



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

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Chapter Five

- **Rev 5:1** I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. **2** And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?” **3** And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it. **4** Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it; **5** and one of the elders *said to me, “Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.” **6** And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. **7** And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. **8** When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

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- **As we begin chapter 5 we should understand that the scene is a continuation of what we saw on chapter 4. (scripture does not actually have chapters and verses)**
- **One way to think of chapter 5 is as a prelude to a just, God-led, holocaust, for what happens in this chapter unleashes all of the judgments of the great tribulation.**
- **It will be a time of unprecedented judgment and calamities that God will use to bring to a close the present age.**

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- **The future timing of the vision, if I understand the scriptures correctly, is sometime after the Rapture.**
- **The Rapture has occurred, the church has been before the Bema Seat, and on Earth there has been chaos, but societies are recovering from the event where so many vanished under mysterious circumstances.**
- **There is a certain inevitability about what John is going to see because when God decides it is time act against sin and reclaim the Earth, there is no stopping Him.**

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- **So as we begin let's recall the scene –**
 - **Bright red and white lights from the throne that are spectacular.**
 - **An emerald rainbow around the throne.**
 - **One like a man sitting on the throne.**
 - **The seven spirits of God before the throne.**
 - **Four very odd living beings before the throne.**
 - **Twenty-four elders sitting on thrones around the throne.**
 - **Multitudes of angels adjacent to the throne.**

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- I should also remind us again at this point that some of what John sees is prophetic – yet future.
- God is on the throne today and the four living beings are before the throne along with the seven spirits of God, but the twenty-four elders are not there.
- They are not casting their crowns before the throne because they haven't received them yet – John is seeing a vision of the future that continues in chapter 5.

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- **Rev 5:1 / saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals.**
- **John sees something odd, but also familiar in the hand of the One on the throne – it is a scroll sealed with seven seals with writing on both sides of the document.**
- **In fact, the scroll looked to him like a ‘deed’ (or a Roman will) of his day where on the outside you could know generally what was on the inside, but could not see all of the details.**

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- **The scroll was sealed with seven seals which probably means that the scroll was rolled up a few pages and sealed with wax, then a few more pages were rolled, and it was sealed again, and again.**
- **You had to keep breaking the seals in order move from one section of the deed (or perhaps will) to the next.**



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- **Rev 5:2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?” 3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it.**
- **Who is worthy? In order to explain this I have to first explain what I think was on the outside of the scroll.**
- **On the outside of the scroll there was language to the effect that said, “Title Deed to the Earth”.**

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- **So now when the call goes out of “who is worthy” we begin to understand that in order to claim ownership of the Earth, you had to be God.**
- **No one else was rightful heir to the Earth than God Himself.**
- **So when the call of “who is worthy” goes out, the hosts of Heaven knew the answer, but John apparently did not and he was extremely disappointed.**

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- **4 Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it;**
- **So why is John weeping? Think about it – it is 95 A.D. and the church was under great persecution.**
- **John is an old man, exiled to Patmos for preaching the gospel, many were killed and dying for their faith, and the seven churches he helped to plant were not in great shape.**

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- **John is feeling a lot we do when we look around and feel like we are losing the most important battle of the ages.**
- **He, and others, have been praying for and expecting the return of Jesus to set things right and deal with sin.**
- **Now he sees the title deed to the Earth just waiting for one to step forward, open it, and take back all of the territory the enemy occupies and uses today.**

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- He sees final and ultimate victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil so close, but no one is stepping up to assert ownership and break the seals – he is devastated.
- Rev 5:5 and one of the elders said to me, “Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.”
- Gen 49:8-10 establishes that the son of David, from the tribe of Judah will one day be known as Messiah. So the Lion, from the tribe of Judah, is none other than Jesus.

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- **So the one who is worthy is no mystery at all to the elders for he says to John, stop weeping, all is not lost, Jesus, the Lion of the tribe of Judah is worthy!**
- **It is He who will take the title deed to the Earth and break open it's seals thus claiming the authority to take back the earth. (this has a Narnia like to feel to it)**
- **The long winter of sin is about to end, Jesus is going to deal with sin, the devil, and the curse as He takes back and restores the Earth as it was intended to be.**

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- **Rev 5:6 And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. 7 And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.**
- **What? I thought it was the “Lion” who was going to take the scroll?**
- **But instead it is a lamb – how can we make sense of this?**

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- **Well, as you know, Jesus was also identified as the Lamb of God by John the Baptist, and He is also referred to as the Lamb other places in Revelation. (first coming as a lamb, 2nd coming as a lion)**
- **Now picture this – in the midst of that scene in the throne room with the lights, the cherubim, the elders, the thrones, and all of the wheel-like actions described by Ezekiel, John now sees a lamb stand up.**
- **But this is not just any lamb, it is a lamb described in such a way that it can only be one person in all of the universe – Jesus!**

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- **So – Jesus is about to open the scroll, the title deed to Earth and begin to take it back and set everything right.**
- **What we have all longed for from the day we were saved is about to come to pass – justice will prevail, sin will be put to an end, and peace will reign!**
- **And here in the throne room of God the connection between the Lamb’s work on Calvary and the what the Lion is about to do could not be more clear.**

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- **Rev 5:8** When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.
- **And in Heaven a great celebration begins to breakout among the inhabitants of Heaven – the wait is over, no longer is there any wonder over how long God will wait to set things right.**
- **The day has come and all of Heaven is thrilled at what is about to happen.**

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- **Think about all of the prayers of all of the saints of all time that cried out for help, for justice, for healing, for, for, for, ...**
- **The golden bowls of incense represent all of those prayers that we have prayed and sometimes wondered when God would respond.**
- **Well, make no mistake about it, your prayers were heard and they will be answered.**

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- **Verses 9-14 describe the celebration that will break out in Heaven when John's vision becomes a real time reality.**
- **From John's perspective we can only imagine how exhilarating this vision must have been. He is now an old man suffering for his faith, and maybe wondering about the state of his world.**
- **It had been 60 years or so since Jesus said, "I will come again" and while he probably never doubted, he probably did wonder how much worse things had to be before Jesus returned.**

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- **Well after this vision, you can bet that the timing no longer mattered, because God had given a very vivid vision of the certainty of Jesus' claim of "I will come again".**
- **And it becomes quite clear from the rest of the chapter that we are not the only ones who long for God to take back the Earth, set things right, and begin again without sin.**
- **Worthy is the Lamb!**

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- **9** And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. **10** “You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.” **11** Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, **12** saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.” **13** And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, “To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.” **14** And the four living creatures kept saying, “Amen.” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

Questions