

In-House Wednesday Night Bible Study, 6:00 PM

“THE HEAVENLY WORSHIP” REVELATION CHAPTER 5

October 21, 2026

Symbolism Found in the Book of Revelation

The fifth chapter of Revelation is a continuation of the heavenly scene begun in chapter 4. However, now John’s attention is focused on a scroll in the right hand of the one sitting on the throne. The scroll contains writing on both sides and is sealed with seven seals.

Some refer to the scroll as the “Book of Redemption.” The scroll represents the result of sin that separates people from the eternal life we were created to have. It contains the terms for our redemption, the provision for eternal life, and the full account of what God has in store for the world. The seven seals symbolize that the contract of ownership is in full force until the original owner or his kinsman-redeemer meets the terms. Breaking the seals symbolizes voiding the terms of the contract and freeing the people from its requirements.

Scroll contracts were common and very important during biblical times. A scribe would take a roll of parchment and begin writing the contract and its requirements. At certain points, he would stop writing and seal with wax all that he had written previously. When opened, the scroll would be read a section at a time after each seal was broken. Our heavenly scroll has seven divisions that will be opened successively with each part introducing and explaining the next.

John’s attention is diverted from the scroll by the voice of an angel he described as strong or mighty. The angel is not identified, but he has the authority to speak out in the presence of God. There are those who believe the angel here is Gabriel, the archangel because his name means “strength of God.” Gabriel also affirmed to Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, that he stood in the presence of God (see Luke 1:19). Whoever the angel is, he shouts out a challenge to all creation: “Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?” (Revelation 5:2).

The following are the meaning of terms and imagery we will find in chapter 3 which will be helpful in your study of the book of Revelation.

1. **The One seated on the throne** is God the Father, emphasizing His supreme authority.
2. **The number seven** in biblical literature often symbolizes perfection or completeness.
3. **The right hand** is often symbolic of power and authority in biblical literature.

Chapter 5 of John's Revelation teaches many important points for spiritual living such as:

God's Sovereignty and Authority - The image of God holding the scroll in His right hand underscores His ultimate authority over history and the future. Believers can find comfort in knowing that God is in control, even when the future seems uncertain.

The Mystery of God's Plan - The sealed scroll represents the mystery of God's plan for humanity and the world. While we may not understand all aspects of God's plan, we are called to trust in His wisdom and timing.

The Importance of Revelation - The scroll's contents are crucial for understanding God's purposes. This highlights the importance of seeking revelation through prayer, study, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Christ as the Mediator - The Lamb's role in this scene underscores Jesus' unique position as the mediator between God and humanity. We can approach God with confidence because of Christ's sacrifice and ongoing intercession.

Unity of Believers - The representation of both the Old and New Covenants through the twenty-four elders encourages us to see the unity and continuity of God's people throughout history, urging us to live in harmony with fellow believers.

The Eternal Perspective - This passage invites us to view our lives and prayers from an eternal perspective, recognizing that our actions and prayers have significance in the heavenly realm.

The Worthiness of Christ - Jesus is uniquely worthy to execute God's plan because of His sacrificial death and resurrection.

The Universality of the Gospel - The Gospel is for all people, transcending cultural, linguistic, and ethnic boundaries.

The Power of Redemption - Believers are purchased by the blood of Christ, signifying a profound transformation and belonging to God.

Worship as a Response - Our response to Christ's redemptive work should be one of worship and adoration, joining the heavenly chorus in praise.