

Revelation Chapter 5

Bible Study Notes

*“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
To receive power and riches and wisdom,
And strength and honour and glory and blessing!”*

Revelation 5:12

In chapter five, we have a continuation of the same scene which we encounter in chapter four, the two chapters go hand in hand. Therefore, it will be helpful to refer to the notes in chapter four to aid in our study on chapter five.

In this chapter we see the appearance of Jesus after His crucifixion into the Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary; it is here where He receives a Book from the Father, sealed with seven seals, of which only He (Jesus) is deemed worthy to open it, for He has conquered death.

Says one of the elders, *“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.”* **verse 4**

v.1-3

“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. 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.”

Here the Apostle John sees in vision the Father, sitting upon His glorious throne with a book in His right hand. This book is sealed with seals, seven in number, as was common in ancient times where a scroll would be sealed after every division or chapter, and with the unlocking of each seal would be the unlocking of a new division or chapter of the book. So, it was with this Heavenly book, each unsealing of the scroll, unlocked a new chapter in the history of the Christian Church as we will see in chapter six.

There was none in Heaven or on the earth, both living or dead, who was able to open the scroll or even read it.

v.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 was in awe that there was none who was deemed worthy to open and read the scroll, let alone to look at it. However, it is made clear to him that Jesus, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, who has conquered death, is the one worthy to open the scroll and to unlock the seven seals.

v.6

“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.”

Here John sees Jesus appear in the midst of the throne of the Father and amongst the four Cherubim/Seraphim and the twenty-four elders, looking like a Lamb that had been slain. This description is important because it shows us that this event is taking place at a time shortly after Jesus had died and had resurrected and ascended into Heaven. This Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are symbolic of the Holy Spirit: a horn representing power and eyes representing wisdom, **Ephesians 1:18, Micah 4:13, Zechariah 1:18-21.**

“The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.” **Isaiah 11:2**

Notice the seven Spirits of God as described by Isaiah represent the seven characteristics of God. This Spirit of God as told by John, has been sent out into all the earth after the ascension of Jesus at Pentecost.

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” **Acts 1:8**

It was at this time in John’s vision where He is seeing Jesus after His ascension into Heaven and the Holy Spirit was poured out at the Feast of Pentecost.

v.7-8

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

Here we see Jesus takes the scroll out of the right hand of the Father and when He had done this the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the presence of the Lamb in reverence, each having a harp in their hand.

We also notice more sanctuary language as we see the bowls/vials of incense, which represent the prayers of the saints. Going back to the Old Testament, we see the (*frank*)incense in the Holy Place of the earthly sanctuary upon the altar of incense. **See: Exodus 30:34-38, Exodus 30:1-10, Exodus 37:29**

This therefore shows us, that this event in Heaven is taking place in the Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary. **Hebrews 8:1-5**

v.9-10

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.”

Jesus is the only one who is worthy to take the book and to open its seals, for He was slain from the foundations of the world and by His death, He has redeemed/bought back His elect to God by shedding His blood for us. As a result of sin, mankind has been separated from God, and it is only by the Blood of the Lamb that we can be redeemed back to the Father.

“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.” **Isaiah 59:2**

“Remember thy congregation, which thou hast purchased of old; the rod of thine inheritance, which thou hast redeemed; this mount Zion, wherein thou hast dwelt.” **Psalm 74:2**

Those who have been redeemed and shall receive their reward at the Second Coming of Jesus, shall be made priests in the Kingdom of God; *“the meek shall inherit the earth.”*

“You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood...” **1st Peter 2:5**

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” **1st Peter 2:9**

“...to Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.” **Revelation 1:5-6**

“For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; Indeed, you will look carefully for his place, but it shall be no more. But the meek shall inherit the earth and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.” **Psalm 37:10-11**

v.11-12

“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 honour and glory and blessing!”

John sees the multitude of angels and the living creatures and the twenty-four elders giving all glory and honour and praise to the Lamb. A seven-fold blessing is poured out to Jesus: *power, riches, wisdom, strength, honour, glory and blessings*, seven being the number of perfection as we have studied before.

Jesus was slain for our sins, reconciling us back to God the Father, redeeming us and giving us the opportunity to have eternal life, should we accept Him as Lord and Saviour, for He is *‘the way, the truth and the life.’*

v.13-14

“And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: “Blessing and honour and glory and power, be to Him who sits on the

throne and to the Lamb, forever and ever!” Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

Every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess that Jesus is Lord, **Romans 14:11**. They shall proclaim blessing and honour and glory and power to the Father and the Son.

Again, as with our study in chapter four, we see the reverence which is given to Jesus and the Father by the Heavenly beings. There is no irreverent shouting and clapping before the presence of God in Heaven, there is only praise and prostrate worship. The Heavenly beings fall before the presence of God and give Him all the glory and honour and praise that is due His name for, He is the King of kings and Lord of lords, and He deserves the most reverent form of worship. Example after example if giving in the Bible as to how we are to praise and worship God, and as Bible believing Christians, we should follow these examples given us and not follow the traditions of the world.

*“Yours, O LORD, is the greatness,
The power and the glory,
The victory and the majesty.
For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours.
Yours is the kingdom, O LORD,
And You are exalted as head over all.”*

1st Chronicles 29:11