ...who has despised the day of small things? For these seven rejoice to see The plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel.

They are the eyes of the LORD, Which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth."

Lamb as if slain: Jesus forever wounded; Eternal reminder of what He did for us

HYPERLINK "[http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+20:27&version=NKJV)

search=John+20:27&version=NKJV" John 20:27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and **look at My hands**; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

⁷ Then He came and **took the scroll out of the right hand of Him** who sat on the throne.

Worthy to take the scroll from the Father's right hand; Our Kinsman Redeemer steps forward:

Psalms 2:8 [Father] Ask of Me, and I will give You [Son] The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

Daniel 7:13 " I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, 14 **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. Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient

of Days, And they brought Him near before Him.

III. Heavenly Worship of our Redeemer

Redemption Song

Heavenly Praise

Universal Praise

REDEMPTION SONG

⁸ Now when He had taken the scroll, the **four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb**, each having a harp, and **golden bowls full of incense**, which are the **prayers of the saints**. ⁹ And they **sang a new song**, saying: "**You are worthy** to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were **slain**, And have **redeemed us to God by Your blood** Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, ¹⁰ And have made us **kings and priests** to our God; And **we shall reign on the earth.**"

Redemption Song: Not the 4 Living Creatures! They don't need redemption, we do! But angels DO worship the King *along side us whom they previously ministered to:*

Hebrews 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister *for those who will inherit salvation?*

1 Peter 1:12 To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—*things which angels desire* to look into.

24 elders representing all redeemed saints:

Harp: Worship

Incense: Prayer

Psalms 141:2 Let my prayer be set before You as incense, The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

In the wilderness tabernacle the **High Priest would burn incense before the LORD** just outside the veil before the mercy seat:

Exodus 30:8 ...when Aaron lights the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense on it, a perpetual incense before the LORD ***throughout your generations.***

"You are worthy..."

Jesus is Worthy to take the scroll and open it:

Sacrifice:

He was as if ***slain***

He redeemed us to God ***by His blood***

He is **equitable** ; from every tribe, tongue, people and nation

Result:

We are kings [Royal Kingdom] and priests [Rev. 1:6, 5:10,20:6]

We shall reign on **earth redeemed** as Satan judged first for 1000 years then eternally

HYPERLINK "http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+20:10&version=NKJV" Revelation 20:10

The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Worthy: Qualified [everything needed] to Redeem and Judge [open the seals]

Mans sin caused the loss, the Redeemer must be sinless, thus no man apart from Jesus Christ can redeem:

Romans 3:23 ...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

Jesus must open the scroll by right of His own DEMONSTRATED not IMPUTED merit [Morris]

HYPERLINK "http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+4:15&version=NKJV" Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet **without sin**.

HYPERLINK "http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+14:30&version=NKJV" John 14:30 I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he **has nothing in Me**.

HEAVENLY PRAISE to the Lamb Who is Worthy

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the **voice of many angels** around the throne, the **living creatures**, and the **elders**; and the number of them was **ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands**, ¹² saying with a loud voice:

New **members** mentioned around the throne: 10,000 1000's of 1000's of angels

Myriad: Innumerable

Hebrews 12:22 ... you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to ***an innumerable company of angels***, 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant...

Daniel 7:9 "I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire; 10 A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; **Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him.**

Luke 2:13 [First coming] ...suddenly there was with the angel a **multitude of the heavenly host** praising God and saying: 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

All of Heaven Praising! Angels, Living Creatures, elders

Worthy is the Lamb to *receive back from us*:

Power: gr. *Dunamis*

Revelation 1:16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun *shining in its strength*.

Riches

Philippians 4:19 ...my God shall supply all your *need according to His riches* in glory by Christ Jesus.

Wisdom

Daniel 12:3 Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.

Strength

Mark 12:30 ...you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and *with all your strength*.' This is the first commandment.

Honor

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with *glory and honor*, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone

Glory

1 Peter 4:11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through *Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion* forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

Romans 15:29 ...I know that when I come to you, I shall come in the *fullness of the blessing* of the gospel of Christ

[UNIVERSAL PRAISE](#) to the Lamb Who is Worthy

Redemption price was paid for the **whole world**, all its inhabitants,

animal and man:

¹³ And **every creature** which is in **heaven and on the earth** and **under the earth and such as are in the sea**, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "**Blessing and honor and glory and power** Be to Him who sits on the throne, **And to the Lamb**, forever and ever!"

All of Heaven, Earth and Sea Praising in Anticipation of the Completion of this Age and the Beginning of the next!

Psalm 148:7 Praise the LORD from the earth, You great sea creatures and all the depths; 8 Fire and hail, snow and clouds; Stormy wind, fulfilling His word; 9 Mountains and all hills; Fruitful trees and all cedars; 10 Beasts and all cattle; Creeping things and flying fowl...

Psalm 150:6 Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!

Worthy is the Father and Lamb [Son] to receive:

Blessing

Glory

Power

¹⁴ Then the **four living creatures said**, "Amen!" And the **twenty-four elders** fell down and worshiped Him who **lives forever and ever**.

4 Living Creatures [Cherubim] say Amen! to Blessing, Glory and Power; elders fall and worship Him Who lives forever: **Resurrection**; central theme of this chapter

Aerial View: Revelation Chapters 1-5

Chapter 1

Person of Jesus Christ [The Judge]

Chapters 2, 3
Earth]

Possession of Jesus Christ [The Church on

Chapter 4

Program of Jesus Christ

The Rapture

"Open Door to a Majestic Scene in Heaven"

A Throne Set in Heaven
Sea of Glass
4 Living Creatures
24 Elders
Heavenly Worship of the Creator

Chapter 5 **Worthy to Open the Scroll**

Introduction of "The Scroll"
Judgments leading to Redemption
Completion of God's plan for this Age

One found Worthy to Open the Scroll
Lion/Lamb
God/Man
Sinless One

III. Heavenly Worship of our Redeemer: 2nd of 2 witnesses
Creation in Chapter 4
Resurrection in Chapter 5
Heavenly Praise
Universal Praise

The qualifications for being able and worthy to have anything to do with the Scroll were known as
demonstrated by no one stepping forward

God becomes Man

Forever