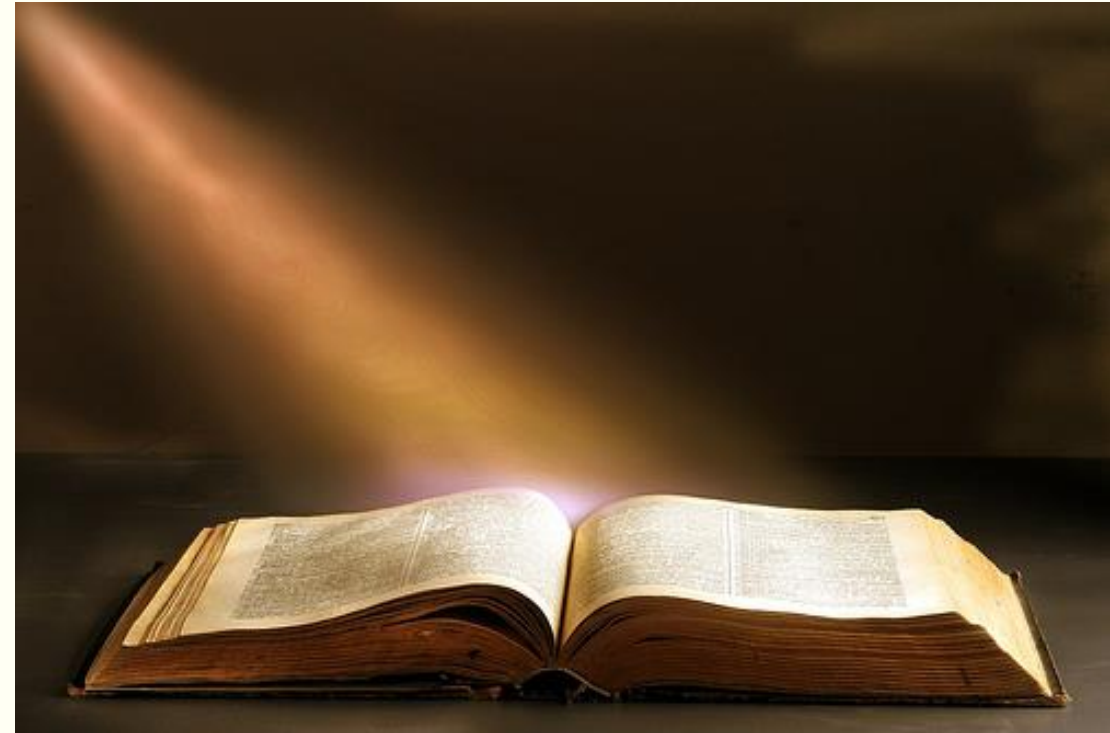




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# Exploring the Book of Revelation: Verse by Verse

## Chapter 5





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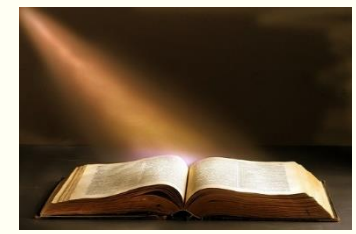
# CHAPTER 5

The Seven-Sealed Scroll and the Enthronement of Christ

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# Revelation 5:1-7

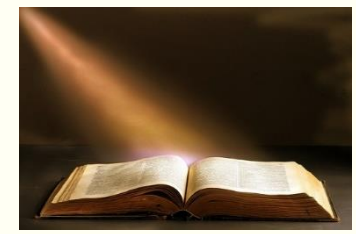
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1 And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?” 3 And 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.

# Revelation 5:8-10

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**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

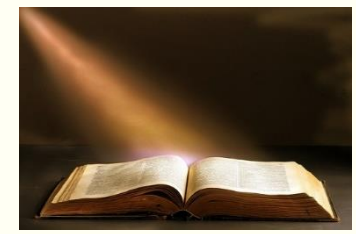
Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

**10** And have made us kings and priests to our God;

And we shall reign on the earth.”

# Revelation 5:11-14

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**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!”

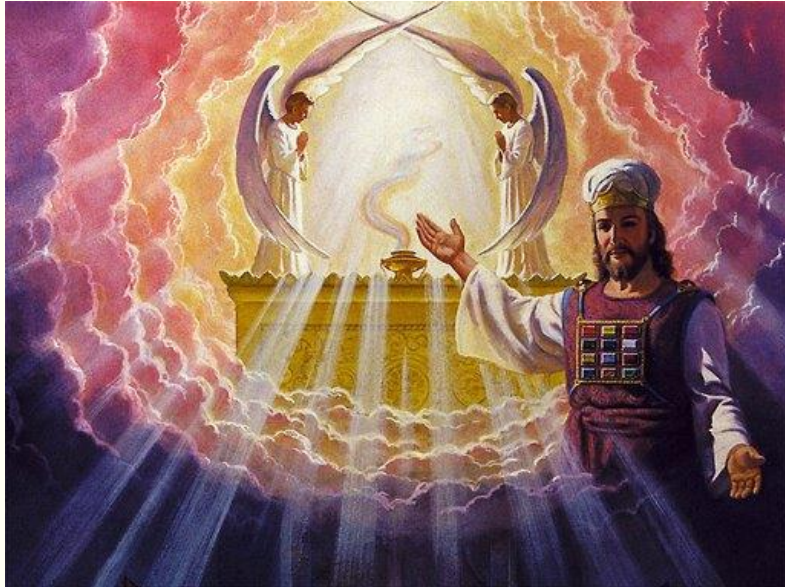
**13** And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: “Blessing and honor and glory and power, be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!”

**14** Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

# The Lamb of God

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Primary purpose of our Bible study is to understand each message as it applied to the events in history AND its personal application for us today

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The sealed scroll

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The Challenge

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The Qualifications

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The Slain Lamb

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Adoration and Praise

# The Seven-Sealed Scroll

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Revelation 5 continues with the scene from Revelation 4

In ancient Near East, the throne was more like a couch than a single seat

“Him who sat on the throne” refers to God the Father with the sealed scroll and waiting for a worthy candidate to take it and sit with Him at His right hand  
(place of honor and authority)

The sealed scroll (biblion – Greek) is composed of a long strip of parchment with seven volumes inside each other. Each section is closed with a seal

“...a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals”

The two tablets of the testimony were written on both sides (Ex 32:15)

Ezekiel saw in vision a scroll with writing on the front and back ((Eze 2:9-10)

The seal functioned in place of a signature, indicating authenticity, validity, authority, ratification or protection of the document

Scrolls were tied with a thread and the seal was impressed at the knots on  
wax

Only the owner could break the seals and disclose its contents



# The Challenge

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A challenge is given, proclaimed loudly by a strong angel

It involves the entire universe – heaven, earth and under the earth

There are qualifications required for the One who can open the seal. No one (god, angel, principality, ruler, king, power) responds

None is qualified to **open, read**, or even **look** at the scroll

Worthy “axios” in Greek, means qualified, estimable, deserving, fit, appropriate

Frequently used by Jewish writers to refer to Old Testament kingship and priesthood

The whole vision has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one who is literate, saying, “Read this, please.” “And he says, “I cannot, for it is sealed.” – Isa 29:11

Sealing had to do with an inability of humans to discern and comprehend the will and plan of God

The book (scroll) cannot be opened until all the seals have been broken

The silence in heaven is so intense that John begins to cry. Why was he weeping so much? What did the scroll contain that unsealing it was of utmost importance?







# The Sealed Scroll

“The central item, the seven-sealed scroll, portrays a will or testament, for that is precisely what such a seven-sealed document was in Roman law in John’s day. We find, then, that the picture we have in the subdivision of Revelation from 4:1 to 8:1 is a court scene in which a will or testament is to be opened. In the context of Revelation, this will or testament would be a title-deed, as it were, to man’s lost inheritance—an inheritance which has been repurchased by Christ, the Lamb. Thus the scroll is a book of destiny. The opening of it means inheritance in God’s kingdom; its remaining closed means forfeiture. No wonder John wept when he thought no one could open the scroll.”

Kenneth Strand, *Interpreting the Book of Revelation*, page 55



# The Sealed Scroll

“There in His open hand lay the book, the roll of the history of God's providences, the prophetic history of nations and the church. Herein was contained the divine utterances, His authority, His commandments, His laws, the whole symbolic counsel of the Eternal, and the history of all ruling powers in the nations. In symbolic language was contained in that roll the influence of every nation, tongue, and people from the beginning of earth's history to its close.”

Manuscript Release, Volume 9, page 7

# The Qualifications

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One of the twenty-four elders, a redeemed saint, understands John dilemma

“**Worthy**” summarized the unique qualification for a special position or task which no one possessed but God

God the Father is **worthy** alone to receive all honor and glory (Rev 4:10,11)

Now the Victorious Lion is pronounced **worthy** to open the scroll, to open its seals, to receive all honor and glory of kingship, and to receive worship

“Do not weep. Behold the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and loose its seven seals” – vs 5

“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? 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.” (Gen 49:9-10)

The strength, courage and majesty of the lion is a fitting symbol of the Messiah



# The Root of David

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Root (Rhiza in Greek), also denotes a sprout or shoot which springs from a root

“There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a **Branch shall grow out of his roots.**” – Isa 11:1

“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the **Root** and the **Offspring of David**, the Bright and Morning Star.” – Rev 22:16

Jesus was both the sustainer and descendant of David

“Then speak to him, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, saying: “Behold, the Man whose name is the **BRANCH!** From His place He shall branch out, and He shall build the temple of the Lord. Yes, He shall build the temple of the Lord. He shall bear the glory and shall sit and rule on His throne. So, He shall be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.”’  
Zech 6:12-13

Standing in the midst of the throne, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain

Only One who could meet all qualifications: **Jesus the Sacrificial Lamb, the High Priest, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the King of kings, and Prince of peace**



# The Slain Lamb

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The Passover lamb was picked by an Israelite family on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the first month. It must be without spot or blemish. For 4 days, the family was to feed and care for it. On the 14<sup>th</sup> day, it was to be offered as a sacrifice as the Passover lamb.

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The **Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world!” – John 1:29

The Lamb-Lion-like figure had seven horns and seven eyes

**Horn** stands for strength and kingly power (Deut 33:17, I Sam 2:10). Seven horns denote fullness of power or **omnipotence**.

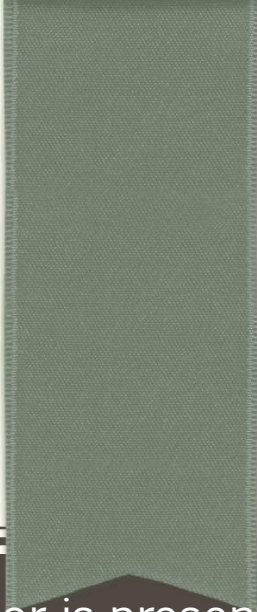
“To send forth” or “**To send out**” (Apostello – Greek) implies an official representative sent on a special task

Seven eyes denote **omniscience** (Zech 4:10). The seven Spirits of God refers to the sending of the Holy Spirit by Jesus throughout the world

“This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore, being exalted to the right hand of God and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.” – Act 2:32-33

The Holy Spirit could come only after Jesus had been enthroned and glorified





# The Slain Lamb of the God & The Lion of the tribe of Judah

“The Savior is presented before John under the symbols of “the Lion of the tribe of Judah” and of “a Lamb as it had been slain.” Revelation 5:5, 6. These symbols represent the union of omnipotent power and self-sacrificing love. The Lion of Judah, so terrible to the rejectors of His grace, will be the Lamb of God to the obedient and faithful. The pillar of fire that speaks terror and wrath to the transgressor of God's law is a token of light and mercy and deliverance to those who have kept His commandments. As the Lion of Judah, Christ will defend his chosen ones and bring them off victorious, because they accepted him as “the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” Christ the slain Lamb, who was despised, rejected, the victim of Satan's wrath, of man's abuse and cruelty,—how tender his sympathy with his people who are in the world! And according to the infinite depths of his humiliation and sacrifice as the Lamb of God, will be his power and glory as the Lion of Judah, for the deliverance of his people.

Acts of the Apostles, page 38  
Christ Triumphant, page 315



# The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

“Christ's ascension to heaven was the signal that His followers were to receive the promised blessing. For this they were to wait before they entered upon their work. When Christ passed within the heavenly gates, He was enthroned amidst the adoration of the angels. As soon as this ceremony was completed, the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples in rich currents, and Christ was indeed glorified, even with the glory which He had with the Father from all eternity. The Pentecostal outpouring was Heaven's communication that the Redeemer's inauguration was accomplished. According to His promise He had sent the Holy Spirit from heaven to His followers as a token that He had, as priest and king, received all authority in heaven and on earth, and was the Anointed One over His people.”

Acts of the Apostles, page 38

# Worthy is the Lamb

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“But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, **sat down at the right hand of God**” – Heb 10:12

“Which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and **seated Him at His right hand** in the heavenly places” – Eph 1:20

“Who has gone into heaven and is at the **right hand of God**, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him” – 1 Pet 3:22

“Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the **right hand of God**, who also makes **intercession** for us.”  
Rom 8:34

How important are the prayers of God’s people? They are treasured in golden bowls and presented before the throne of God as sweet-smelling incense.

Twenty-four elders redeemed from earth have bowls full of prayers of saints

The new song is only sung by those who are saved and redeemed

“They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and **no one could learn that song** except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.” – Rev 14:3





# Adoration and Praise

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All universe breaks forth as anthems of praise resound to the Lamb. John sees the millions of angels around the throne join in worship and praise

The scene of Rev 5 inaugurates Christ into His royal ministry and the sanctuary

“Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.” – Heb 8:1-2

The symbolic delivering of the sealed scroll into Christ’s hand was a formal ceremonial act where He was recognized as Supreme Ruler of the universe. It was a token of His inauguration into universal dominion and lordship over all

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “**All authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” – Matt 28:18

Jesus victorious death enabled Him to redeem from every tribe and tongue and people and nation slaves of sin, and make them a kingdom of kings and priests

Both the Father and the Son are adored and worshipped by all. This implies Their equality and joint co-Rulership on the throne of the universe

God’s people do not need to be afraid of what is to come upon the world, because the crucified, risen and glorified King is on the throne. Victory is assured



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