

Revelation 5:1-8

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Revelation 5:1

Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals.

- This scroll in v1 represents the inheritance to rule over the earth. This inheritance to rule was not a tyrannical rule but more of a stewardship roll taking care of what God had created.
- Man lost their inheritance written in this scroll when Adam and Eve chose to disobey God and ate from the one tree God commanded them not to eat from.
- But God was not taken by surprise and already had a plan to redeem man and restore his inheritance to him.
- Our inheritance could only be reclaimed by a kinsmen redeemer.
- A Kinsman Redeemer is someone who has the legal standing to redeem and who can also pay the necessary price to buy back what was lost.
- Jesus had legal standing to be our kinsmen redeemer because he was both God and man. This means he is related to us and fulfills the kinsman statute.
- And because Jesus is the only man to ever live and not sin he was able and willing to pay the price it would take for our redemption.

Revelation 5:2

2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?"

- The question in verse 2 rings out in a loud voice. This was not because the angel didn't know the answer, but because the angel wants to make sure that the answer is known across the entire universe.
- The question is asked loudly so the universe and all that is in it will listen intently to the answer.
- Who is worthy to break the scroll? Who is the qualified kinsman redeemer?
- The mighty angel knows that there is only one qualified-only one who is worthy to be worshipped and praised for all eternity by all creation-The Lord Jesus Christ.

Revelation 5:3

But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it.

- The angel's loud voiced question was met with a deafening silence. there was no one found worthy. No one with the proper qualifications
- In a search of Heaven-there is no one found. In a search of the Earth-there is no one found. In a search of the angelic world and underworld-there is no one found.
- This picture demonstrates the complete supremacy of Jesus Christ and that he alone is able to open the scroll and he alone is worthy to be worshipped.

Revelation 5:4

I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.

- This is the only time in heaven we see a reference to someone crying. John wept and wept. The word used here indicates an open sobbing or an audible wailing.
- John burst into tears over the condition of the world. Over the rule of sin and the loss of inheritance. He weeps because no one steps forward to take the scroll and open it.
- For if no one steps forward to take and open the scroll then the world would remain under the Devil's dominion.
- It is possible that John got caught up in the emotion of the moment and got too focused on the tragedy and not enough on the triumphant Savior!
- This can happen to us too if we focus too much on our circumstances and not on Jesus and his victorious power!

Revelation 5:5

Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

- What this elder says in verse 5 is what we must do! We must behold the Lamb! We must See Jesus! Take a look at how Jesus is described here.
- "The lion of the tribe of Judah" In Genesis 49:9 Jacob is blessing his son's and when he came to the 4th boy, Judah, he called him a lion's cub. Jesus came through the tribe of Judah.
- A lion is thought of as the king of the jungle. A king that is able to conquer his enemies and protect his pack or his family.
- Well, Jesus is the conquering king who has defeated his enemies and has provided redemption and salvation through his shed blood on the cross and his resurrection from the dead! He holds the power over sin and death!
- Jesus was also described as the root of David. In the tribe of Judah, the family of Jesse was chosen. From that family came King David and Jesus is a descendant of King David.
- Although King David was physically born first, Jesus is still the root because he came before David. Jesus was there in the very beginning and he brought forth David as king. Therefore Jesus is the rightful owner and king as our Creator and Lord.

Revelation 5:6

Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

- Although Jesus is the lion of Judah what John describes seeing here is something surprising. He describes seeing a lamb. The greek word here is the same we would use for a little pet lamb.
- Do you remember the directions for the passover in Exodus 12:1-6?
- The lamb was to be carefully chosen and without blemish. It was to be brought in to the house and loved and cared for by all for 4 days. Then the lamb would be violently killed showing the ugliness of sin and picturing for all how sin brings death.
- In this vision, John sees Jesus not as a lion, but as a lamb, looking as if it has been slain. He sees Jesus with the marks of his crucifixion visible on him. This is the basis of our redemption-the slain lamb. The blood of this spotless, sinless lamb was the sacrifice that paid the price for our redemption and secures all our inheritance.
- Something interesting about this lamb that looked slain is that he was standing! You would think a lamb that had marks of such a violent slaughter would be lying down but no! He was standing as the living one. He was standing as the overcomer of death and the grave.

- Jesus prevailed over sin and death when a rose from the grave. He will also prevail when he takes the scroll, opens the seals and returns the inheritance of God's children to them.
- In this passage Jesus is seen standing at the center of the throne. The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus Christ is the center of all things.

Colossians 1:16-17

For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

- Jesus has ownership rights as creator but he also has as the redeemer. Jesus appears as a lamb 31 times in the book of revelation. This is significant because it speaks of his right to redeem others because of his spotless and sinless sacrifice. This is why Jesus is worthy to step forward and take the scroll!
- This passage also tells us that the lamb had 7 horns. In the scriptures horns symbolize strength and power.

Psalms 89:17

*For you are their glory and strength,
and by your favor you exalt our horn.*
Horn here symbolizes strong one.

- Also, in scripture, the #7 is the number of perfection. It symbolizes the Lamb's complete and absolute power over everything and everyone! This is no weak lamb!
- The seven eyes that are the seven spirits of God are describing the full and complete knowledge and understanding of the Holy Spirit. Which means He is not capable of making wrong judgements. Every judgement He makes is right and true.

Revelation 5:7

He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.

- Everything John has been describing since the vision in 4:1 has been leading to this moment!
- The ultimate goal of redemption is about to be seen, paradise is about to be restored and the curse is about to be reversed! As the lamb takes the scroll spontaneous praise and worship breaks out from the 4 living creatures and 24 elders found in verse 8.

Revelation 5:8

And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people.

- Take note that Jesus (the Lamb) gets the same response from the elders and the creatures as did the Father. This is yet more evidence that the Father and Son are one!
- The harps signify that Holy Trinity is worthy of worship and we will spend an eternity in heaven worshipping Him.

- The golden bowls that are mentioned are filled with incense which are the prayers of the saints.
- In the tabernacle and temple incense was burned representing the priestly work of intercession to God.
- Today we are all priest before God if Jesus is our Savior. He is our high priest and our prayers are continually before God.

Psalms 141:2a

May my prayer be set before you like incense;

- I believe that the golden bowls speak of the importance of our prayers to God.
- Our prayers are precious to God. When we pray according to His will our prayers will not be lost and will not be forgotten. They will be heard!