

The Revelation of Jesus Christ – Message #4

Revelation 5 – The Lamb of God

In chapter 4 we saw the throne of God the Father set in heaven. The Holy Spirit is depicted by the seven burning lamps before the throne. We saw the church age saints and the angels praising God around the throne. The stage is now set to introduce the subject of this book, the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. The Seven Sealed Scroll (1-4)

God the Father Is Holding the Title Deed to the Earth

The description of the writing “inside and on the back” was typical of contracts or deeds in the ancient world. The inside contained the details with the summary written on outside.

- **The taking of the scroll symbolizes God’s taking back His creation**

The breaking of the seals will bring God’s judgment upon the earth. This will involve the ultimate defeat of Satan, wiping out sin, and removing the effects of the curse. The mighty angel proclaims “Who is worthy?” After searching heaven and earth the answer is “no one”. No human being and no mighty angel can do this.

John Is Weeping Because of His Understanding

The word is the same word used of Jesus when He wept over Jerusalem in [Luke 19:41](#). It expresses a strong emotion. [W.A. Criswell](#) points out that this is the only time in scripture that tears are seen in heaven. “John’s tears represent the tears of all God’s people through all the centuries.” God’s patience and perseverance with sin and sinful men is about to end. God is about to dramatically intervene in human history.

2. The Lamb with Seven Horns and Seven Eyes (5-7)

The Lamb Represents Jesus Christ

One of the elders tells John to stop weeping and drew his attention to someone who is worthy to open the scroll.

- **Jesus as the lion**

(5) “Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”

This comes from Jacob’s blessing upon his children. He spoke prophetically of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

[Genesis 49:9-10](#), “Judah is a lion's whelp; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; and as a lion, who shall rouse him? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people.”

The Jews of Jesus’ day expected Him to overthrow the Roman government and set up the kingdom with great power. Jesus is indeed “the Root of David”, from [Isaiah 11:1 & 10](#). He is David’s promised descendant who will yet reign over Israel and the entire world.

Jesus Will Return as a Lion in His Second Coming

- **Jesus as the lamb**

(5-6) “...has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its 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.”

Jesus “prevailed” at the cross when he paid our sin debt and defeated Satan and death through His resurrection. The word “Lamb” refers to a little lamb and looks back to the Passover lamb that was slain.

Jesus is specifically referred to as a lamb only once in the Old Testament. [Isaiah 53:7](#), “He was oppressed and He was afflicted,

Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter”. The word “slain” means cut in the throat for sacrifice. John the Baptist said of Jesus “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” [John 1:29](#). In Revelation Jesus appears as the Lamb 31 times. This is a powerful lamb as indicted by the “seven horns”. Horns symbolize power and authority. He also possesses the Holy Spirit in all His fullness depicted by the “seven eyes”. Everything John has been describing has been building up to this moment. (7) “Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.” This is the scene depicted in [Daniel 7:13-14](#) when the Son of Man came to the Ancient of Days.

Christ Taking the Scroll Is a Momentous Moment

3. [The Saint’s Anthem of Praise \(8-10\)](#)

A Building Crescendo of Worship

Long have the saints and angels in heaven anticipated this day. The living beings are included in the falling before the throne but the song appears to be that of saved human beings. The worship they offer Christ is the same as that of the Father.

- **The prophecies are about to be fulfilled**

Harps were used in the worship of Israel. They were also associated with the prophets in their prophesying.

- **The prayers are about to be answered**

Golden bowls were used in the Tabernacle and later the Temple. The prayers of the saints are probably in reference to God fulfilling His promise to redeem the creation.

- **Their song of redemption**

Jesus is worthy because He died for the sins of the world. The word purchased is *agorazo* which is very descriptive. It pictures slaves being redeemed from the slave market and set free. There will be some in heaven from “every tribe” people group, “tongue” language, “people” race, and “nation” culture. God’s plan has always been to call the nations to Himself.

[Psalm 22:27-28](#), “All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before You. For the kingdom is the Lord's, and He rules over the nations.”

[MacArthur](#), “It must have been a thrilling, exhilarating realization for John that the redeemed would one day include people from all over the world.”

When This Day Comes We Will Rule and Reign with Jesus Christ

4. [The Saints and Angels’ Anthem of Praise \(11-12\)](#)

The Saints are Joined by the Angelic Host

John says that the number is innumerable. “Ten thousand” was the highest number in the Greek language. [Hebrews 12:22](#) speaks of “an innumerable company of angels”.

- **They pick up on the same theme of worthiness**

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

The word “worthy” means deserving, entitled to. God is the greatest possible being on every possible level. His worthiness is associated with His death on the cross. He is worthy because of His power and His riches. Jesus is the omnipotent God, the owner of all creation.

Job 41:11, “Who has preceded Me, that I should pay him? Everything under heaven is Mine.”

Psalms 104:24, “O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions”.

He is worthy because of His wisdom, He is the omniscient God.

We Must Constantly Praise Him Now for His Worthiness

5. **The Universal Anthem of Praise (13-14)**

All Creation Joins in Praise

“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”

• **Everyone and everything will acknowledge Christ as Lord**

Psalms 69:34, “Let heaven and earth praise Him, the seas and everything that moves in them.”

Psalms 150:6, “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.”

Philippians 2:10-11, “that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

This Is a Scene of Worship and Wonder

The universal cry is eternal “Blessing and honor” to God the Father and His Son. This mighty host will soon march out of heaven with Jesus to defeat His enemies and establish His kingdom. The living beings continually say “Amen!” meaning let it be or make it happen. The elders continually fall at His feet in worship.