

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2024 // REVELATION

THE SCROLL (REVELATION 5:1-5) "RIGHT HAND OF THE ONE...ON THE THRONE"

Chapter 5 is still in the throne room of God. As John focuses on God on His throne (sovereignty), he sees Him holding a scroll in His right hand (authority).

- The scroll had writing on both sides indicating much information, but it was sealed with seven 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, take down evil societies, and build a new perfect universe.**

- Opening the seven 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 can be good enough to break the seals and implement the actions of the scroll. When it was revealed, John was distraught that no one in heaven or earth could do 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 has 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 (REVELATION 5:6-8)

THE LION AND THE LAMB

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

- **This "lamb" had been sacrificed but was very much alive.** He had seven horns, which symbolize **perfect power**, and seven eyes, which 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 (omnipresence).

- 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 Son was the only person worthy to take the scroll from God. All heaven breaks loose! Remember, this scroll will unleash God's judgment and contains the revelation 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, but it could also be. 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 (REVELATION 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 v. 2. **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 who will accept Him. **Every nation, tribe, and tongue is loved and sought by God!** The song of the elders anticipated a fulfillment of the Great Commission.

- This is why **prejudice and racism have 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 the King adopts us, we become a 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.

- We need to know at this point 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 Greeks 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 (Philippians 2:10-11).

IMAGINE ALL CREATION THROUGHOUT ALL TIME!

John sees a chronological order of the sequence of worship: from the elders around the throne who 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.

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

AND THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES SAY, "AMEN."

Amen means *let it be so*. As John focuses back on the throne, he hears the four living creatures say, "Amen" and 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.**

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 RECEIVE THE GIFT

- He has a plan for His people and for us as individuals. 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 receive the gift and dedicate ourselves to Him.