

Pentwater Bible Church

Revelation Message 16

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Revelation Message Sixteen

GOD'S THRONE PT. III

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Chapter 5

Continuing in the Throne Room of the Universe. While the central character in chapter four was God the Father, here it is God the Son. He is called the Lamb here. We will also see how he has the legal right to carry out the responsibilities of the Great Tribulation. The seven spirits are present, the twenty-four elders and so are the Cherubim. There are also millions of angels who have entered the Throne Room.

Revelation 5:1–10

¹And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. ²And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. ⁴And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. ⁵And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. ⁶And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. ⁷And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. ⁸And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. ⁹And they sung a new song, saying, 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; ¹⁰And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth (KJV).

Revelation 5:1

¹And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the back, close sealed with seven seals (KJV).

God the Father has a “book” in His right hand, which is written on both sides and sealed with seven (7) seals. The right hand signifies honor (I Kings 2:19) and power (Mark 14:62). This designation of “book” is actually a scroll. The codex or books of leaves with bindings that we are familiar with did not come into being until early in the second century. This change was due to the Christian era writing and distributing the New Testament. Their size as well as the huge number of copies that flooded the Middle East, Europe and Africa required a more expeditious means of organizing and transmitting the documents.

Most scrolls prior to the codex were made of papyrus. Some, for wealthy individuals were made from animal skins. (Vellum) The papyri were usually 8” x 10” sheets joined horizontally. They were written in narrow 3” columns with 2 ½ “margins in top and bottom with 3 to 4” spaces

between the columns. They would then be rolled on a wooden roller. The Book of Jude, 2 & 3 John and Philemon would each be about 1 sheet. The Book of Romans would be about 11 ½ ft long; Mark 19 ft; John 23 ½ feet; Matthew 30 ft; Luke and Acts 32 feet and Revelation 15 feet.

This book in the hand of God is shut up and sealed; its contents are only known to Himself. It will be revealed as soon as He allows it to be opened. What is known unto God, and to Him alone, are all His works, from the beginning of the world; but it is His glory to conceal the matter as He pleases (Proverbs 25:2).

The number seven indicates completion; the contents were completely inaccessible except to only God. Here in He will have the final instructions to complete the destruction of this sinful world and bring in the Messianic Kingdom.

A sealed book, with conditions on the exterior and sealed, suggests a title deed. (Jeremiah 32) Roman law required that a will be sealed with seven (7) seals. This was how the wills left by Augustus and Vespasian were written. The only visible seal was the first one on the edge of the scroll. When that was removed then the scroll could be unrolled some distance to the next seal and so on. In a similar fashion, Exodus 32:15–16 describes the two stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments were engraved as “*inscribed on both sides, front and back.*” These tablets are the work of God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets. In a similar manner the writing on both sides of the scroll was put there by God. When God had chosen the prophet Ezekiel to proclaim His Words to the sinful Israelites, He put the message on a scroll written on both sides.

Ezekiel 2:7–9

⁷And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear; for they are most rebellious. ⁸But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee; be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house: open thy mouth, and eat that which I give thee. ⁹And when I looked, behold, a hand was put forth unto me; and, lo, a roll of a book was therein; ¹⁰and he spread it before me: and it was written within and without; and there were written therein lamentations, and mourning, and woe. (ASV, 1901)

Ezekiel is told to obey God and not become like the rebellious Jews. In confirmation of his ordination, God puts forth His hand with a scroll, which was written on both sides and rolled up. Scrolls were papyrus or leather sheets specially prepared for writing. They were sewn or glued together, inscribed, then rolled. Ezekiel is commanded to “*eat*” the scroll, which is God’s Word. Taking God’s Word deeply into his spirit and soul is the practical action that Ezekiel must perform to get highly motivated for a ministry of constant resistance coupled with stinging rejection. By taking in the truth of God’s Word, Ezekiel was getting the strongest preparation possible against the slanderous assaults that would be directed toward him as he carried out his assigned ministry activities. He is certain of the truth and origin of God’s Word. It will be a sword for him in the great spiritual battle he was facing. He submitted to the will of God and ate what God was offering to him. There is an important observation to make here regarding the importance that God’s Word played in Ezekiel’s ministry. Our responsibility is the delivery and explanation of God’s revelation, such as that given through Ezekiel, through the illumination given us by the Holy Spirit. Both delivery and explanation must faithfully communicate the meaning and significance of God’s Word. The delivery must be faithful. God will judge the teacher of His word in a stronger manner than other responsibilities:

James 3:1

¹*Be not many of you teachers, my brethren, knowing that we shall receive heavier judgment. (ASV, 1901)*

Revelation 5:2

²*And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a great voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof (KJV)?*

A strong angel now appears asking a key question regarding the eligibility of one who would open the book and unseal the seals.

Revelation 5:3

³*And no one in the heaven, or on the earth, or under the earth, was able to open the book, or to look thereon (KJV).*

Initially there did not appear that anyone was qualified to open this title deed/will/contract in the right hand of God the Father

The three realms identified are:

1. In Heaven
2. On the earth
3. Under the earth

This is a biblical way of talking about the universe as it was conceived including the nether world and Heaven. It was thought to have three parts: the world of heavenly beings, the world of earthly beings, and the world of the dead (Philippians 2:10). The world of the dead (*under the earth*) was called Sheol (in Hebrew) or Hades (in Greek).

Revelation 5:4

⁴*And I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open the book, or to look thereon: The apostle John starts weeping because there is no one worthy (KJV).*

Worthiness as in Revelation 4:11 implies deity-worthy of our worship. Those falling short of this nature are in the three realms listed above.

Heaven-angelic
On the earth-human
Under the earth-demonic

Christ qualifies as the kinsman of Adam

Revelation 5:5

And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not; behold, the Lion that is of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath overcome to open the book and the seven seals thereof (KJV).

The Lion of the Tribe of Judah is a reference to the Lord Jesus Christ. (Genesis 49:8-12) He came through the tribe of Judah. When Jacob was on his deathbed, he gave prophecies to all his sons. Jacob assembled his sons together as he lay on his deathbed, to confer upon each of them their prophetic futures. Being driven by God's Spirit, he would speak to each of them, and this was not going to be any ordinary conversation.

JUDAH'S BLESSING

Genesis 49:8–12

⁸Judah, thee shall thy brethren praise: Thy hand shall be on the neck of thine enemies; Thy father's sons shall bow down before thee. ⁹Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, thou art gone up: He stooped down, he couched as a lion, And as a lioness; who shall rouse him up? ¹⁰The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh come: And unto him shall the obedience of the peoples be. ¹¹Binding his foal unto the vine, And his ass's colt unto the choice vine; He hath washed his garments in wine, And his vesture in the blood of grapes: ¹²His eyes shall be red with wine, And his teeth white with milk. (ASV, 1901)

Israel said, "Judah thou, thee will thy brethren praise! thy hand in the neck of thy foes! to thee will thy father's sons bow down!" Israel is no longer giving bleak prophecies, and starts out this prophecy with the praise Judah will receive from his brethren. Interestingly, that is what his name means in Hebrew, "praise," He had already demonstrated his superior character by not going along with his brothers to kill Joseph, and then pleading with Joseph to save Benjamin. He offered himself in place of Benjamin for surety.

Judah's success was affirmed in other Scriptures (2 Samuel 22:4; Psalm 18:40). He also gained preeminence over the other tribes. In Numbers 2:9, during the wilderness wanderings, Judah "*set forth first.*" In Numbers 10:14, he headed the march through the wilderness. In 1 Chronicles 5:2, Judah prevailed above his brethren. In Judges 1:1–2, Judah is chosen by God to go up first against the Canaanites. Judah's tribe was loyal to the house of David at the time of the revolt of the ten tribes (1 Kings 12:20). They were commissioned by God to lead the conquest of the Promised Land (Judges 1:1–3; 4–21). The tribe of Judah gave us King David (2 Samuel 2:1–11, 5:4–5).

The description of Judah's power is found in four phrases:

- A "*lion's whelp*" emphasizes power, vigor, and nobility.
- "*From the prey he has gone up*" emphasizes his success in killing his prey.
- "*Stooped down*" as a crouched lion means he is ready to pounce.
- "*As a lioness; who will rouse him?*" means he is pictured as a strong lion, and not to be idly toyed with.

Judah is therefore pictured as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. In Numbers 24:9, Balaam uses the same illustration for Israel.

Jacob said to Judah that, "*The sceptre shall not depart from Judah.*" The "*scepter*" is a short, decorated staff, which only a monarch possesses. It is a clear indication of power, and indicates a right to rule. As the prophecy moves on it says, "*Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,*" meaning that the Messiah's theocratic rule will not end, and He will have a theocratically administered kingdom. The judicial, or civil rule, will go until "*Shiloh come.*" "*Shiloh*" is a

prophetic name for the Messiah. Its specific meaning is “whose it is.” So, this verse means that the civil or judicial rule by Judah will continue until the Messiah comes. The theocratic rule will go on forever.

The term “*scepter*” also refers to their tribal identity, the right to apply and enforce Mosaic Law, and to adjudicate capital offenses. It is significant that even during their seventy-year Babylonian captivity, from 606 to 537 B.C., the tribes retained their tribal identity (McDowell, 1986). The early rabbis and Talmudic authorities understood the term “*Shiloh*” as referring to the Messiah (Levy, 1974)

The prophecy continues with another illustration of the Messiah being strong. “*Binding his foal unto the vine*” is an illustration of Judah, like a vine that so strong, that if the foal moves his head, even a strong colt, the vine would not break. Normally, a colt could easily pull out the vines to which he is tied. “*And his ass’s colt unto the choice vine*” means that the “*choice vine*” is an indication of abundance, or wealth. Another Messianic aspect of this verse refers to when Messiah is presented, He will be riding on an ass.

Next, the prophecy says, “*He hath washed his garments in wine, And his vesture in the blood of grapes.*” This is directly from Isaiah 63:1–6 and Revelation 14:17-20. It closes with, “*His eyes shall be red with wine, And his teeth white with milk.*” This indicates abundance. It does not indicate intoxication, just simple abundance. Jesus is “All in All.”

We also know that he overcame and is now qualified to carry out the commanding role in initiating the Great Tribulation. How it is that He has overcome? The most important reason is because He took the sins of the world upon Himself at the cross. But there is also a legal reason that He prevailed and is now fully qualified.

In the Bible there are three concepts regarding the Law that we need to identify and explain.

Laws are presented in the Torah followed by an example in the writings and they culminate in the New Testament with a fulfillment. It is important to realize that the Lord Jesus said that He fulfilled the Law completely.

Matthew 5:17-18

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled (KJV).

This is the case of the following three legal characteristics, which He fulfilled and qualifies Him in a strict legal sense to take the scroll. (title deed)

The avenger of blood-Goel

The law of levirate marriage

The Goel or Kinsman Redeemer

Within the Mosaic penal code is the principle of strict but righteous retribution for the murder of a relative. This has as its purpose, eradicating evil and producing reverence for the righteous God. The concept of avenging is appropriate since God sanctions it. Vengeance is different and belongs only to God.

Moses gave the following directions for the avenger of blood:

The willful murderer was to be put to death without permission of compensation, by the nearest of kin.

The Law of retaliation (Lex Talionis) was not to extend beyond the immediate offender. (Deuteronomy 24:16; 2 Kings 14:6; 2 Chronicles 25:4 etc.)

If a man took the life of another without hatred (2nd degree or manslaughter) he was permitted to flee to one of the cities of refuge. He could stay there protected. If he left the city he was liable to the avenger. When the High Priest died he then was able to resume normal life and the avenger had no claim. This is another picture of Jesus. He is our High Priest. He died so that we can be released from being locked in our sins.

Moses gave the following instructions for the Law of Levirate Marriage: (Deuteronomy 25:5-10) If brothers (on the father's side) lived together, that is in the same place, and one of them who was married died childless, the wife was not to go outside and marry a stranger. The closest surviving brother was to take her as his wife. The firstborn son of this union took the surname of the deceased thus continuing his name in the family register that it might not perish out of Israel. If he did not wish to perform, she could cite him legally before the elders. This consisted of him having his sandal pulled off and she could spit in his face. Pulling off the sandal signified that he gave up all claim to the deceased brothers estate. Spitting was an act of humiliation.

Moses gave the following instructions for the Goel or Kinsman Redeemer:

The "kinsman redeemer" is called a Goel. The word means to redeem, receive or buy back. Provision was made in the Law of Moses for the poor person who was forced to sell part of his property or himself into slavery. His nearest of kin could step in and "buy back" what his relative was forced to sell (Leviticus 25:48).

The kinsman redeemer was a rich benefactor, or person who frees the debtor by paying the ransom price.

Leviticus 25:25

²⁵If thy brother be waxed poor, and sell some of his possession, then shall his kinsman that is next unto him come, and shall redeem that which his brother hath sold (ASV, 1901).

The nearest of kin had the responsibility of redeeming his kinsman's lost opportunities. If a person was forced into slavery, his redeemer purchased his freedom. When debt threatened to overwhelm him, the kinsman stepped in to redeem his homestead and let the family live. If a family member died without an heir the kinsman gave his name by marrying the widow and rearing a son to hand down his name (The Goel is the also the brother who fulfills the law of Levirate Marriage).

We see the concept of the Kinsman-Redeemer or Goel acted out in the book of Ruth. The Goel is Boaz. Ruth, a Gentile from Moab is the widow of a Jewish man whose father had sold their land because of debts.

The book of Ruth is a story about Naomi's Goel. Naomi (Pleasant One), a picture of Israel, had wandered away from Bethlehem (house of bread). She was the poorest person in Israel, but her kinsman was the richest man in Israel. Because of the death of her husband, Elimelech (God is my king), and two sons Mahlon (sick) and Chilion (pining), she and her daughters-in-law lost all

income and their homestead. Naomi was living in a foreign land and sensed the loss of her homeland and relatives. She became bitter. The secret of all her daughter-in-law Ruth had was in union with Boaz (In him is strength). The nearer kinsman, (a picture of the law) had the first right to the property and Boaz came next after him. If Ruth's closer relative would not redeem or purchase it, Boaz was prepared to do so. The man who was nearest of kin agreed to redeem the piece of land until he found out there was a young widow (Ruth) involved. He graciously backed out because it would mar his own inheritance (Ruth 4:6)! That left Boaz as the rightful nearest of kin who had the privilege of redeeming her land and her with it. The Gentile and the Jew became one. (1 Corinthians 12:13)

Boaz was nearest of kin to her deceased husband (Ruth 2:1). He was able to redeem by paying the price of redemption (2:1), and he was willing to redeem the land (4:4). That is what makes this story so beautiful. (A picture of the Church)

Four qualifications were required in order for a kinsman to redeem:

1. He must be near of kin. (Leviticus 25:48; 25:25 Ruth 3:12–13)
2. He must be able to redeem (Ruth 4:4–6).
3. He must be willing to redeem (Ruth 4:6ff)
4. Redemption was completed when the price was completely paid (Leviticus 25:27; Ruth 4:7-11).

We see these concepts Fulfilled in the New Testament in Jesus the Christ.

Consider the Following:

Jesus paid the price. He is our Goel!

He is going to redeem the land (take it back from Satan)

He is a Jewish man who took a Gentile Bride. (Gentiles in the Church)

He is the nearest of Kin to Jews and Gentiles through the incarnation.

He is the avenger of blood for Satan killing Adam and Eve. (Spiritually and limiting their human lives)

By receiving the scroll, He is taking back (redeeming) the earth.

Jesus Christ is our Goel. Jesus is your nearest kinsman through the incarnation.

Romans 8:3

³For what the Law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the fles(KJV).

In His incarnation, He was like us in every way except that He never sinned.

Hebrews 2:17

¹⁷Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people (KJV.)

In order to identify Himself with us He became a servant

Philippians 2:7-8

⁷ but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸ and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross (KJV).

Hebrews 4:15

¹⁵For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin (KJV).

Christ was filled with the Holy Spirit from the womb. Jesus Christ was anointed with the Holy Spirit to be a prophet, a priest, and a king. When the Lord was upon earth during His first advent, the apostle John recorded the following: “*Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God*” (John 1:33b, 34). And the apostle Paul also relates this fact; “*For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily*” (Colossians 2:9). The Holy Spirit descended and rested upon Him at His baptism, as the apostle Matthew records:

Matthew 3:13–17

¹³ Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. ¹⁴ But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? ¹⁵ And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. ¹⁶ And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: ¹⁷ and lo a voice from heaven, saying, This, is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased (KJV, underlining added).

The Holy Spirit came upon Jesus and never left Him. So, within Jesus He had His own role in the God Head, and in the flesh, He had the Holy Spirit providing an additional enablement with His (Holy Spirit's) personality. In other words, Jesus Christ had the fulness of the Godhead dwelling in Him.

Revelation 5:6

⁶And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, having seven horns, and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent forth into all the earth (KJV).

The lamb appears 28 times in Revelation. He is in the middle (centrality) of all things. He has the seven angelic spirits in waiting for the go ahead to carry out the Tribulation. He has the marks of the death He suffered upon Him.

Revelation 5:7

⁷And he came, and he taketh [it] out of the right hand of him that sat on the throne (KJV).

The ONLY one who is worthy receives the title deed of the earth from God the Father.

Revelation 5:8

⁸And when he had taken the book, the four living creatures and the four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having each one a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints (KJV).

Our prayers as believers are sent up to God's Throne Room and used for His purposes distributed by the Cherubim and these now in heaven, the Church. They begin to worship the Lord Jesus. This is a picture of true worship. Falling down before the Lord Jesus is the picture of how He is to be worshipped. Do you get down before Him physically (humble yourself) when you pray? Listen carefully to the words of our praise songs and hymns. Many tell of us bowing before Him. This is what is expected by this verse. The day is coming when every knee will bow before Jesus. Do you do this? Or do you not take these things seriously? Or maybe you think that they do not pertain to you.

Philippians 2:10

¹⁰That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth (KJV);

We must take the Bible seriously and do what it says. We are not simply to listen and believe. We must be doers or the Word not just hearers.

James 1:22

²²But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves (KJV).

Revelation 5:9–10

⁹And they sing a new song, saying, Worthy art thou to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou was slain, and didst purchase unto God with thy blood [men] of every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation. ¹⁰and madest them [to be] unto our God a kingdom and priests; and they reign upon earth (KJV).

Peter said that we are a royal priesthood of believers. (I Peter 2:9) Christ is our Goel.

NEXT WEEK: REVELATION MSG. XVII

Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments

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