

Revelation and Daniel – Revelation 4:9-5:7

4:9

Glory and honor and thanks – The proper content of praise!
To Him who lives forever and ever – The eternal God!

4:10

Cast their crowns before the throne – The word for crown is *stephanous* which is used of a victor's crown. Note 1 Corinthians 9:25.

Is it selfish to serve God in order to gain a crown?

If we give our crown back to the Lord in worship then it is not a selfish motive; it is a God-honoring motive. We receive crowns for finishing the race *faithfully*, not finishing *first*. Our competition is not other believers but the world, the flesh, and the devil.

4:11

The elder's song exalts the wonders of God's creation as the evidence of His glory and power.

God is the designer of creation and also the One, who by His power, brought it into existence.

5:1

I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne – The right hand symbolizes power and authority.

A book – The Greek word is *biblion* from which we get the word Bible. In that historical period, it would be a scroll.

Written inside and on the back – Perhaps denoting that the scroll was full. See Ezekiel 2:9-10.

Sealed up with seven seals – After each seal was broken the scroll would unroll until the next seal was encountered.

5:2-3

Who is worthy to open the book and break its seals? No one...

In heaven – Angelic beings

On the earth – Humans

Under the earth – Departed spirits or demons

No one was found worthy to open the book!

5:4

And I began to weep greatly, because no one was found worthy to open the book, or to look into it. John's sorrow was due to the fact that God's revelation of His plans and their execution would remain hidden because no one had the authority to open the scroll.

5:5

Stop weeping! Why?

Behold:

The Lion that is from the tribe of Judah – Note Genesis 49:9. The lion is a symbol of power and rule.

The Root of David – Note Isaiah 11:1, 10. Both are titles of the divine Messiah. Only here in the Bible do they occur in the same verse.

5:6

And I saw a lamb standing, as if slain – The Lamb was standing, ready to complete His work, bearing the marks of His death, "*as if slain*."

"In one brilliant stroke John portrays the central theme of NT revelation – victory through sacrifice."

Robert Mounce, *The Book of Revelation*

Having seven horns and seven eyes which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. The seven horns represent the fullness of His power. The Lamb is *omnipotent*. The seven eyes represent the fullness of His divine wisdom. The Lamb is *omniscient*.

Which are the seven Spirits of God – This may mean that Jesus has seven spirits who are both powerful and perceptive, at His immediate disposal. This could also be a picture of the Holy Spirit who has perfect awareness of everything that happens in all the earth.

5:7

And He came, and He took it out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. The authority is transferred from the Father to the Son. Now the Son, the Lamb, will reveal the future and execute judgment! Philippians 2:5-11 is about to play out before our eyes!