

IS NO ONE WORTHY? - Rv 5:1-4

07111P

INTRODUCTION

1. Sanctified imagination - be careful: idolatry [A17:29] Exo 20:2-5a
2. Biblically informed imagination - narrative; metaphor; analogy. 2T 2:3-7
3. Rv 4 use imagination - 4:1-2 a throne & a Kg. 5:1 *right hand - a book*.
 - i. Throne of the Divine King - 4:8 God revealed in heaven
 - ii. Heaven - temple/palace - Moses copied. Rv 4-5: God's palace

1st: What is *the book*? - v1

1. v1 - *right hand - Him on throne*: Not use name [IIIrd]. Anthropomorphism: *right hand* - power & authority. Scroll authored by God.
 - i. God's will [4:11] - in creation & providence [unfolding of history].
 - ii. God's *will* unites creation to salvation - Eph 1:3-12
2. *book* - written on both sides. cf. Dan 7&12 - assoc'd w/ God's throne. As seals broken, scroll unfurl - incremental disclosure & implementation
3. *7 seals*: wax - authenticity; authority. #7 => perfection of divine purpose.
4. What is written? Ezek 1:9-10 [3:1ff - Rv 10:8-11]. Dan 12:4 - Rv 22:10
 - i. Rv, like Dan, is prophecy in apocalyptic genre re: an epoch of RH.
 - ii. Symbol of the exercise of God's sov'ty - implementation of decree in history - tw/ 1st & 2nd comings of Christ.
 - iii. Decree re: judgment & salvation

Applic #1: We are taught that God's will is all-encompassing .

Applic #2: We are taught that God's will is settled in advance of what occurs in space-time history. Here is basis of prophecy.

2nd: What is the Significance of "Opening" the Book?

1. v2 - bk is opened => disclosure of *mystery* - Rm 16:25-27
2. Opening of seals => implement the already "written" God's decretive will.
3. Seals: literary markers that advance narrative of 2nd cycle wh/ runs parallel w/ the other cycles. see structure of Rv - 0920&2720S].

4. 1st 6 seals in chpt 6 - 4 horsemen; martyrs in heaven & earthquake / wrath
 - i. 6th seal - events assoc'd w/ 2nd coming & FJ [end of chpt 6]
 - ii. Chpt 7- heavenly throne room: intermediate state. 7th seal [8:1] is dramatic: silence in heaven - then 3rd cycle of 7 trumpets.

3rd: Who is Worthy to Open the Book?

1. v2 - *strong angel* cf. 10:2; 18:21
2. *proclaiming*: continual act: calls but no one steps forward: tension builds
3. *Who is worthy...* Search for a person: *who* is worthy. Feel the tension. Destiny of the cosmos is at stake!

4th: The Unworthiness of Idolatry

1. v3 - *no one*: emphatic: not even one. The quest of mankind since expulsion from Eden.
2. Exo 20:2-5a regions from wh/ men manufacture idols: *heaven, earth, under the earth*: encompasses all creation.
 - i. none w/ ability *to open book*:
 - ii. none qualified *to look into book*:
3. Feel the weight of the failure - *no one is worthy*. v4 - *weep greatly* - *no hope, w/o God, in the world* [Eph 2:12]
4. An odd place to end a sermon? *Vanity of vanities!* [Eccl 1:2] -> idolatry -> *shame*: misplaced trust - for an eternity! Can we shed a tear at the thot of *no one worthy*?
5. We cannot end on note of despair - Lk 6:21; Rv 21:4.