

Revelation Chapter Five - John's second vision of the Throne room of Heaven.

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. ² Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. ⁴ So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. ⁵ 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." 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. ⁷ Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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, ¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." ¹¹ 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, ¹² saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!" ¹³ 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 honor and glory and power *Be* to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!" ¹⁴ Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

Introduction

What else did John see in the Throne room of heaven?

He saw a person sitting on the Throne with a scroll in His right hand.

There were words written on the inside and outside of the scroll.

It was also sealed with 7 seals.

The focus of attention now shifts to this scroll.

This type of scroll was known all over the Middle East in these times and was used by the Romans from the time of Nero.

In the days in which John was writing, when people signed a contract it would be written on the inner pages and sealed with 7 seals.

Then the content of the contract would be described briefly on the outside.

All types of contracts were done in this way.

Marriage Contracts, release of slaves, rental agreements etc.

However, the Hebrew document that most closely resembles this scroll was a title-deed. The evidence we have for this is contained in Jeremiah 32: v. 8-11.

⁸ Then Hanamel my uncle's son came to me in the court of the prison according to the word of the LORD, and said to me, 'Please buy my field that *is* in Anathoth, which *is* in the country of Benjamin; for the right of inheritance *is* yours, and the redemption yours; buy *it* for yourself.' Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD. ⁹ So I bought the field from Hanamel, the son of my uncle who *was* in Anathoth, and weighed *out* to him the money—seventeen shekels of silver. ¹⁰ And I signed the deed and sealed *it*, took witnesses, and weighed the money on the scales. ¹¹ So I took the purchase deed, *both* that which was sealed *according* to the law and custom, and that which was open;

The scroll that John saw in God's hand was the title deed to the earth, which He was going to give to Jesus Christ.

Unlike other deeds which give a description of what you were purchasing, this deed gave details of how Jesus will regain His rightful inheritance.

Jesus is going to do this by means of "Divine Judgements" which are about to be poured out on the earth. Although the scroll is all about doom and judgement, it is also a scroll of redemption. It tells us how Jesus will redeem the world from Satan.

The fact that God has a scroll indicates that His counsel and His will are already settled. Whatever you think about the rest of the book of Revelation, you are not going to change God's mind.

The Psalmist says "Your word is forever settled in Heaven" (Ps. 119:89)

Story:

Dr. Mark Roser, a missionary and Bible teacher, tells a story about his wife Pat. She had a dream concerning her destiny.

Pat was in a line of people who were being prayed for.

The lady in front of her was a very attractive lady who was receiving great blessings.

That lady moved on and then it was Pat's turn.

She looked up to see the person who was praying for her and saw that it was Jesus.

Tears were streaming down the face of Jesus and he held a scroll in his right hand.

Without uttering a word Pat knew the thoughts of Jesus.

"If only you knew, my daughter, the things I have for you."

She knew those things were recorded in the scroll and that she should look to Jesus alone to receive all that he had purposed for her.

I thought for a moment about the theology behind that dream, was it sound or false?

Not all dreams that we experience come from God.

Then I was reminded of Ephesians 2:10: "We are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

By Mark Roser

The Bible says that God has prepared good things for us, we need to receive them.

It doesn't matter what age we are at the moment, or whether we are sick. God has always got a next step in ministry blessing.

The problem is that we must discover God's next step and not be afraid to move forward in faith and walk in it.

Often we can get stuck doing things we have always done and never ask God about the next step in our ministry to serve Him.

Resistance to change is one of the hardest thing to handle in our lives. When things are just not working for us in a ministry, we need to be asking God, is there anything else I should be doing?

I had to ask that question of God 3 years ago and He said, yes Alistair, there is something else you should be doing.

God revealed to me that it was to return to Japan and be the Pastor of Osaka International Church.

God has something for each one of us to do, the problem is surrendering our lives for His purposes.

Are you willing to do that today?

Let us now go into the text and discover what God would have us learn this morning.

The chapter divides neatly into three sections.

The first section is the search for the worthy one.

1. The Search for the worthy one v. 2-4.

A Strong Angel (not named) cried out "Who is worthy to open the scroll and loose its seals?"

The Angel is saying, who is qualified by Holiness of Character to break the seals?
Who has the power to defeat satan? Who has the power to wipe out sin and all its effects and to reverse the curse on all creation?

v. 3 tells us that nobody in heaven, or on the earth, or under the earth was able to open the scroll or even look at it.

A search of the entire Universe from hell to heaven does not find anyone who is worthy to open the scroll. Not even Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Job, Moses, David, Solomon, Elijah, Elisha or the Apostles etc. were worthy.

v. 4 - John wept because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll or look at it.
John also wept because he wanted to see the world destroyed of evil, sin and death.
One commentator said that John's tears represent the tears of all God's people through all the centuries.

The tears of Adam & Eve as they were driven out of the garden of Eden, the tears of the children of Israel as they cried to God when they were in bondage in Egypt.
There were tears shed in Bradford England this week as a Muslim who converted to Christianity was forced to leave his home under armed police guard in order to protect him and his family. He has moved to a safe house somewhere away from the county of Yorkshire.

Although John's weeping was sincere, it was premature. The search for the "Worthy One" was over

One commentator by the name of Swete says this.
"John was weeping and yet his tears were unnecessary. Human grief often springs from insufficient knowledge. If we had patience to wait and trust, we would see that God has His own solutions for the situations which bring us tears."
This was true for John and it can be true for us too as we wait patiently for God to act in our situation.

2. The Selection of the worthy one V. 5-8.

One of the Elders said to John "Don't weep" and told him of a new person on the scene. He is described by two of His Messianic titles.

1. The lion from the tribe of Judah
2. The Root of David.

The Lion from the tribe of Judah is a reference to Genesis 49: 8-10.

⁸ "Judah, you *are he* whom your brothers shall praise; Your hand *shall be* on the neck of your enemies; Your father's children shall bow down before you. ⁹ Judah *is* a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him? ¹⁰ The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him *shall be* the obedience of the people.

In these verses we have Jacob's last words to his sons.
He makes a prophecy concerning the tribe of Judah.

1. He says that Judah was going to be the leading tribe. That didn't happen for 640 years, but it did happen.
2. Gen. 49:10
¹⁰ The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him *shall be* the obedience of the people.

The Scepter is the symbol of the one who rules.

The Lawgiver is the one who decrees and Shilo means the one who brings PEACE.
So to translate this into simple English we could say.

Judah will always be the leading tribe until the one who brings peace arrives.
This is exactly what happened. Judah was the leading tribe until Jesus arrived on this earth, "The Prince of Peace"

The Jews wanted to have a Lion, but God gave them a Lamb.

The Lamb had to come before the lion.

But now the roaring Lion has come to deal with the world that refused to accept Jesus the Lamb, slain before the foundation of the world.

The Judgements that follow in Revelation are the roar of the lion, Jesus.

Jesus second Messianic Title was the Root of David.

He was a descendant of the Jewish King. A King has power to rule his empire and now Jesus was going to rule the nations like the lion rules the jungle.

The Lion King was worthy to open the scrolls.

After John describes the two titles of Jesus he goes on to point out something else.

He tells us that he sees a lamb as though it has been slain, having 7 horns and 7 eyes which are the 7 Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

There are 3 things here worth of our attention.

First we note that the lamb gave the appearance that it has been killed. It still bore the marks of death.

This was a reminder to John that it was the same Jesus who died on the cross for his sins, and your sins and mine.

Yes, the same Jesus who is in Heaven now is the same Jesus who will judge the earth.

The 7 horns stand for the "Power" of Jesus.

Deuteronomy 33: v. 17.

¹⁷ His glory *is like* a firstborn bull, And his horns *like* the horns of the wild ox; Together with them He shall push the peoples To the ends of the earth; They *are* the ten thousands of Ephraim, And they *are* the thousands of Manasseh."

Moses was aware of the power of God when he prayed his final blessing upon Israel.

The 7 horns also stand for "Honour"

Psalm 89: v.17

¹⁷ For You *are* the glory of their strength,
And in Your favor our horn is exalted.

Psalm 148: v. 14

¹⁴ And He has exalted the horn of His people, The praise of all His saints— Of the children of Israel, A people near to Him. Praise the LORD!

We are also told that the lamb has 7 eyes.

We are told that these are the 7 Spirits of God which are sent out into all the earth.

This picture comes from the prophet Zechariah.

Zechariah 4: v. 10.

¹⁰ For who has despised the day of small things? For these seven rejoice to see The plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. They are the eyes of the LORD, Which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth."

This picture clearly teaches us that God is “All knowing” God knows everything that is going on in all of the earth.

There is no place on this earth that does not come under the search light of God.

There is NO place to hide from sin, except under the blood of Jesus.

Are you hiding or are you safe, under the blood of Jesus?

There are few passages of the Bible where we can see the majesty and meekness of Jesus.

We see His humility as the lamb, who died for us and we see the “Glory” of His resurrected life as the strong lion who can deal with the rebellion of all the leaders and people on this earth.

3. The Song of the Worthy One V. 9-14.

The song that the four living creatures and the elders sang was called a “New Song”.

The phrase “A New Song” is very common in the Psalms. When it is mentioned it is always a song for the new mercies of God.

Psalm 33:3 says “Sing to Him a new song”

Psalm 40: v. 1-3 (N.K.J.)

I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me, And heard my cry. ² He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, *And* established my steps. ³ He has put a new song in my mouth— Praise to our God; Many will see *it* and fear, And will trust in the LORD.

Psalm 98:1

Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.

The new song is always a song for new mercies of God.

One of the characteristics of Revelation is that it is the book of new things.

1. There is a new name. (2:17, 3:12)
2. There is a new Jerusalem. (3:12, 21:2)
3. There is a new heaven and a new earth. (21:1)
4. There is a promise that God makes all things new. (21:5)

And of course our new song.

One of the important things to be noted is the Greek word used for new.

The Greek has two words for new, “neos” which means new in point of time, but not necessarily in point of quality.

The other Greek word is “Kainos” which means new in point of quality.

“Kainos” describes a thing which has not only been recently produced but which has never existed before.

The significance of this is that Jesus Christ brings into life a quality which has never existed before, new joy, new thrill, new strength, new peace.

In the song covered by v. 9-10 we have Praise for Jesus because He was

1. Slain (Killed) - The Hebrew word means stretched out. He was stretched out on a cross as a sacrifice. The object of His sacrifice was to restore the lost relationship between God and man. That was why Jesus was slain.

2. Redeemed us to God - The N/T is full of the idea of Jesus being the liberator. He gave His life a "Ransom." (Mk. 10:45) He gave himself a ransom for all. (1Tim 2:6) He redeemed us from the curse of the Law.(Gal.3:13) We are bought with a price. (1Cor. 6:20)
3. The death of Jesus was Universal - out of every tribe, tongue and people and nation. In Jesus we have a God who loved the whole world and so we need to tell the world about Him.
4. The death of Jesus has made us Kings and Priests. In the Nestles Gr. text the word kingdom is used as opposed to kings. We certainly have a kingdom and we are certainly "Priests" in a sense that we have access to God.
5. The death of Jesus gives us "Victory" ... and we shall reign on the earth. At the moment Christians all over the world are being persecuted, but a day will come when all Christians will reign with Jesus Christ on this earth.
Whatever your views are on the second coming of Jesus, we can't deny that one day we will reign with Jesus on the earth.
Praise God for this prophecy and proclamation.

(2 Tim 2:12 "If we endure, we shall also reign with Him.)

Application

All over the world people are worshipping.

However as we are created to worship, if we do not worship Jesus, then we will worship somebody or something else.

Maybe you used to worship somebody before you became a Christian.?

In N.Korea they worship the leader of the country.

(slide picture of Kim Jong- Un) and N.Korea.)

Many people don't realise how many starving and poor people live in N.Korea. Also there are many camps, which are like prisons where Christians are put just for their faith in Jesus.

They worship a dictator who will one day be judged by Jesus Christ.

People worship Pop stars and actors, but they too will one day die and be judged by Jesus. (put up a few pictures of Japanese pop stars and U.S. ones too)

Jesus is the only one worthy of our praise, He is also worthy of our Life.

He defeated satan and died for us on a cross. He provides a new life in the future. without sin, without sickness, and without tears.

Have you given Him your life, that you might praise Him forever.?

Today you have an opportunity to do that.

Seek help today to become a follower of Jesus.

Amen.