

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 31ST–SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2024 // REVELATION

THE SCROLL (REVELATION 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.

AN EXTREMELY WEIGHTY SCROLL

The information in the scroll is the future orders for the universe. This document contains **how the world will end, how God will destroy evil societies and banish all evil**, and how He will **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” who asks who is worthy to hold the scroll, break the seals, and implement the actions inside. 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. He says to John, “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 THE ROOT

Genesis 49 prophesied the Savior would 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's fascinating that a perfect Savior chose to come through a very imperfect bloodline.**

HE HAS “CONQUERED”

Jesus is the protective powerful lion, the root by which all good things flow, and He has conquered. If the end is already written and Jesus has conquered, this should give us confidence in putting our trust in Him.

- **Trust isn't always easy, but we must learn to become more dependent on Christ.**

THE LAMB (REVELATION 5:6–8)

THE SLAUGHTERED 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 among the elders.”

- **The “lamb” had been sacrificed but was alive.** He had 7 horns symbolizing **perfect power** and 7 eyes symbolizing **perfect insight**.

THE EYES ARE THE SEVEN SPIRITS OF GOD

The Spirit of God had been characterized as fiery torches and now it's all-seeing eyes. Also, notice the Trinity: The Father on the throne, 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 pan out again from the throne to the 24 elders around it. They begin to worship at the sight of Jesus taking the scroll.

“EACH ONE HAD A HARP AND GOLDEN BOWLS”

This may not be literal, but it could be. They represent the praise and prayers of “the saints” (all followers). The gold shows **the value God places on our prayers and praise**.

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

NOT TAKING PRAYER FOR GRANTED

Jesus has removed any barrier between us and God. This means we have direct access to the throne. If we understand this to be true, are we capitalizing on this amazing privilege?

- **Prayer changes situations and us! The more we pray, the more we live in peace regardless of what the future holds.**

NEW SONGS (REVELATION 5:9–14)

THE ELDERS SING A NEW SONG

In Chapter 4, we heard the *Creation Song*. Now John records the *Redemption Song from the Elders* (vs. 9–10).

- The 1st line of the song directly answers the question in v. 2. **Jesus is worthy because He purchased people for God by [His] blood.**

A SACRIFICE FOR ANYONE WHO ACCEPTS IT

The blood of Christ and salvation extend to all people who will accept Him (2 Peter 3:9). **Every nation, tribe, and tongue is loved and sought by God!** This song anticipates the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

- **Prejudice has no place in Christianity. God loves, and wants to save, all people.**

THIS DOESN'T MEAN UNIVERSALISM

God loves all people but He doesn't condone or turn a blind eye to sin. **Jesus is the only pathway to salvation and there is a standard by which saved people are called to live.**

- **We are to diligently love all people without accepting thoughts or practices that don't align with the Bible.**

“YOU MADE THEM A KINGDOM...”

1 Peter 2:9 says that we're a “royal priesthood” called into His “marvelous light.” **When we're adopted by the King, we become royalty called to live in a way that honors the King.**

- **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 to not only save us, but to give us an inheritance and dwell and commune with us for eternity.**

PANNING OUT A LITTLE 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), **riches** (God owns all things), **wisdom** (God is omniscient), **strength** (God is capable of all things), **honor** (God deserves respect), **glory and praise** (God is to be praised for Who He is and what He is able to do).

AN EVEN WIDER 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 a glimpse of the final consummation of creation to the Creator (Philippians 2:10–11).

ALL CREATION THROUGHOUT ALL TIME!

There's a chronological sequence of worship John sees; the elders around the throne 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.

- V. 13 is called the “**Song from the Universe**” to Him Who sits on the throne.

“THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES SAID, ‘AMEN’”

Amen means let it be so. As John focuses back onto the throne, he hears the four angels who say “holy, holy, holy” affirm Jesus' taking of the scroll.

- The elders also fall on their faces, **praising God for the security Jesus will ensure for all those who follow Him.**

TIME IS LIMITED (THE SCROLL)

- There are certain events that will assuredly take place and there will be an end to time as we know it.
- If we believe this to be true, **are we using our time wisely?** Are we addressing sin, building a relationship with Jesus, and biblically loving other people?

THE FUTURE CAN APPEAR OVERWHELMING

- Uncertainty can be unsettling, and in a constantly changing world that seems to gravitate towards chaos, it is easy to get overwhelmed, angry, depressed, or numb. In this, we often make foolish or selfish choices.
- **The bottom line is we need help.**

WHO WILL WE PUT OUR TRUST IN?

- Ourselves? Though we can make positive change as individuals, **do our ways and desires ultimately work or satisfy?** Have we conquered death or achieved peace?
- The government? **Has any empire stood the test of time?** Are they really for the wellbeing of the masses?
- Material gain? **Does the acquisition of more quench our desire or give us lasting value?** Does it solve life's deeper problems?
- Culture? Does popular culture promote depth, selflessness, harmony, or any legitimate solutions to our problems? **Does culture remain constant and unwavering?**

WE HAVE HOPE

- **If our systems haven't solved our problems, it would make sense to look elsewhere.**
- Jesus alone is worthy and able to hold the weight of our salvation, present lives, and the future. **We must learn to trust Him with every corner of our lives.** This leads to **joy, confidence, and peace** because in Him we have **security**.