

A SERIES THROUGH THE REVELATION

Revelation 5—*The Slain and Worthy Lamb* | 5.3.22

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. In **Revelation 4**, we get a clear view of the worthy Father who's seated upon an eternally set throne in heaven, worshipped, adored, and exalted by all the created order (*4 living creatures, and the 24 elders*), night and day. This vision was strategically given to John to still his heart among the chaos of earth, and his own present suffering on the Island of Patmos.
- B. But **Revelation 4-5** (*which are companion chapters*) aren't given only for John and John's Day, but also for the whole of Church history behind us, the present hour, and the future ahead, until Christ returns. These chapters are given to God's family to assure us of the stability of God's throne (**Revelation 4**), and the only qualified One to bring human history to its rightful conclusion (**Revelation 5**).

II. THE SCROLL IN THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD (Revelation 5:1-4)

- A. **Revelation 5:1** "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."
 - 1. The Person seated upon the throne and holding the scroll is the Father who John vividly described in the previous chapter of **Revelation 4**. Our attention is moved from the One who is seated upon the throne, to the scroll that He's holding in His right hand.
 - 2. The scroll that the Father possesses in His right hand (*strength*) is the **Psalm 2** title deed to the earth. This scroll contains the information (*the battle plan*) about the end of this earthly age in which we currently live. We know this because of what happens when the seals are finally broken (**Revelation 6**) and the contents of the scroll are read/loosed (**Revelation 6-22**).
 - a. **Psalm 2:7-8** "I will declare the decree: the Lord has said to Me, You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession."
 - b. "This scroll is a history of the future that gives the successive steps leading to the inauguration of the world-kingdom of Christ." Beloved, this is where all of life is headed, this is the ultimacy of what followers of Jesus are called to live for. This is what it means to be Christian. -Robert Thomas, Revelation Vol 1, Pg. 379
 - 3. Regardless of what takes place upon the earth, the plan to give the nations to Jesus rests securely in the Father's right hand. The seven wax seals, which further secured the contents through the king's signet ring.
 - a. Beloved, the days ahead will swirl with great confusion and deception, this alone is true, it's honest!
 - 4. In ancient times there were two main reasons why a scroll was written on both sides:
 - a. Because the owner of the scroll was too poor to purchase two or more scrolls.
 - b. Because the contents needed to be kept together and not separated for legal purposes. It spoke of fullness and completeness keeping all the contents together on one scroll.
 - 5. This scroll is God's end-time battle plan (**Psalm 2**) to fully redeem and deliver the righteous as well as cleanse the planet of evil, removing everything that hinders love (*antichrist, false prophet, Babylon and those that resist Jesus*). Both the positive and the negative, the unfolding of **Revelation 6-22**.

- B. Revelation 5:2-4** “Then I saw a strong (mighty) angel, proclaiming with a loud voice, who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose it’s seals? And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.”
1. The mighty angel is asking, “Who is worthy (qualified), who has the power, humility, meekness, and wisdom to take over the rulership of all the nations of the earth.” The angel is sounding a challenge to those in heaven, on earth and under the earth, like that of Goliath (*he’s mighty*).
 2. After this challenge is issued, it’s clear that nobody in heaven, on earth, or under the earth is found worthy (*qualified*) to open it or even look at it. The prophets of old could foretell the future, but they were unable to make it come to pass in their lifetimes. “Power corrupts and absolute power absolutely corrupts”-Unknown
 - a. North Korea—Kim Jun young, Russian—Putin, Iraq—Al Baghdadi, Syria—Bashar Al-Assad, Cuba—Fidel Castro
 3. John is wanting us to know that there isn’t an angel, an elder, a devil, one from the 12 tribes or one of the 12 Apostles that’s qualified to take over all the nations of the earth.
 4. John’s weeping (*weeping greatly, sobbing uncontrollably*) because without Someone to open the seals, the end-time battle plan of REDEMPTION and JUDGEMENT will never take place. This makes everything in this age worthless. The righteous are never rewarded and the wicked are never punished. This age doesn’t end and the age to come never begins (*Death in Genesis 3 was a gift to Adam and Eve*).
 - a. Beloved, do we also weep that the purposes of God at the end of this age, might not come to pass? Does that provoke you? Does that bother you? I think for some it does, but I also think for a large portion of God’s family it’s not even an afterthought. This must grip our hearts, like it did John’s!

III. THE SLAIN AND WORTHY LAMB (Revelation 5:5-7)

- A. Revelation 5:5-6** “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 it’s seven seals. 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.”
1. John is instructed to stop weeping, for there is One who was found worthy to take the scroll (*end-time battle plan*) and to loose it’s seals, to enact it, to culminate the ages, to bring about the consummation of all things (**Acts 3:19-26**).
 2. John first hears that it’s a LION (*the Davidic King*) who has prevailed, but when he looks, he sees a LAMB (*the suffering Servant*) standing as though He’d been slain. The picture is that Jesus’ victory was brought about through His sacrificial death. The Lion has prevailed, but His prevailing was through suffering (**John 20:24-29**). JOHN SEE’S A HUMBLE KING!
 3. All of John’s readers would have clearly understood that this was to be their pattern of overcoming as well. They would overcome in the same fashion as Christ, *through sacrificial death*. Like Jesus, they would bring about victory through martyrdom.
 - a. Beloved, martyrdom isn’t a moment, but a lifestyle. We are called to die daily, choosing the Cross of Christ throughout the whole of our lives, which then prepares us for a potential martyr’s death.

4. Christ's victory is left unnamed in this chapter. We can say with clarity that this victory was over many things, first of which is satan. But we should leave His victory unnamed so that it includes all things, for the scope of Jesus' victory was boundless (Colossians 2:15).
 - a. **The Seven Horns** = These horns speak of power, authority, and dominion. Horns were a common symbol in the Old Testament for strength (**Deut. 33:17; Ps. 18:2; 112:19; Daniel 7:20-21; 8:5; Matthew 28:18**).
 - b. **The Seven Eyes** = These eyes speak of wisdom, revelation, knowledge, discernment, and God's Omniscience (**Colossians 2:3**).
 - c. **The seven Spirits of God** = This speaks of the power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit as fully partnered with Jesus (**John 3:34**).
 5. The Lamb in the midst of the throne has the fullness of power (7 horns), the fullness of wisdom (7 eyes) coupled with the fullness of the Holy Spirit to accomplish the task of cleansing the earth and redeeming the saints.
 - a. **The Root Of David** = This is speaking of the Davidic King, Jesus who is both the Root and the Shoot of David.
 1. **Isaiah 11:1** "There shall come forth a Rod (Jesus) from the stem (the dead tree stump) of Jesse, and a Branch (Christ) shall grow out of his (David) roots."
 2. **Revelation 22:16** "...I am the Root (before) and the Offspring (after) of David..."
 - b. Though the tree of Jesse fell, from it grew a Branch and that Branch is promised to restore the Davidic era in a new Adam, Jesus Christ the Root of David. Jesus, the Son of David is standing in the midst of the throne, fulfilling the prophecy that from David's lineage, would always be Someone seated upon his throne (**2nd Samuel 7:16; 1st Kings 9:5**).
 1. **Luke 1:32-33** "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His Father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His Kingdom there will be no end."
 6. This means that we shouldn't just be excited about our spiritual restoration but also of a physical, literal restoration. Jesus' intentions aren't to reign spiritually, but physically.
- B. Revelation 5:7** "Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne."
1. John is directly quoting the **Daniel 7:13-14** encounter. In **Daniel 7:13-14** Daniel saw the unthinkable; a Man approached the Father on His Throne and took the title deed to the earth from His hands. Daniel was looking at the pre-incarnate Christ approaching the Father, but as a Man.
 2. Here, Jesus as a physical Man in a resurrected body takes the title deed to the earth from His Father's right hand. This deed is the leadership over the earth, its kingdom's, wealth, resources, the peoples and everything else that it entails.
 3. Jesus is the only Human qualified to cleanse the planet by loosing the judgments within this book (**6-19**) and restructuring all the governments of the earth establishing global, legislated righteousness throughout the nations of the earth for 1,000 years (the Millennial reign of Christ found in **Revelation 20**).
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IV. THE WORSHIP OF THE WORTHY LAMB (Revelation 5:8-14)

- A. Revelation 5:8-10** “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. 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 own blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.”
1. The song of Jesus’ worth begins to sound forth throughout the heavens. All of the created order around God (4 living creatures and 24 elders) agrees with the worth of Jesus to take over the leadership of the entire globe.
 2. Jesus’ worth is seen in three applications;
 - a. **Jesus Is Worth It** = The devil deceives us, getting us to believe that we are receiving a bad deal from Jesus. He tries to get us to quit, give up and stop reaching hard for Him.
 1. **Philippians 3:8** “I count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish.”
 2. **Romans 8:18** “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”
 - b. **Jesus Is Capable** = Only Jesus is qualified, because of His sacrificial death to drive evil off the planet and reorganize all the governments of the earth.
 - c. **Jesus Deserves It** = The Father will give the leadership of the earth to Jesus just as He gave it to Adam. Jesus has proven Himself by making every choice in love and righteousness.
 1. **2nd Corinthians 8:9** “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.”
 3. It’s through the worship (*harps*) and prayers (*bowls*) of the saints that Jesus has taken the scroll from the Father and begun the end-time battle plan to reclaim the nations as His inheritance. Humans play a central role in ushering in God’s kingdom to the earth (**2nd Peter 3:12**).
 - a. The seals are broken in response to full bowls in heaven from the prayers of the saints on earth. Jesus is returning to the earth in response to the hardship that will take place at the end of this age.
- B. Revelation 5:11-12** “Then I looked and 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, saying with a loud voice: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive **POWER** and **RICHERS** and **WISDOM**, and **STRENGTH** and **HONOR** and **GLORY** and **BLESSING!**”
1. The song of Jesus’ worth moves beyond the 4 living creatures and the 24 elders to innumerable amount of the heavenly created order. 10,000 x 10,000 = 100,000,000 + thousands of thousands = a lot! They are all singing of Jesus’ worth!
 2. Here we see that the Father gives Jesus favor over seven spheres of leadership (*now in part, but fullness during the millennium*);
 - a. **Power (Political)** = Jesus will receive governmental leadership over all nations.
 - b. **Riches (Financial)** = All the money on earth will be under Jesus’ leadership.
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- c. **Wisdom (Intellectual)** = Jesus will replace every evil government on earth with new leaders/laws while restoring every sphere of life (*political, economic, family, education, agricultural, media, technology, environmental, social*).
- d. **Strength (Emotional)** = Jesus will have strength in His inner man (**Eph. 3:16**) to continue steadfastly as He restores all nations (**Revelation 19:12**).
- e. **Glory (Spiritual)** = All will boast in Jesus with loving delight and joyful trust. Isaiah 62 will be fulfilled, Jerusalem will no longer be a by word, but will be the praise of the earth.
- f. **Honor (Relational)** = Jesus will be greatly respected and listened to in all nations.
- g. **Blessing (Social)** = Everybody will fully cooperate with His leadership, resulting in the mightiest workforce in history. The nations will bless and love His righteous policies.

C. **Revelation 5:13-14** *“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. Then the four living creatures said, Amen! And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshipped Him who lives forever and ever.”*

1. The category of those who worship the Father and the Son increase once again to not only include the heavenly created order, but all (heaven, earth and under the earth) of the created order.
2. We aren't to think that the entire earth is converted, but rather it's poetic to speak of Christ's universal reign over all things, *it's exhaustive, covering everything!*
3. John, prior to His conversion to Christ, would have been monotheistic (only one God) in his beliefs. But here and after in the **Revelation** it's clear that Jesus receives the same worship as God the Father, as they are sharing thrones in the glory of this highly exalted Trinitarian relationship.
4. Once again, our Theology (the study of God) should always lead us into doxology (worship). The right response to the exalted Christ is giving our all, in worship and maybe even in death!