

Revelation Chapter 5

We join again in the wonder of this holy, heavenly scene; where the 4 creatures are worshipping God for who He is.

And the 24 elders respond to that with their worship of Him for His acts of creation.

We now rejoin these 28 in heaven in the midst of their worship to behold an incredible scene.

5:1-4

:1

1. The right hand of God points to the importance of the scroll.
2. That it is written on the inside and on the back speaks to its comprehensive nature.
3. 7 seals were typical of an ancient will. 7 witnesses were needed to seal a will and they would do so each with a seal. Only when the 7 were present could the will be opened.
4. The 7 seals may also represent the profound secrecy of the documents.

Some see here an allusion to Jeremiah 32 where God tells Jeremiah to buy a field even though Jerusalem was about to be taken captive by the Babylonians. Though it would make no sense to buy a field in a doomed city, God instructs Jeremiah to do so, indicating the assurance that God's people would be restored to the Promised Land.

With this view in mind, this scroll would be the deed to our Promised Land that we will be restored to even though God will roll up the heavens like a scroll and destroy the earth with fire.

Others see a fulfilled picture of Ezekiel 2:9,10 where Ezekiel is told by God to eat a scroll that is written on front and back with mournings and woes written upon it.

:2

Strong angel is required because the invitation for someone worthy is given to the entire population of heaven and earth and sea.

:3

The significance of this scroll is emphasized in the simple fact that no king, emperor, Caesar, or anyone else in or under the heavens is worthy to open it, or even to look at it.

:4

John may be weeping because in **4:1** he was told that he would be shown these things and now there appears an impediment to that.

Also, it may seem to John here that mankind had become so corrupt that it had exhausted God's mercies. He may recall the promise given to Amos in **Amos 3:7** "Surely the LORD God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets".

If no one is found worthy, then God's ultimate plans for His people will remain sealed and go unfulfilled.

:5

But now another announcement! And this one from one of the 24 elders.

"Lion of the tribe of Judah" see **Genesis 49:9,10**

"The Root of David" see **Isaiah 11:1**

"has conquered" or "prevailed" this phrase comes 1st in the sentence giving it its emphasis. It could read "*Behold, He has conquered, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David*" This is what this book is truly about.

:6

In the midst of all the amazing visions of thrones and creatures and elders, in their very midst, or middle, is the One found worthy.

So, who must this Lion be? It is fitting that He is a Lion since He has authority over the scroll both to open it and to carry out its judgments. This must be a truly extraordinary Lion King. This must be some Mufasa!

But it's not a Lion, it's a Lamb. What a turn of events. And He appears to have been slain, yet He is standing

"7 horns" – complete omnipotence. El Shaddai, God Almighty

“7 eyes” – complete omniscience. Thorough ministry to us. Refers again back to **Isaiah 11:2**

“Standing as slain” is an apparent contradiction.

So is an empty tomb.

Christ reverses all of the ‘normalities’ that hinder our blessedness.

The curse brought us into a darkness of misunderstanding. Christ came to reverse those misunderstandings.

“It is more blessed to give than receive”

“It is better to lend without expecting repayment”

“Outward beauty vs. Inward beauty” I **Peter 3:3** and **Matthew 23 and 27**

But it can be more serious than darkened misunderstandings. It can be about actual curses.

Curse of Eve eating from the tree – reversed at the Last Supper

Curse of Adam – reversed on the cross

Curse of Babylon reversed at Pentecost

:7

See **Daniel 7:13,14**

:8

This scene’s weighty magnificence and glory and importance are seen in the simple fact that the Lamb receiving the scroll begins an eruption of worship that grows out in exponential fashion (28, to 10,000 x 10,000 and thousands upon thousands, to every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea)

The harp (or lyre), along with the trumpet are the only instruments mentioned in heavenly worship.

The incense is for the prayers of the people

Prayer and worship are given to us as a participation in the heavenly reality.

:9

His worthiness is connected to His sacrifice on the cross.

See **Philippians 2:5-10**

“By Your blood” Without the shedding of blood there is no sacrifice for sins **Hebrews 9:22**
and, it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins **Hebrews 10:4**

“out of every tribe, tongue, people, and nation”

This reflects the early movement of the Gospel out of Jerusalem into the world as seen in **Acts 8, 9, and 10**

:10

Unusual combination of kings and priests here.

Kingdom may be a better translation.

Jesus set the mold for being the only King and Priest, through the order of Melchizedek.

See **Genesis 14** and **Hebrews 7**

:11-14

The worship moves its celebration of Jesus from His act of redemption (**vv. 9,10**)

To His perfect Kingship (**v. 12**)

To celebrating the “It is finished” aspect of His work (**V13**)