



Revelation 5: The Lamb on the Throne

Revelation 5: The Throne



All of chapter 4 is an introduction to the main point of chapters 4—5, that is, to introduce the scroll with its seven seals.

- Description of the Scroll:
 - Scroll is in God's right hand – a symbol of power; God has the power and authority to act
 - Scroll is focus of John's attention in Revelation 5
 - Jesus will open the scroll in Revelation 6
 - Its contents comprise almost all the revelation that will follow, which is God's sovereign plan for His creation (Rev 6-22)
 - Because scroll has writings on BOTH sides, it clearly has much to reveal
 - The contents of the scroll contains all of God's judgments for what will be the Tribulation/Great Tribulation period of humanity's final seven years under human government
 - Scroll was sealed with 7 seals
 - Under Roman law, people were required to seal their wills 7 times showing importance of it
 - 7 may also hint at the absolute inviolability of the scroll
 - Cannot be opened without divine authorization

Revelation 5: The Scroll



- The question is asked, "Who is worthy..."
- The identity of the powerful angel is simply unknown
- After he asks who is worthy to open it (v2), no one is immediately found (v3)
- John is so overcome, he begins crying that no one was worthy (v4)
- No CREATED being on earth or in heaven had authority to open the 7 sealed scroll
- An Elder comforts John telling him the Lion of Judah/Root of Jesse has "prevailed"
 - Overcome
 - Jesus lineage goes back to King David
 - These are divine titles for Jesus that only appear together in NT here
 - Christ was worthy because He overcame:
 - Satan
 - Sin
 - Death
 - Christ alone could implement God's purposes for future revealed in scroll



Revelation 5: The Lamb

- In his vision, John next sees the character of the Lamb
 - Greek *amion* = "little lamb" contrasted with
 - Lion of Judah
 - Little Lamb = meek and gentle – symbol of His first advent
 - Lion = picture of strength and majesty – symbol of His second advent
 - John used designation "little lamb" 29 times in Revelation
 - When Jesus returns, He will aggressively judge the world in righteousness (Ps 2)
 - John presents the little lamb as "victory through sacrifice"
 - Jesus as the Lamb was
 - Standing ready to complete His work
 - Bore marks of crucifixion – wounds, scars
 - Portrait of His death (as if slaughtered)
 - His total and continual self-sacrifice qualified Him for supreme power
- The Lamb had
 - 7 horns representing POWER and AUTHORITY
 - 7 eyes representing the fullness of His divine wisdom and discernment (Zech. 4:10)



Revelation 5: The Lamb

- 7 Spirits (v6)
 - Likely refer to BOTH – 7 horns and 7 eyes
 - We've met these 7 spirits before: Revelation (cf. 1:4; 3:1; 4:5)
 - Likely refers to the FULL energy and operation of the Holy Spirit
 - The idea is that spirit of God was fully in control of the Lamb and fully empowered Him
- Lamb takes the Scroll (v7)
 - Here we see God the Father on the throne
 - Jesus as the Lamb comes and TAKES the 7-sealed scroll
- Revelation 5 gives illustration of the ancient enthronement ceremony when kings ascended to the throne
 - The steps include:
 - Exaltation (v5)
 - Presentation (v6)
 - Enthronement (v7)



Revelation 5: Worship of the Lamb

- Transfer of Authority from the Father to the Lamb resulted in
 - praise, adoration and worship (v8)
- Golden bowls of incense = prayer of saints
 - Our prayers are like fragrant incense to God
- The enthronement of the Lamb complete, He now receives praise in the form of a NEW song (v9)
 - possibly commemorating a new deliverance for Creation which will soon occur
- Innumerable group join in praise
- John is unable to count the multitudes
- The Lamb deserves to receive
 - All power
 - Wealth
 - Wisdom
 - Might
 - Honor
 - glory, and blessing.
- All seven qualities belong intrinsically to Christ. But it is that fact that He was slaughtered that called forth this **praise**.



Revelation 5: Worship of the Lamb

- John sees in his vision, ALL Creation praising the Lamb (v13)
- This probably involves a FORWARD look to the end of history on this planet and every creature will bow the knee to Christ
- Chapters (4—5) present heaven, God's dwelling place, as a real place
- Even though John saw a vision, it was a vision of something that truly exists
- Revelation 5 sets forth the enthronement of Jesus as King on Earth
- Revelation 6 begins the release of Judgments from the 7 sealed scroll
- Revelation 5 is the pageantry leading up to that point
- The release of judgments could not occur until AFTER Jesus is enthroned as King over and on the earth
- By physically returning to rule planet earth
 - It proves ownership
 - Fulfills prophecy regarding God's promises to King David
