

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

OCT 20TH-21ST, 2018 // BOOK OF REVELATION

THE SCROLL (REV 5:1-5)

THE "RIGHT HAND OF THE ONE ON THE THRONE"

Chapter 5 is still in the throne room of God. As John focuses in on God on His throne, he sees that He is holding a scroll in His right hand.

- The scroll had writing on both sides indicating there was much information, but it was sealed with 7 seals, indicating the information hadn't been revealed yet.

THIS IS NO ORDINARY SCROLL

The information in the scroll is the sealed orders for the universe. This document contains the script for **humanity's end, how God will banish all evil, how He will take down evil societies, and build a new perfect universe.**

- Opening the 7 seals will inflict **judgment on the godless and reward the God-fearing.**

"WHO IS WORTHY TO OPEN THE SCROLL?"

John sees a "mighty angel" that asks the question of who can be good enough to break the seals and implement the actions of the scroll. John was distraught when it was revealed that no one in heaven or earth was capable of doing this.

- John assumed all hope of justice and righteousness had been lost.

"DO NOT WEEP. LOOK..."

One of the 24 elders answers the question posed by the "mighty angel." He looks at John and says, "the Lion from the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David has conquered so that He is able to open the scroll."

- **Jesus is worthy because He's been tempted, faced sin, been to earth to suffer, and conquered sin and death.**

THE LION AND ROOT

Genesis 49 gives a prophecy that the Savior will come from the bloodline of Judah, one of the 12 sons of Jacob (Israel). Isaiah 11 tells us that the Messiah will come from the Root of Jesse who was King David's father.

- **It is fascinating that a perfect Savior chose to come through a very imperfect bloodline.**

SLAUGHTERED (REV 5:6-8)

THE LION AND THE LAMB

Earlier John had heard of a Lion, but as he looks he sees "one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and the elders."

- **This "lamb" had been sacrificed but was very much alive.** He had 7 horns which symbolize **perfect power** and 7 eyes that symbolize **perfect insight.**

THE EYES ARE THE "SEVEN SPIRITS OF GOD"

The Spirit of God had been characterized as fiery torches and now eyes that see all things. Notice the Trinity in this picture. We have The Father on the throne, Jesus the Son as the slaughtered lamb, and the Holy Spirit.

- Here we have the complex nature of God. **He's one God in three persons. He's incomprehensible, and that's ok.**

THE LAMB TAKES THE SCROLL

The only person worthy to take the scroll from God was the Son. Remember, this scroll will unleash the judgment of God and contains the revelation that we're studying.

- We start to pan out again from the throne to the 24 elders around it. The elders begin to worship at the sight of Jesus taking the scroll.

HARPS AND BOWLS OF INCENSE

This may not be literal harps and incense, though it could be as well. They represent the prayers and praise of "the saints" (all believers of Jesus).

- The harps may be literal because the elders sing a new song to celebrate the scroll being taken by Jesus.

NEW SONGS (REV 5:9-14)

THE REDEMPTION SONG FROM THE ELDERS

In chapter 4 we hear the *Creation Song*, now John records the *Redemption Song* from the Elders.

- The 1st line of the song directly answers the question in v2. **Jesus is worthy because He "purchased people for God by [His] blood."**

JESUS PURCHASED ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE

The blood Jesus shed on the cross extends to all people that will accept Him. Every nation, tribe, and tongue are loved and sought by God! The song of the elders anticipated a fulfillment of the Great Commission.

- This is why **prejudice and racism has no place in the church. God loves people of all colors and nationalities.**

HE WILL MAKE THEM A "KINGDOM AND PRIESTS"

1 Peter 2:9 mentions that we are a "royal priesthood" and called into His "marvelous light." When we are adopted by the King, we become royal family.

- **This means that serving God becomes an honor, and we start to put the desires of the kingdom above our own.**

WE WILL ALSO "REIGN ON THE EARTH"

The elders hint at a distant future where we will reign with God on the earth. We will get into this in detail in Revelation 21-22.

- What we need to know at this point is that **God intends not only to save us, but to dwell and commune with us for eternity.**

PANNING OUT FURTHER

As John's perspective pulls out further from the throne, he "looked and heard the voice of many angels" and their "number was countless."

- 10,000 was the largest number Greek could express. What John saw was an incalculable number of angelic beings worshipping God.

"WORTHY IS THE LAMB WHO WAS SLAUGHTERED"

- To receive **power**: all power of the universe flows from and back to God.
- To receive **riches**: God owns all things.
- To receive **wisdom**: God is omniscient.
- To receive **strength**: God is capable of all things.
- To receive **honor**: God deserves respect.
- To receive **glory** and praise: God is to be praised for Who He is.

AN EXTREMELY WIDE PERSPECTIVE

John pans out to an extreme distance to see "every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them" singing and worshipping God.

- This is of course a future event. This scene is the final consummation of creation to the Creator (Phil. 2:10-11).

IMAGINE ALL CREATION THROUGHOUT ALL TIME!

There is a chronological order of the sequence of worship John sees; from the elders around the throne that were created eons ago, to the worship of the Lamb since He was slain, to the countless creatures in unison that will happen in the future.

- V13 is called the "**Song from the Universe**" to Him that sits on the throne.

AND THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES SAY "AMEN."

Amen means let it be so. As John focuses back into the throne, he hears the four angels that say "holy, holy, holy" affirm Jesus taking the scroll. The elders also fall on their faces, **praising God for the security Jesus will ensure for all those that follow Him.**

WHAT WILL WAKE US UP?

- There is only One worth trusting our future with, because Jesus became one of us, suffered, and died for us.
- Who or what else has done this for us?
- Why do we trust in lesser things? Why are we so lazy, entitled, and unfaithful? What will it take to wake us up?

YOU HAVE TO ACCEPT THE GIFT

- He has a plan for His people and for us as individuals (Jer. 29:11). He knows all and has all power. He is capable of saving us.
- Jesus has purchased and packaged our salvation and future. We must simply accept the gift and dedicate ourselves to Him.