

Revelation 5 - The Lesson

Revelation chapter 4 ends with the view of the throne of God. The throne's description culminates with the description of what's going on around the throne. There are four beasts with six wings full of eyes, each one having a face one of a lion, a calf, a man and an eagle. The symbolism surrounding the facial features of these beasts may or may not be significant. The Bible isn't clear about; but one thing is clear about this. In Isaiah 6:1-4 this same event is recorded in Isaiah. These beasts though are covering their faces and their feet. This seems to symbolize the fact that in Isaiah's day, this would not be clearly visible because the story was incomplete. It was not until later in Revelation chapter 4, that we get to see the throne of God as it one day will be. This celebration is continued in Revelation chapter 5, and as it continues, it creates an atmosphere now with a full grasp of the Truth surrounding this event. It begins with an exclamation of the One who sat on the throne, which would be God the Father. He had a book written within and on the backside sealed with seven seals. As we enter this chapter, we will go through a number of scripture passages in the Old Testament and the New Testament that further clarifies the significance of this book to mankind.

I. The title deed

Whenever one purchases a piece of land they are given a title to document possession of the land and its contents. This seems to be the allusion that is set here. If you look in Jeremiah 32:6-15 a story is recounted by Jeremiah while he is in prison. He was instructed by God to buy a piece of property by the son of his uncle. God told him his uncle's son would come to offer him some land. His cousin came with that offer and Jeremiah knew that it was of the Lord. The Bible says that he bought the field even though he was in prison. He most likely had not even seen the field, but based on what God had told him, he bought this field. He was given the evidence of this purchase and verse 10 of Jeremiah 32 states that it was sealed. Much like a book. The evidence of the purchase was sealed properly according to the law. He gave this to his helper Baruch and documented it in the Bible that the evidence of the purchase was now sealed. Baruch was then told him to put it in an earthen vessel with this promise in verse 15 that Israel would again possess their land. In Zachariah this title deed concept continues as Zachariah 5:3 states, **"This is the curse that goeth forth over the face of the whole earth,"** signifying that symbolically this book that was sealed represented the power over the earth that was sealed by wickedness. Daniel seven continues with the concept that this title deed had power or gave access of the Earth, Jesus further explained in John chapter 16 that the one that was in charge of the world is this prince of the world or the devil himself. Something had to happen to break the seal of sin or the world and its contents, humanity could not be redeemed. This something is explained by Jesus, Himself in John

chapter 12. Jesus explained that **“if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.”** In other words, Jesus was solidifying the fact that if He died as the Sacrifice, He would then be able to attain and open the title deed. The bindings of sin would be broken. In Revelations 1:18, He even references the fact that He has the “keys of death and hell”. It seems to be a long introduction, but without the clarity of what this document that sealed is, we cannot fully understand the remaining part of Revelation 5. As this view in heaven continues A strong angel proclaimed with the loud voice **“Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?”** The word **“worthy”** means suitable. It appears that the seals are the seals of sin. The Bible says that no man in heaven or earth or under the Earth was able to open the book. In fact they could not even look on it because of the sin that bound the world.

In Revelation 5:4 John weeps because no one was worthy to break the awful bindings of sin over the world. One of the elders encouraged him not to weep he then stated, **“behold”** or check this out. The then says, **“The Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals.”** The only thing able to break the seven seals of sin was, **“a Lamb as it had been slain.”** Then He, The Lamb, walked up to God and took or seized the book out of the right hand of Him that sat on the throne. One may wonder why He took it seemingly forcefully. Maybe it’s because He had worked so adamantly to gain access to this book. Maybe because He had spent His life, literally giving His life to open this book. As the book is removed from God into the hand of Jesus the Bible says in verse eight that, **“the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb.”** Everyone in heaven bowed before this Lamb that was slain. The Bible continues in the description of what was taking place in heaven saying that they sang a new song. The song is written in Revelation 5:9-10a where it says **“Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.”** God showed this praise session that is going on up in heaven as the heavenly’s rejoice over Christ and his dominance now over sin. A very remarkable statement in the end of the verse number nine mentions, **“every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.”** This salvation is all inclusive. Jesus truly did die for all!

As humanity and the heavenly beings continue to celebrate and worship the Lamb with untold numbers in heaven, something interesting happens. The Bible says that heaven went quiet for a moment in verse 13 right in the center, it says heard, **“I,”** saying. This seems to signify that John himself stood up, and spoke loudly so that everyone could hear, **“Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.”** John himself, the man of God, the visitor, if you will in this spiritual picture

that God has put before him began to worship. The response to John's worship is found in verse 14 where the beasts say, "**Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.**"

This is an amazing story of the celebration that happened in heaven as the church has gathered, as a bride before her groom, and the celebration begins as the Lamb is proclaimed worthy. He truly is worthy because He paid the price to attain that title deed, the access to or the ownership of the Earth and its contents, bound in sin. The very sin that we had brought down to this earth had after all this time, finally been defeated, destroyed, and put away by the power of Jesus Christ. Thank the Lord for his Sacrifice for each one of us. May we all live lives that are worthy of such a Sacrifice.