

REVELATION

VISIONS OF VICTORY

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Praise to the Lamb

(Revelation 5:1-14)

Revelation 5:1-14 (NKJV) – Bible passage *[my explanatory notes]*

¹And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll *[the title-deed of all the earth]* written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

- For all intents and purposes the seven-sealed scroll¹ is the title deed to the earth. This title deed was given by God to Adam, who lost it through sin to Satan; for that reason Satan is in control of the world from the time of Adam until the glorious appearing of Christ. John weeps because he knows that this scroll represents the title deed to the earth and that as long as it is left sealed, Satan will remain in control of the earth.²

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

³And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.

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

⁵But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed *[Greek = “nike” meaning Jesus is victorious. He conquered (ESV), triumphed (NIV) and overcame (NASB)]* to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”

⁶And 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 *[Greek word: “arnion” - picture a baby lamb, a small lamb, a pet lamb]* as though it had been slain *["Slaughtered" speaks of His death. "Standing" speaks of His resurrection. This word is also in the perfect tense. There is permanence to the*

Not this kind of seven-sealed scroll:



Probably like this seven-sealed scroll (with each seal opening more of the document to the reader):



¹ Scroll images are from: <https://www.biblicaltoolbelt.com/l/the-seven-sealed-scroll-revelation-52/>

² Tim LaHaye, *Revelation Unveiled* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010), 125.

resurrection.^{3]}, **having seven horns** [Seven is the number of perfection. Horns in this context represent power and strength. Put together He has perfect strength; He is all-powerful; He is omnipotent.^{4]} **and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.**

- The Greek word for “Lamb” (arnion) used here is found 29 times in Revelation and only one time outside the book (see John 21:15). The theme of the lamb is a rich one in the grand redemptive story line of the Bible:
 - Genesis 22:8 (Abraham and Isaac)— “God Himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering.”
 - Exodus 12:5 (Passover)— “Your lamb shall be without blemish” (NKJV).
 - Isaiah 53:7 (The suffering servant of the Lord)— “Like a lamb led to the slaughter.”
 - John 1:29 (The declaration of John the Baptist)— **“Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”⁵**
- Horns (v. 6) Many powerful animals in the ancient world had horns, such as bulls and goats. Horns came to represent the strength of the animal. The Israelites’ altar of sacrifice was constructed with a metal horn at the top of each corner perhaps to remind the people that something very powerful happened there (Exod. 37:25–26). Throughout the Psalms, the “horn” represented strength, as in the following text: “I will cut off the horns of all the wicked, but the horns of the righteous will be lifted up” (Ps. 75:10). In Daniel’s prophecy, multihorned creatures played a large part (Dan. 7–8). **The seven-horned Lamb of Revelation 5 is the only seven-horned being in the Bible.⁶**
- Eyes (v.6) In Scripture, eyes speak of full intelligence, discernment, and understanding through the Holy Spirit. Again, the number seven indicates that the Lamb’s understanding of the events and dynamics of human history is complete and perfect.⁷

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

⁸Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb [see handout for Revelation 4 for description of the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders], each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. [the worship of the 24 elders includes praising (symbolized by the harp), praying, and humility (kneeling and bowing).]

⁹And 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,

¹⁰And have made us kings and priests [this emphasizes ruling and serving] to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.”

¹¹Then 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, [Greek says “myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands”; ISV translates as “10,000s times 10,000”; CEV/Good News/Living translates as “millions and millions”]**

¹²saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

¹³And 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!”

¹⁴Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” [literally “We agree!” “So be it!” “Oh, Yes!” (Message Paraphrase)] And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

³ Daniel L. Akin, *Exalting Jesus in Revelation*, Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary (Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2016), 126.

⁴ Akin, 126.

⁵ Akin, 125.

⁶ Kendell H. Easley, *Revelation*, vol. 12, Holman New Testament Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1998), 100.

⁷ Ray Stedman, *God’s Final Word: Understanding Revelation* (Discovery House.), 183.