



The Book of Revelation: Week 11

Chapter 5:

The Glory Of The Son

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Review

- In Chapter 1, we saw Jesus revealing Himself to John in His glory. Then we studied Jesus' letters to the seven churches in Chapters 2 and 3, which were letters to those churches, but also to us. The Lord's words in those chapters are vitally important instruction for all of us who live in the last days.
- Now we've come into the visionary portion of the book. Chapter 4 began a series of visions which continue to the end of the book. The rest of the book is a series of prophetic experiences which lays out for us God's program of the end times.
- We also talked about how much of what John sees is in chronological order, but in some cases there are cutaway scenes or flashbacks. Almost everything John sees centers around a pivotal period of time that will last for seven years. When those seven years are completed, Jesus will return in power and glory.
- In Ch. 4 the Father is exalted as Creator; in Ch. 5, the Son as Redeemer.

Revelation 5

1 And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. **2** Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" **3** And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. **4** So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.

5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." **6** And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. **8** Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. **9** And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, **10** and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."

11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, **12** saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!" **13** And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

14 Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever. **(Revelation 5:1-14, NKJV)**

The Presentation of the Son (Amplifies the vision of Daniel chapter 7)

9 *“I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; **10** A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened....*

13 *“I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. **14** Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed. **Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 (NKJV)***

1 And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

- The seven seals here are just one more example of how the number seven is woven throughout the Book of Revelation. Every time there's a seven, God is making a statement that this is a picture of spiritual perfection.
- Sometimes scrolls were also written upon on the outside as well, to provide a summary.

2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?” 3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. 4 So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.

- Someone suitable must be found who has the right, and the ability to execute the plan of God. One theory says that Heaven was looking for someone who was totally and completely morally pure. But Jesus is worthy to open the scroll because he was slain and because he redeemed us.
- Some people believe that scroll is connected to the ownership of the world and the right to run the world system.

The Kinsman-Redeemer

- When God created Man, He gave him dominion over the world. The “world” mean is how the world works: its governments, its cultures, and its systems.
- The Bible also says that the earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof. God owns this planet, but someone else is exercising dominion over the systems.
- Satan took dominion from Adam through sin. The Bible says that to whomever you yield yourselves as servants to obey, you are that person's servant. This happened to humanity. When the devil showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world, claiming ownership of the world, Jesus did not dispute it.
- Jesus said later on in the Gospels that the devil was the prince of this world. The devil is the prince of the power of the air and the “god of this age.”
- Jesus now has all authority in heaven and earth. However, we do not yet see Jesus exercising all of his authority, taking his power to himself and reigning.

- If Jesus has all authority and can take back the world from the devil, why has he not done so yet? The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, but he is patient, and not willing that any should perish.

Adam's Lease?

- Is there a specific time which God has appointed? This is the idea which people sometimes refer to as Adam's Lease.
- This could explain why John was weeping. Being a Jewish person, John knew that if property were to be lost, there was a time that was limited for redemption.
- In Jewish culture, if you were not able to redeem your property, a relative could redeem that property for you so that it would not be lost to your family forever.
- If time went by and no one could redeem the property, then it would be lost forever. In Revelation 5, Jesus is our kinsman-redeemer!
- Why couldn't God just come down **take** the world back from the Devil? The reason is simple: God gave the world to us. Only a man could be the Redeemer.
- But where could we find a suitable Man – free from the sin of Adam, and pure enough to die for others?

5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

- Notice that Jesus still identifies with David, and the Tribe of Judah. He is the *root* which the Bible prophesied would spring up from the line of David. You can read about this in Isaiah 11: *And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse [David's father], and a Branch shall grow out of his roots...*
- God says, *"I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who shall fulfill all my will."* Jesus is the ultimate example of someone after God's heart, who fulfills all God's Will. So He is not ashamed to call Himself after David.

6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

- Here at the throne of God, we see the Lamb standing. He's a powerful Lion, and a Lamb, combining those things in Himself.
- The fact that He has seven eyes means he seals up the perfection of wisdom.
- In the Hebrew mind, horns were a symbol of power, and kingship. So the fact that the Lamb has seven horns means Jesus has received all power from God.
- As the Anointed One, Jesus possesses all the fullness of power and wisdom!

He conquered as a Lamb, not merely a Lion

- It wasn't through His omnipotence that God defeated Satan, but by the sacrifice of Jesus! Here is where we see the power and wisdom of God displayed.
- It is through the foolishness of the Cross that God saved the world; the weakness of God displayed on the cross is stronger than the strength of men. The foolishness of God is stronger than the wisdom of men.

- The Cross was the wisest and most powerful plan God could have devised. It was not the wisdom of this world, nor of the demonic princes, but it's a wisdom which none of the princes of this world knew, or else they would never have crucified the Lord of glory.
- It's no accident that the commission to Jesus to rule the world has at its very center the Cross, and His death.

7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

- Jesus comes before the Father just as prophesied in Daniel 7 and receives the commission to fully execute the Will of God.
- Imagine being summoned to that Throne, and being so confident in God's Love for you that you could come and take something out of that Hand!

8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

- Each one has a harp, and lifts up worship to God continually.
- The prayers of the saints always arise before God and they are gathered in these golden bowls. The Bible portrays our prayers as incense.

9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."

- As kings, we rule with Him. As priests, we intercede for others, and we represent them before God. They also confess that they will reign upon the Earth.

11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

- As God, He already possesses these things, but as the perfect Man He now deserves them as well. He is worthy to rule the Earth and the Universe for God!

13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: “Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!”

- All creation honors Him with four attributes. Four is the number of Creation.

14 Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

- The elders fall down to worship the Father, not only because of His glory, but because they are awestruck by the wisdom of the plan of God to exalt the Son.

“Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!”

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