

2/12/15

### Revelation 5

We began looking at the third major division of the book in our last study, the things which will take place after the things of the church age. Rev. 1:19; 4:1

This third and final mayor division, as we said runs from chapter four to the end with its corresponding visions.

\* And the first division of this third mayor division goes from chapter four to chapter eight, verse one.

Chapter four and five are one vision in two parts.

1. Chapter four we saw the awesomeness of God's throne and worshipped as Creator.

\* The word throne appearing twelve times!

2. Chapter five we will see the awesomeness of God's love and worshipped as Redeemer.

\* The word throne will appear five times!

In this chapter all the activity is directed to the Lamb in view of what He has done and accomplish to redeem the race of fallen Adam.

We saw in chapter four the following.

1. The translation to God's throne in heaven. Rev. 4:1-2

2. The Divine and angelic presence before the throne. Rev. 4:3-4

3. The vision of the throne of God in heaven. Rev. 4:5-7

4. The activity of the heavenly company before the throne in heaven. Rev. 4:8-11

#### **5:1 The vision of the scroll.**

1) He who sat is God the Father, though it is not stated by virtue of being distinct from the Lamb.

\* This is the identity of the Ancient of Days by Daniel. Dan. 7:9

2) The scroll is seen in the right hand of the Father.

a) The place of privilege, majestic power to rule and delegated authority. Rev. 1:16

b) The scroll has writing inside and on the back or front and back.

1)) The perfect participle, with no space on either side, the background to this is Ezekiel. Ezk. 2:10

2)) There are those who have a hard time with the literal interpret of written on both sides of the document but that is what it says.

3)) Some see this as two documents, one open and one sealed till the

- time of redemption, after the example of Jeremiah. Jer. 32:6-15
- c) The scroll has seven seals, which would be opened by the rightful heir who could meet the conditions of all the particulars revealed in the seven seals.
- 1)) A Roman wills required seven seals and seven witnesses.
  - 2)) The number seven is key to the book of Revelation as we have seen already, symbolizing completeness.
  - 3)) There are seven spirits of God, seven churches, seven lampstands, seven stars, seven angels, seven seals, seven trumpets, seven bowels, seven thunders, seven heads, seven diadems, seven plagues, seven mountains and seven kings.
- d) What is the scroll and the content of the scroll?
- 1)) There are many interpretations but the most probable are the following in my opinion.
  - 2)) That the scroll contains the very judgments poured out from chapter six to the end.
  - 3)) That is it the book of life. Rev. 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12, 15; 21:27

- 4)) That the scroll is the title deed to the earth.
- 5)) I think Jesus interprets for us the content of the book, He was going to show John “The things that must occur after these things”. Rev. 1:19; 4:1  
\* The complete and final judgments of the “Day of the Lord”, the establishment of the kingdom by the rightful heir to the throne, Jesus the Messiah, to the Eternal state. Rev. 6-22

#### **5:2-4 The inquiry of one to open the scroll.**

##### **5:2** The angelic inquiry.

- 1) The one speaking is described as a strong angel.
  - a) We are not told who it is.
  - b) Some have guess Gabriel? Rev. 10:1; 18:21
- 2) The proclamation is in the form of a question, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?”
  - a) The word worthy “axios” has the idea of proper weigh, corresponding to the book.  
\* The old Testament word for glory “kabowd” has the same idea of

weight in contrast to all the shallow idols!

- b) The answer is, only he who can meet all the requirements can loose or unfasten the seals, one by one.
  - c) It is the cry for a mediator.
- 3) The Law of redemption in Old Testament gave the right to the “goel”, the kinsman redeemer.
- a) This included to redeem those sold into servitude.
  - b) This also included redemption of property and land, etc.
  - c) Ruth was redeemed by Boaz is a good example and a type of the redemption by Jesus.
  - d) Hanamel, the cousin of Jeremiah is another, who sold property to Him. Jer. 32:6-15
- 4) If we go along with the scroll being the title deed to the earth, it is easy to see that God gave Adam complete dominion of the earth but he forfeited to Satan at the fall and Jesus came to redeem it.
- a) Satan said to Jesus that if He would bow and worship Satan, he would give Him all the kingdoms of the world. Lk. 4
  - b) Jesus did not dispute the claim.
  - c) The payment for redemption was not to Satan as some teach today but to

satisfy God’s righteousness against sin and fulfill His promise.

**5:3-4** The utter hopelessness of anyone anywhere.

- 1) No one was found within the complete scope all in existence. vs. 3
  - a) In heaven, no angel in whatever rank and file they belonged to.
  - b) On earth, no living person.
  - c) Under the earth, no fallen angel or demon in hell.
- 2) The response of John. vs. 4
  - a) He wept convulsively, seeing the hopelessness.
  - b) No one was found worthy to open and read the scroll or look into it, to establish the kingdom.

**5:5-6** **The announcement of the Lamb able to open the scroll.**

- 5:5** The identity of the worthy one.
- 1) The elder is a contrasting hope from John’s hopelessness.
    - \* He will once again speak as an interpreter. Rev. 7:13
  - 2) The elder comforts John by saying, “Weep not”, the verb being placed first makes it emphatic.

- 3) The elder proclaims who is the one worthy.
- a) The One who all the prophets spoke about, “Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah.” Gen 49:8-10  
\* The lion representing His Divine kingship, as the Messiah.
  - b) The Root of David. Is. 11:10  
\* The line of David representing His humanity. 2Sam. 7:12-13
  - c) He has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.” Is. 9:6-7;  
Rev. 22:16
    - a) Prevailed “nikao” is the aorist, the historical past fact, He did conquer as the God-Man. Gen. 3:15; Is. 7:14; Gal. 4:4
    - b) The same word is used for overcomer, eight times in the messages to the churches. Rev. 2-3
    - c) His prevailing represents the requirement needed to open the scroll.

### **5:6** The vision of John.

- 1) 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. vs. 6
  - a) The Lamb is the focus of heavenly scene. the tense is a past perfect, the

- fact of being slain, being dead but now alive, the propitiation on the alter in heaven. 1Jn. 2:2
- 1)) Word for slain “sphazo” means to slaughter, butcher violently, appearing ten times, nine in the book of Revelation.
  - 2)) The only exception, it is used for Cain who slew Able. 1Jn. 3:12
  - b) The apostle John can not take his eyes off of Him. Rev. 6, 8, 12, 13
    - 1)) The title is only found two times in the Old Testament. Is. 53:7; Jer. 11:19
    - 2)) Two times in the gospels. Jn. 1:29, 36
    - 3)) Twice in Acts. Acts 8:32
    - 4)) Once in the epistles. 1Pet. 1:1:9
    - 4)) Yet the title appears twenty-eight times in Revelation, it is the diminutive “arion”, literally little lamb.
  - c) The paradox is that a lamb slain is usually laying down, the Lamb is standing, alive and ready to act with full authority. Rev. 1:18
  - d) The prophets Isaiah and Zechariah tells us of His wounds. Is. 53:7; Zech. 13:6
  - e) Very possibly the first sight of Jesus we will see is with His wounds for us.

- 2) Having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. vs. 6
- a) Seven horns represent complete and perfect power.
  - b) Seven eyes represent perfect knowledge of all things.
    - \* The seven burning lamps before the throne. Rev. 4:5
  - c) Seven spirits represents the Holy Spirit. Is. 11:2; Rev. 1:4; Dan. 7:13-14 Son of Man.
  - d) These are in relation to the earth, in view of the dealings of God.

**5:7-8 The Lamb taking the scroll is worshipped.**

**5:7** The redemptive transaction.

- 1) The Lamb approached and He took the scroll out of the right hand of the Father who sat on the throne. vs. 7
  - a) The Greek conveys a dramatic action, this is a climactic scene, He is the One worthy to enact the judgments of God and the redemption of everything and receive the kingdom. Dan. 7:13-14
    - \* The psalm tells us Jesus is seated at the right hand of God, until He

makes his enemies His footstool.  
Ps. 110

- b) The authority from the throne is passed on to the One and only mediator to finalize the long awaited plan of salvation history.

**5:8** The spontaneous worship.

- 2) The response to the Lamb having taken the scroll was one of complete adoration. vs. 8
  - a) The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Rev. 4:8-10
    - \* Now the focus of worship goes from the throne to the Lamb.
  - b) Each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense. Ps. 33:2, 98:5
    - \* Some of the Psalms used these instruments to praise God, from which we get our word for guitar.
  - c) Which are the prayers of the saints.
    - 1)) The prayer mark petitions, as those we will see in chapter six under the fifth seal for vengeance. Rev. 6:10; 8:3-4
    - 2)) This the model for the incense alter in Holy place before the veil in the Old Testament.
    - 3)) An angel takes a censer at the seventh seal. Rev. 8:3-4

**5:9-10 The Lamb with the scroll is praised in a new song.**

**5:9** For His redemptive work.

1) The song is new in quality not time.

\* The climax is in the three hymns, addressed to both the Father and the Son. vs. 9, 12, 13

a) The first two to the Lamb.

b) The last to both the Lamb and the Father.

2) The theme is “You are worthy”.

3) The specifics follow.

a) To take the scroll and open the seals.

b) You were slain, a historical fact, as the Paschal lamb. Ex. 12:6; 1Cor. 5:7; 1Pet. 18-19

c) You have redeemed us to God by your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

1)) Redeemed “agorazo” means to buy in the market place. 1Cor. 6:20; 7:23; 2Pet. 2:1; Rev. 14:3, 4

2)) The token was His precious blood, according to the Law. Lev. 17:11

3)) The identity is obvious, these can only identify the church!

**5:10** For His transforming work.

1) Made us a kingdom of priests to our God. Ex. 19:6; 1Pet. 2:5, 9; Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:6

2) We shall reign on the earth, for 1,000 years.

a) The earth will be redeemed also. Rom. 8:21-23

**5:11-12 The angelic praise of the Lamb with the scroll.**

**5:11** The electrifying multitude.

1) John looked and heard the voice of many angels around the throne.

2) The living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands. Dan. 7:10

a) The scene is unparalleled in Scripture regarding this unrestrained praise.

b) Innumerable multitudes is the idea and emphasis. Heb. 12:22

**5:12** The eloquent worship.

1) They declared the doxology with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, the Lamb of God. Jn. 1:29

a) To take the book.

b) To open the seal and execute the judgments and finalize the kingdom.

- 2) They praised Him, “To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

\* Lenski the Greek scholar points out the following.

- a) The first four are objective, Power, riches, wisdom, strength.  
b) The last three are subjective, honor, glory and blessing.

\* All ascribed to Christ. 1Cor. 1:24;  
2Cor. 8:9; Eph. 3:8; Lk. 11:22;  
Phil. 2:11; Jn. 1:14; Rom. 15:29

### **5:13-14    The universal praise and worship of the Lamb.**

**5:13**    The oneness acknowledged of the Lordship of Jesus.

- 1) The all encompassing acknowledgment.  
a) Every creature which is in heaven.  
b) Every creature on the earth.  
c) Every creature under the earth.  
d) Every creature such as are in the sea and all that is in them.
- 2) The all encompassing praise.  
a) John heard saying: “Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, referring to God the Father as Creator in chapter four.

- b) “Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the Lamb, forever and ever!”, referring to the Son, Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of man and the world.

\* Due to His faithfulness to God the Father. Rev. 7:10

**5:14**    The affirmation of His Lordship.

- 1) Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!, so be it."  
a) Amen is found six times. Rev. 4:9, 10; 5:14; 10:6; 11:15; 15:7  
b) He is the exalted Lamb.  
c) He is the one to inaugurate the new age of salvation history.
- 2) And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.  
a) Every knee shall bow and tongue confess that Jesus is Lord... Phil. 2:9-11  
b) The worship of Jesus is the theme in heaven!