

## **Rev. 5:1-14 “The Book of Seals”**

**For the Children:** If you read a book that is too “old” for you, you won’t understand what it means. Some of the words will be too hard for you, and it will be hard to know what it’s really about. For many centuries, what Daniel and Ezekiel and other OT prophets wrote had been a mystery to God’s people. What was it all about? But the Lord Jesus knew exactly what these things were about. For He fulfilled them, by dying on the cross and rising again. He explains them in the NT so even young people can understand, with His help. **Questions:** What is God’s plan for the future of the world? What do you think about people who tell us their own ideas about the future of the world? What is the best way to stop being worried about the future?

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### **Introduction:**

#### **First Point: The Book That Could Not Be Opened**

- 1) The Identity of the Book: The Book is sealed to conceal information and to guarantee it – as in the OT visions of Dan. 12, Ezk. 2 and Is. 29:11-12. It also resembles the Roman custom of 7 witnesses sealing a last will & testament. Once Christ has died, the “will” can be opened and carried out. Its (covenant) benefits are so great, for so many people, that the Book has writing inside and out. The number 7 also implies fullness. But the Book is about God’s judgement on His enemies as well as about salvation
- 2) The Inability to Open It: Neither the strong angel, nor any other creatures of heaven or earth are worthy to open the seals and read the Book i.e., fulfill it
- 3) John’s Grief at This Failure: John is grieved that God’s plan for the world & history looks like remaining a closed book.

#### **Second Point: The Lamb Who Opened the Book**

- 1) Stop the Weeping: One of the elders tells John to stop weeping, because One is worthy after all – The Lamb
- 2) The Slain Lamb Who Overcomes: Christ is described as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:9) with 7 horns = symbols of power (as in Dan. 7). But His powerful overcoming is done by His death & resurrection as the Lamb (as in the Passover & Is. 53). He is the “slain” Lamb. He is also the One with 7 eyes, the all-seeing Spirit sent to do His will on earth. These are the attributes & works that make Christ worthy to open the Book, and to fulfill God’s plan for the world, by judgement and salvation
- 3) The Kingdom Established: His death has also purchased a people for a Kingdom of priests, for God’s glory. They serve, worship and witness to God. They begin their reign after Christ’s work is completed, and will reign even more perfectly in the new creation. The establishing of this Kingdom also shows how worthy Christ is to open the Book about God’s plan for the redemption of the world

#### **Third Point: Those Who Praise the Lamb for Opening the Book**

- 1) All Praise: All creation – the world in general (4 living creatures); the church (24 elders); and heaven (the angels) are seen gathered around the throne in the “heavenly command centre” praising God and His Christ. There are millions of them, praising and praying loudly. For the Lamb is “worthy” (used 4 times) both to open the Book and to receive all power and glory
- 2) The New Song: Their “new song” is a fresh outburst of praise at this new opening up of God’s plans through Christ. It is not by definition a modern hymn. See Pss. 33:3, 40:3 etc.
- 3) The Final Amen: The certainty that God’s plan of judgement, salvation and gracious reward will be executed is confirmed by the continual “Amen” of the 4 living creatures. There is no doubt that God’s people will receive their inheritance – no matter how much opposition we get

### **Conclusion:**

