

Revelation

Chapter Five

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.

The Scroll

- The next thing that John's attention is drawn to in this heavenly scene is a scroll in the hand of God the Father.
- As the scroll is opened it unleashes the power of God's fury upon the earth through the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments.
- At this point the dispensation of grace and God's long-suffering has now come to an end.
- The "right hand" has always been a symbol of God's strength and justice.

The Writing On The Scroll

- The scroll had writing on the inside and the back of it.
- From the context of Revelation and a similar portrayal in Ezekiel 2:9-10, this scroll undoubtedly contains the judgments of the Tribulation through which God will accomplish His purposes.
- "When I looked, behold, a hand was put forth to me; and, behold, a scroll of a book was therein; He spread it before me: and it was written within and without; and **there were written therein lamentations, and mourning, and woe.**"-Ezekiel 2:9-10

A Deed Of Purchase

- Man was created to have dominion over the earth (Gen. 1:26-27). After the Fall Satan was given power over a fallen world (Luke 4:-8-9).
- The point of the scroll is that Jesus is about to take the scroll and receive His true inheritance as the Ruling King.
- “You have put all things in subjection under his feet.” For in that he subjected all things to him, he left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we don’t see all things subjected to him, yet.”-
Hebrews 2:8

- ““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. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’”-Psalm 2:7-9
- When Jesus opens the scroll He claims for the first time in history His inheritance and the title deed to the earth which He is the only One worthy to receive.

Man’s Kinsman Redeemer

- **DEFINITION:** The Hebrew word is goel from root meaning to redeem.
- The goel among the Hebrews was the nearest male blood relation alive. Certain important obligations was placed upon him toward his next of kin.
- If any one from poverty was unable to redeem his inheritance it was the duty of the kinsman to redeem it (Lev 25:25, 28; Ruth 3:9, 12). He was also required to redeem his relation who had sold himself into slavery (Lev 25:48, 49).

- God is the Goel of Israel, His people, because He is their redeemer (Ex 6:6; Isa 43:1; Isa 41:14; Isa 44:6, 22; Isa 48:20; Ps 103:4; Job 19:25).
- The goel also was the avenger of blood (Num. 35:21) in the case of the murder of the next of kin.
- It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of a God who is avenging His people.
- Israel will never again be removed from their Land because God fights on their behalf.

Jesus Man's Kinsman

<u>Old Testament Qualifications</u>	<u>Jesus' Fulfillment</u>
A Blood Relationship	Galatians 4:4-7 Hebrews 2:16-17
The Necessary Resources	1 Corinthians 6:20 1 Peter 1:18-19
A Willingness to Buy	John 10:15-18 1 John 3:16
A Willingness to Marry	Romans 7:4 2 Corinthians 11:2 Revelation 19:7

The Scroll Was Sealed With Seven Seals

- "Sealed": **katasfragizw** from **kata** meaning **down** and **sfragizw, to seal**. This compound verb means **tightly sealed, firmly sealed**, and so, **very hidden, very secure**.
- "**Seven**" is the number of perfection or completeness.
- This expresses the perfection with which the the judgments of God are securely hidden until they are disclosed by God Himself.

The Roman Custom

- The Roman custom of making a will included a ceremony involving a testator and seven witnesses.
- Each of the seven witnesses had a seal.
- "These wills required to be signed by the testator or some person acting for him, in the presence of seven witnesses, called together for the purposes, who attested the same under their hand and seals....This testament had to be written, and signed at the foot by the testator and seven witnesses -History Of Roman Law

- At one and the same time and, lastly sealed by seven witnesses." —A History Of Roman Law , Andrew Stephenson, pg. 150
- The writer of the document would begin writing and after a period, he would stop roll up the parchment enough to cover his words and then one of the seven would step forward and seal the scroll with wax by a ring or a necklace seal. The writer would then resume writing stop seal another portion and so on until the entire scroll was sealed with seven seals.
- In this way the scroll would read a section at a time after each seal was broken.

The Jewish Custom

- If a Jewish family were to lose its property or possessions by some kind of misfortune or distress their property **could not** be permanently taken from them.
- The Old Testament law of jubilee and the kinsman redeemer protected families against losing property.
- The loss of property was listed in a scroll and sealed seven times.
- When a qualified kinsman redeemer could be found who could meet the requirements needed for reclaiming the property then the one who had taken the property was required to return it to the original owner.

- “In the selling of property, there was always a redemption clause written into the deed stating the time and circumstances whereby the property might be redeemed. The deed was then sealed with seven seals. The law included a clause that made provision for a family member to step in and redeem the property if the seller was unable to do so himself at the specified period. The idea was to keep the property in the family. The family member who would fill this role was known in Hebrew as the "goel" or kinsman redeemer. If no redeemer, or "goel", stepped forward at the specified time, the property was then permanently transferred to the new ownership. This law is explained in Leviticus 25.” Redemption, Smith, Chuck

Revelation 5:2-3

Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its 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.

The Problem

- John encounters a huge problem at this point in the heavenly scene. No one is worthy to open the scroll!
- There is no one qualified in any place in the universe to open it **or even look into it**.
- The Greek word used here for “able” is “*dunamis*” which indicates the ability to do something whether by **strength or power**.
- The movement of God’s redemptive plan through history would come to a end if no one is worthy to open the scroll.

Revelation 5:4-5

So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. 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 its seven seals."

John Began To Cry

- John wept when he discovered that there was no one worthy to open and read the scroll.
- The reason John is weeping is because if no one can take the scroll and read the world will continue in its sinful condition for all eternity without the possibility of redemption.
- "For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of him who subjected it, in **hope**."-Romans 8:20
- The hope that is given is the hope of redemption. (Rom. 8:21-23)

The Effects Of The Fall And Headlines

- "Dad allegedly kills girl, 3, in tragic murder-suicide"
- "Six-year-old child left brain dead from Pennsylvania mom's drowning attempt dies"
- "Boy, 13, dies after falling from 15th floor of Florida building"
- "Romanian thugs brutally spin elderly woman"
- Man would be locked in eternity with the effects of the Fall and all the pain and depravity that have plagued man since that one small bite.

The Lion Of The Tribe Of Judah

- John is lifted out of his grieving when one of the elders tells him about the Lion of the tribe of Judah and the Root of David.
- The Messianic title **Lion of the tribe of Judah** comes from Genesis 49:9-10; Ps. 60:7.
- The title **Root of David** comes from Isaiah 11:10 and is repeated in Revelation 22:16.
- All heaven will soon rejoice over Jesus. The coming King and redeemer of those who believe in Him.

<u>Jesus As Lamb</u>	<u>Jesus As Lion</u>
It refers to His first coming	It refers to His second coming
It speaks of His gentle and meek heart	It speaks of His anger
It speaks of His willingness to save mankind	It speaks of His Rule
It speaks of His Grace	It speaks of His Justice
As the Lamb Jesus was Judged by man	As the Lion Jesus will be the Judge of man

Give sincere homage to the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish on the way, for his wrath will soon be kindled. Blessed are all those who take refuge in him. (Psalm 2:12)

The Battle Has Been Won

- Jesus is the only One worthy to open the scroll and loose the seals because He alone paid the price of man's redemption.
- Jesus is the only One worthy because Jesus was not born from the seed of a man. He was born of God but He also qualifies to be a kinsman redeemer because His human blood lines came from His mother. He was born a man from the seed of the woman.
- "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; it shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."-Gen 3:15

Revelation 5:6-7

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. Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

A Lamb

- When John turned to look he didn't see a Lion but he saw a Lamb as though it had been slain.
- When man thinks of power the last thing they usually consider is a docile lamb.
- "But I was like a docile lamb brought to the slaughter; and I did not know that they had devised schemes against me, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, and let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name may be remembered no more." But, O LORD of hosts, You who judge righteously, Testing the mind and the heart, Let me see Your vengeance on them, For to You I have revealed my cause."-Jeremiah 11:19-20
- "Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."-1 Corinthians 1:25

Seven Horns And Eyes

- The Lamb that John witnessed had seven horns and seven eyes.
- The passage indicates that the horns and eyes are the “seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.”
- A horn in scripture represents power and when the number seven is used with it, it represents absolute power.

- The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken in pieces; from heaven He will thunder against them. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth. “He will give strength to His king, and exalt the horn of His anointed.”-1 Sam. 2:10
- For behold, the stone that I have laid before Joshua: Upon the stone *are* seven eyes. Behold, I will engrave its inscription,’ Says the LORD of hosts, ‘And I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.-Zech. 3:9
- God sees everything and will rule the world in absolute power.

Jesus Takes the Scroll

- Jesus has now moved from His intercessory position seated at the right hand of His Father to a position of judge of the world. The Lamb has become the Lion.
- "Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past. **For behold, the LORD comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth** for their iniquity; the earth will also disclose her blood, and will no more cover her slain."-- Isaiah 26:20-21
- “They told the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne, and from **the wrath of the Lamb**, (Revelation 6:16)

Revelation 5:8-12

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
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

Then I looked, and I 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 riches and
wisdom,
And strength and honor and glory and
blessing!”

A New Song For Jesus

- Once Jesus has taken the scroll all of heaven shouts out in praise.
- The scene has changed from deep mourning to enormous joy.
- All "Fell down before the Lamb." In the previous chapter God is worshipped as the sovereign Creator but here the center of heaven's worship is the Redeemer of mankind.
- The song is new as it relates to the great and marvelous deliverance that the Lord is about to make in and for the earth.

Golden Bowls Of Prayers

- The continual cries that have been prayed by the people of God throughout history for deliverance has reached the throne of God like fragrant incense.
- Before the the seven trumpets are blown an angel combines the prayers of the saints with fire from an altar and throws it to the earth resulting in thunders, sounds, lightnings, and an earthquake.-Revelation 8:5
- The prayers of the saints seem to be connected to the wrath of God.

- Malachi says there will come a time when incense will be offered continually to the name of God.
- “For from the rising of the sun even to the going down of the same, my name is great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering: for my name is great among the nations,” says the Lord of Hosts.”-**Malachi 1:11**
- Barnhouse is probably right, . . . today, prayer consists of confession, intercession, and worship. When we confess we are occupied with our sins; when we intercede, we are occupied with human needs, ours and others' but when we worship we are occupied with Him alone. The day will come when prayer will be emptied of its need of confession. There will be no more laver. Prayer will be emptied of its need for intercession. There will be nothing remaining but that which may be symbolized under the bowls of incense, and all our prayer shall be praise and worship (Donald Gray Barnhouse, Revelation, An Expository Commentary).

The Work Of Jesus As Redeemer

- He price of redemption was His life.
- The object of His redemption is “us”.
- The person He redeemed us to is God.
- The payment of redemption was His blood.
- The scope of redemption was all people groups.
- The result of His redemption was making a kingdom of priests for God

A Countless Multitude

- The word in the original text for “ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands” is “myriads of myriads” which is a number that is so vast that it cannot be counted.
- “But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels...”-Hebrews 12:22

- This countless multitude of angels join in proclaiming that Jesus is the only One worthy to receive praise.
- “But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: “Let all the angels of God worship Him.””- Heb. 1:6
- Although the angels cannot understand redemption they still understand the greatness of God’s work in redeeming fallen man and shout out praise to Jesus.