

REVELATION

The Triumph of Jesus

Dr. David Dykes told the story of a zealous and godly grandmother. She lived during the Depression, and, since a railroad ran near her home, she was always feeding panhandlers who were passing through. She never missed a chance to tell them about the Lord.

One day a panhandler came to the door and indicated that he was hungry. She invited him in and had him sit down at the table. She got out the ham and began to carve some just for him. About that time she realized she hadn't talked with about the Lord, so she whirled around and said, "Sir, are you ready to meet Jesus?"

This guy bolted out of his chair and ran through the screen door and was gone! This precious lady turned to her husband and said, "What got into him?" He said, "Honey, look you're holding that butcher knife in your hand!"

Revelation is all about the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and the consummation of His eternal kingdom. Let me ask you today—*ARE YOU READY?* I can't think of a better time to get ready than right now.

Chapter four and chapter five fit together like a hand in a glove. These two chapters introduce us to what must take place "*after these things.*" (4:1) They present a beautiful picture as to what is happening in heaven as God's wrath is about to break loose on earth.

The key word in chapter 4 is "**THRONE**" and the emphasis is on God the Father as the sovereign creator. In chapter 5, God the Son is front and center and the emphasis is on His redemption. John is an eyewitness to the most sublime worship imaginable. As John observes, he notices what will be a key element of this chapter—a "**SCROLL**." It contains writing on the front and back and it is sealed up with 7 seals. Ray Stedman wrote...

This is not a book but a scroll, a rolled up paper or parchment with seven seals on the end so that as the seals are broken the scroll is unrolled and the writings upon it can be read. When we come to Chapter 6, next week, the opening of these seals and unrolling of this scroll will reveal certain momentous events which begin to occur upon the earth. Then we will know exactly what this scroll signifies. As it unrolls, we are carried on from Chapter 6 through Chapters 7, 8, and 9, and it is not until Chapter 10

that we find the scroll completely unrolled. It ends with the sounding of seven trumpets which are revealed when the seventh seal is broken.

This scroll is the title deed to the earth, but unlike title deeds today, this one does not describe what would be inherited. Instead, it describes how the One to whom it belonged would regain what was rightfully his, this will occur by the divine judgments about to be poured out on the earth. It is also a scroll of redemption and it reveals how the world will be redeemed from Satan.

Adam and Eve were given dominion over the earth by the Creator. But, when they sinned, Satan usurped their rightful dominion over creation. The Bible calls him...

- The “god of this world” (2 Cor. 4:4)
- The “prince of the power of the air” (Eph. 2:2).
- The Lord Jesus called him “the prince of this world”. (Jn. 12:31; 14:30; 16:11)
- John wrote that “the whole world lies in the power of the evil one” (1 John 5:19)

Okay, with this in mind, let’s dig into the text. First, I want you to see...

1. THE INVESTIGATION

A careful investigation took place in heaven...

A.) The Search

Revelation 5:1–3... I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. 2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?” 3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it.

John then says that he saw a powerful angel and this angel had a message and it was proclaimed to the universe. In a loud voice that could be heard throughout God’s creation the angel asked who was worthy to take the scroll and break the seals.

The question here is profound. It is not WHO IS WILLING TO OPEN THE SCROLL? This is not the question this document addresses. It is WHO IS WORTHY TO OPEN THE SCROLL? Who qualifies to break the seals and lay claim to earth? Who has the lawful right to break the seals and release the fearsome judgments of God on those who have rebelled against Him?

No angel stepped forward. Abraham, Moses, Paul, and all of the other heroes of the faith could not and would not dare make a claim in this matter. Pompous men and women who will be living at this moment in history will not be qualified to step forward and claim the right to rule the world. Long dead leaders like Alexander the Great, Hitler, and Stalin who reside in the bowels of hades cannot make a claim to rule the world.

B.) The Sadness

Revelation 5:4... Then I *began* to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it

At the end of his cry there is silence, no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or even look into it. No one in the entire creation of God is worthy to open the scroll.

John's tears were for an inheritance unredeemed and the kingdom of God not consummated. The word here for "weeping" means his body was wracked with sobs. Could no one redeem God's marvelous creation?

2. THE REVELATION

How this revelation must have made John's heart leap for joy! It was a revelation of...

A.) The Person of Christ

Revelation 5:5–6... and one of the elders said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals." 6 And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth.

John's tears dried up when an elder informed him that the "**Lion From The Tribe Of Judah**" has both the right and the power to open the book! This name speaks of Christ's strength and power. The hour of our Lord's triumph has finally arrived! Jacob uttered a prophecy that bestowed this title upon the coming Son of God...

Genesis 49:8–10... "Judah, your brothers shall praise you; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's sons shall bow down to you. 9 "Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He couches, he lies down as a lion, And as a lion, who dares rouse him up? 10 "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes, And to him *shall be* the obedience of the peoples."

The Lord Jesus is further described as ***“The Root Of David”***. This identity further solidifies His claim. Old Testament prophecy established the fact that the coming Messiah would come from David’s lineage (2 Sam. 7:12-16; Isaiah 11:1-9). The angel Gabriel delivered this message to the virgin Mary...

Luke 1:32–33... “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.”

These titles refer, then, to the King of the Jews -- the very title which Pilate inscribed on the Cross of Jesus. The King of the Jews!

In verse 6, John turned to see a lion but instead he saw— ***A Lamb Standing***. Who is this Lamb? This is the Lamb of God who has taken away the sin of the world as John the Baptist prophesied. Peter referred to Jesus as a Lamb...

1 Peter 1:18–19... knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

Here’s an interesting fact. Jesus is referred to as the Lamb only twice in the gospels (John 1:29, 36), once in Acts (Acts 8:32), once in the epistles (1 Pet. 1:19). Get this—He is referred to as the Lamb 28 times in Revelation.

- In Genesis 22, a ram was substituted for Isaac, a picture of Christ giving His life for *the individual* (see Gal. 2:20).
- At Passover, the lamb was slain for each *family* (Ex. 12:3).
- Isaiah states that Jesus died for *the nation of Israel* (Isa. 53:8; see also John 11:49–52).
- John the Baptist affirms that the Lamb died for *the whole world!* (John 1:29)

The more you meditate on the power and scope of Christ’s work on the cross, the more humbled and worshipful you become.¹ The Lord Jesus alone has paid the price of redemption! When we get to heaven we too will see the scars of the cross. Here is the Lamb of God set to go to war against the powerful forces of the enemy to regain His rightful rule over this planet that He created! But wait, this is no ordinary Lamb.

¹ Warren W. Wiersbe, [*The Bible Exposition Commentary*](#), vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 585.

Notice that John saw the Lamb **STANDING**. He was alive and on His feet, yet He looked as if He had been slain. His scars were clearly visible, yet He was alive. Though man and Satan had conspired against Him and killed Him, He rose from the dead defeating and triumphing over His enemies, and sin, and death forever.

When He ascended, He sat down at the right hand of God. Now He is standing. He is ready and poised to return to the earth that rejected Him. He is alive. He is the Savior and the Sovereign!

“Seven Horns”— Again the number 7 denotes perfection, fullness, and completion. These horns picture our Lord’s perfect power and supreme authority.

“Seven Eyes Which Are The Seven Spirits Of God” picture our Lord’s perfect perception. He knows everything. Nothing escapes His notice! When He executes judgment, He will do so with perfect knowledge and fairness.

The “seven eyes” defined as **the seven spirits of God** (cf. Zech. 3:9; 4:10) symbolically represent the Holy Spirit (cf. Rev. 1:4, 4:5).² Theologians would call these qualities omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence; and all three are attributes of God.³

The Lion and the Lamb surely refer to Christ, with the Lamb referring to His first coming and His sacrificial death on the cross. The Lion refers to His second coming and His sovereign judgment of the world.⁴

B.) The Privilege of Christ

Revelation 5:7... And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

The ultimate goal of redemption is about to be seen. Paradise will be regained. The Lamb steps up to the throne and takes the scroll from the hand of God the Father. Daniel prophesied about this moment...

Daniel 7:13–14... “I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was

² John F. Walvoord, [“Revelation,”](#) in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 945.

³ Warren W. Wiersbe, [The Bible Exposition Commentary](#), vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 585.

⁴ John F. Walvoord, [“Revelation,”](#) in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 945.

presented before Him. **14** “And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and *men of every language* Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.”

What an amazing and thrilling reaction this created in heaven. Because Jesus died for the sin of the human race, He has every right to take the book and to unleash the powerful end-of-the-world judgments upon the rebels of the human race!

3. THE CELEBRATION

This outburst of worship and praise is the result of realizing that the long-awaited defeat of Satan, sin, and death is about to be accomplished. The Lord Jesus Christ will judge the earth and return in triumph and establish His millennial kingdom. The curse will be reversed, the remnant of Israel will be saved, and the church will be granted the right and honor of reigning with Jesus, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

This celebration erupts in heaven **WHEN JESUS TAKES THE SCROLL FROM THE FATHER!** This is the guaranteed judgment upon all those who had trampled underfoot the Son of God and had regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which He was sacrificed! I want you to notice these thrilling facts about this heavenly celebration...

A.) The Devotion

Revelation 5:8... When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Notice the 24 elders and the 4 living creatures offer the same worship to Jesus that they offered to God the Father in chapter 4. This proves once and for all the deity of Jesus Christ. Did He not insist on this while He was on earth before He died?

John 14:1... “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.”

“Harp” were associated with prophecy (2 Kings 3:15; 1 Chron. 25:1) and with worship (2 Sam. 6:4-5; Psalm 33:2). They were also indicative of thanksgiving and celebration of victory.

“Golden Bowls of Incense” symbolized the intercession by the people of God throughout the ages. Over and over the Scriptures connect the burning of incense with the prayers of the saints (Psalm 141:2; Luke 19:9-10; Rev. 8:3-4). How many believers throughout the ages have prayed—**“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven?”**

All that the prophets ever prophesied and all that the saints ever prayed for is about to be fulfilled!

B.) The Development

Revelation 5:9... And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals

It is important that we realize that to “*break the seals*” means that He has the authority to release the judgments written in them. What makes Him worthy? He is the Redeemer!

Revelation 5:9... for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

This new song is a song of redemption. Here we see the significance of Christ’s death.

“**Purchased**” pictures slaves purchased in the slave market and then set free. At the cross Jesus paid the price of redemption (1 Pet. 1:18-19). Glory to God, He purchased people from all people groups.

Revelation 5:10... “You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.”

Here are the results of redemption. The redeemed form a community of faith that operates under God’s sovereign rule. Notice, they are also priests to God which pictures their access to God’s presence for worship and service (MacArthur, p. 123).

The redeemed will reign with Christ on the earth! Believers will be a part of the administration of the kingdom of God in the glory of the millennial kingdom and in the glory of the new heavens and new earth!

C.) The Description

Revelation 5:11... Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands

This is the fourth time in this chapter that John said he saw something. Innumerable angels join in the praise. “*Myriad*” means ten thousand in the Greek language. Hebrews 12:1 indicates that the angels cannot be numbered.

Revelation 5:12... saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.”

The emphasis is on the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Power” ...Jesus has all power and authority (Matt. 28:18)

“Riches”...He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor.

“Wisdom”...In heaven all wisdom is attributed unto Him.

“Might”...When He comes again, He is coming as the King of glory, the Lord strong and mighty. He is the source of strength for every redeemed person.

“Honor”...In heaven the Lord Jesus is honored. He is worthy!

“Glory”...Will you give Him the glory He deserves?

“Blessing”...To bless means to make happy.

Revelation 5:13... And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, “To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.”

Here the praise reaches its crescendo. Every created thing joins in the eternal praise of the Lamb of God! This reminds me of Paul’s words...

Philippians 2:9–11... For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

This description almost leaves one breathless!

Revelation 5:14... And the four living creatures kept saying, “Amen.” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

“Amen” means “let it be”. Right this moment our hearts should be overflowing in praise to the dear Lamb of God. He is worthy. Can you affirm it in your heart?

Lehman Strauss wrote...

True, redemption has its roots in the past, but its final fulfillment lies in the future. Redemption is not confined solely to our Lord's first coming to earth; it is very definitely linked with His Second Coming.

Luke 21:28... "But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Ephesians 1:13–14... In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

Church, there is only one who is worthy to rule the world. His name is the Lord Jesus Christ! God forbid that we offer to our King less than our best. God forbid that we dishonor Him with our sinful actions, our sinful thoughts, and our sinful words.

To Him be the glory in heaven, on earth, and throughout all of creation!