

Revelation 5:1 Last week we discussed how we need to take in account several criteria when reading Scripture. (26)

(they are: what is being spoken, of whom and by whom, with what words, where, at what time, to what intent, surrounding circumstances, considering what led up to it and what the result should be - these are called the "Miles Coverdale Instructions for Interpretation"). I need to add one more rule: The Rule of First Mention. For example "birds" are associated with evil.

(see printout) Here we have the mention of a "scroll written within and on the back". So we have to look at when a "scroll" was used, that had writing on the inside and outside, and had seals that made it legally binding. This would be of course the "kinsman-redeemer" statute which is found in Leviticus 25:23-25: "The land shall not be sold

permanently for the land is Mine, for you are strangers and sojourners with Me. And in all the land of your possession you shall grant redemption of the land. If one of your brethren becomes poor, and he has sold some of his possession, and if his redeeming relative comes to redeem it, then he may redeem what his brother sold."

This happens in a "next of kin" order. And just like with Boaz and Ruth it is redeemed in order of lineage.

In this case the scroll is the mortgage deed of the earth that Adam, the original heir, lost to satan in the Garden of Eden. And that is why satan is called the Prince of the Power of the Air (Ephesians 2:2). And just like Adam he can control it up to the point that God allows it (remember it is and always will be God's we just read that in Leviticus 25).

So now we zoom back in to the scene again in 5:1. (27)
The Man Seated on the Throne is God the Father and in
His right hand is a scroll. This scroll has the private deed
mortgage term written on the inside and public information
written on the outside. It is still sealed because it has not
yet been opened and redeemed (Yes, Christ did become
possessor of it upon His resurrection but He has not yet loosed
the seals to redeem it).

Revelation 5:2-4 John is heartbroken: Remember, it has
been 50 plus years since Jesus' ministry and although one of
the greatest men of faith who ever walked in mans shoes he must
have been doubting what he saw and heard. Not to mention
all of the "Kingdom is at hand" messages that he heard in
Jesus' three year ministry. And since chronologically
490 years had come and gone fifty years ago one can
understand/empathize with his dilemma. Not to mention
the inference that "no one in heaven or on earth or under
the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it."

Revelation 5:5 John's fears are removed! (The opposite of ^{or} Dear
John's letter)

Revelation 5:6-10 The four living creatures are
the angelic hosts of last week, one like a lion, one like
an ox, one with the face of a man, and one like an eagle.
And the 24 righteous elders "fell down" in PURE AWE
that the end of Transgressions was finally at hand. So ecstatic
that they fell down in worship. Verse 8 is so beautiful!

Every single prayer of praise, intercession, reverential
request or even the Holy Spirit's interceding on our
behalf with prayer when we were not able (Romans 8:26+27)
are stored, which means all of them were heard and replied

to. (Some with "Yes", some with "No, that's not good for you" (28) and some with "not yet My child".) Notice that the bowls only have kept the prayers, and praises, of believers. And of course those who would one day become a believer, verse 9 Have you ever noticed when the highest praise is presented to God it usually comes in song. The children after crossing the Red sea, the Song of Mary, The Psalms, The Song(s) of Solomon, ... etc. (Just like some worship songs that we sing to the Lord that transport us to the Throne room!).

Revelation 5:11+12 And, just when you thought it couldn't get any better, the angels of heaven joined in on the chorus! They all, including us, will be singing praises to God not because they had to but because they couldn't help themselves! We all will forever be praising the Triune God for giving it all up so that sinful us don't have to.

Revelation 5:13+14 (My opinion): In Luke 19:39+40 Jesus is rebuking the Pharisees who are trying to quiet the crowd who are proclaiming "Hosanna in the highest" by saying, "Teacher rebuke Your disciples." But He (Jesus) answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out." He is projecting what will happen when the end to evil finally comes! And so I can assume that all of the rest of creation ("every creature in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them") is now rejoicing that the beginning of the end is about to begin! Of course, those who will be perishing will not be rejoicing but rather proclaiming that Jesus is Lord as they enter their eternal torment.