

## REVELATION: CHAPTER 5

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**Rev 5:1** And 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.

- Throughout the New Testament "right hand" denotes authority given by the Father, a place of authority and also as a recognition of fellowship: Mat 20:22-23; Act 2:34-35; Gal 2:9.

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- Here, God (*the One on the throne*) has the authority to hold the scroll and give it to whomever He deems worthy. The papyrus (*or animal skin*), made of connecting pages side to side and rolling the whole of it into a book (*Gk.975- roll: - scroll*) was usually written on one side. This vision shows the fullness of the message being written on front and back of each page. Each of the seven connected pages were sealed (*usually with melted wax and then pressed with a signet ring before hardening*). The seven (*complete*) seals meant that the visions were perfectly sealed.

John was told of "the things that must soon take place" and of "what must take place after this" (1:1; 4:1).

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**Rev 5:2** And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

- strong angel- (10:1; 12:7-9; 18:21) indicates a degree of authority among these heavenly beings. Strong and worthy are not synonymous. He may have been able but did not have the right to control what was to be revealed.

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**Rev 5:3** And no man in Heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

- No one in all of God's creation was worthy to bring the visions of the scroll to fruition, or even to peek into its content (*in Heaven or in earth or those under it, possibly referring to the Hadean realm*).

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 ("neither under the earth" was not in the original manuscript according to Neil Lightfoot. *How We Got The Bible, pages 21-23*)  
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**Rev 5:4** And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

- In disappointment John wept. The revealing was so close but, at this point, without a revealer.

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**Rev 5:5** And 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.

- Lion-

Gen 49:9 Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him? 10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until Tribute (*Heb.7886- Shiloh, an epithet for the Messiah.*) comes to him; and to Him shall be the obedience of the peoples. (*ESV*)

- tribe of Judah-

Heb 7:14 For *it* is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.

- Root of David- Read Isa 11:1-10.

Rom 1:3 Concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

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- hath prevailed- He defeated Satan (*through His death, burial and resurrection- Heb 2:14-15*) which was a prerequisite to opening the scroll.

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**Rev 5:6** And 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.

- John was expecting to see a being of strength (*lion*) but saw this seemingly helpless, humble creature Who was able/worthy (*through His lion-like courage and strength*) to open the scroll! Among those mentioned in this verse was a Lamb "standing" (*indicating He conquered death*) Who bore the marks of One Who had been slain (*via crucifixion*): Isa 50:6; 52:14; 53:7; Jn 1:36.

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He as King (*Lion*) was a suffering Servant (*Lamb*) (*Php 2:7*). John witnessed the crucifixion...

Joh 19:26 When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple standing by, whom He loved, He saith unto His mother, Woman, behold thy son! 27 Then saith He to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own *home*.

... so he knew what he saw was the crucified, yet risen, figure of Jesus: Jn 20:24-28.

Read Exo 12:3-13.

1Co 5:7 Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, **our Passover lamb** has been sacrificed. (*Emp. added*) (*ESV*)

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- horns- symbol of strength: Deu 33:17; 1 Ki 22:11.
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- seven- perfect strength.  
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- seven eyes- the all-seeing fullness of the Holy Spirit (1:4; 3:1; 4:5, Mat 3:16; Lk 4:1) Zec 4:10.  
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**Rev 5:7** And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him that sat upon the throne.

- Only Christ was able to reveal the mysterious events of The Revelation (1:1) or to approach the throne of God in this manner: Jn 5:27.  
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**Rev 5:8** And 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.

- In Rev. 4:8-11 the creatures and elders are found worshipping God; upon retrieving the scroll Christ also becomes the object of their awe-filled reverence (*making Him equal to God*). Their prostration on this occasion showed their respect for Christ's authority.  
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- harp- symbol of praise (*not a literal instrument*).

Eph 5:19 addressing one another in psalms (*Gk.5568-piece of music, sacred ode*) and hymns (*Gk.5215-to celebrate*) and spiritual (*Gk.4152-non-carnal*) songs, singing and making melody (*Gk.5567-to twitch or twang*) to the Lord (*Thus, the instrument we are to play to the Lord is the heart!*) with your heart (*Gk.2588-the thoughts or feelings/mind*), (ESV)

- incense- Lev 16:12-13; Psa 141:2; Act 10:4; Lk 1:10/Exo 30:8.  
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- prayers of the saints- (*the royal priesthood- 1 Pet 2:9*) rise to God just as did the incense of the Old Testament in the tabernacle. Here it indicates intercession for spiritual Israel in both Testaments: Rev 8:3-4.

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**Rev 5:9** And 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;

- (14:1-3; 15:3) A new song for a special occasion.  
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- At the opening of the seals God's judgment and victory over the oppressors are reason for celebration. The saints from all walks of life ("*every tribe and language and people and nation*") had their souls purchased from Hell's fire with the ransom in blood paid at the cross of Christ: 1 Pet 1:18-19; Act 20:28 (*the blood was Christ's, Who is God, because the church was purchased with it when He came in the flesh- Heb 10:5*).

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1Co 6:20 For ye are **bought with a price**: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. (*Emp. added*)

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**Rev 5:10** And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

- Read Rev 1:5-6; 1 Pet 2:9; Rev 2:27. Because the church **is** (*presently*) this kingdom of priests (*royal priesthood*) on the earth she (*as the bride of Christ*) **now** reigns! Before Jesus ascended to His throne in Heaven (*Dan 7:13-14*), the church didn't reign with Him. This answers the question on the thief next to Jesus as to whether he was saved with no record of his baptism. How could he have emulated that process since, at that time, Jesus hadn't even died or been buried yet. The beatitudes were given with the understanding that the meek (*Gk.4239- humble*) would become heirs of the earth (*as responsible stewards to "go therefore and make disciples of all nations"- Mat 28:19*) once Christ returned to Heaven and His church was established.

Mat 5:5 Blessed *are* the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

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**Rev 5:11** And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

- The voice here is singular, in one accord. They are beyond numbering but of a definite amount (*Gen 2:1*)! Unlike 7:9.

Heb 12:22 But ye are come unto Mount Sion (*Heaven- Dan 2:45*), and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem (*the glorified church- chap. 21-22*), and to an **innumerable company of angels**, (*Emp. added*)

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**Rev 5:12** Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

- Read Dan 7:13-14. Christ did not "take" what was/is rightfully His!

Php 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

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- He is here recognized as worthy to have received these seven (*complete*) attributes because of His sacrifice paid in blood: Mat 28:18; Jn 5:27; 16:33; Zep 1:7; Heb 10:5; 10:10; 1 Pet 1:19.

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**Rev 5:13** And every creature which is in heaven (*Gk.3772-sky*), and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever.

- Read Psa 148:7-14. This is universal acknowledgement of Christ's power! He and His Father (*along with Holy*

*Spirit-Gen. 1:1*) created all things (*Rom 1:20*) and are the worthy recipients of the praise here (*4:11*). Each aspect of Their Being is eternal.

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**Rev 5:14** And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped Him that liveth for ever and ever.

- All is acknowledged by the four living creatures. The worship of the elders is their assent to the above recognition of the Godhead!

Worksheet  
**Revelation: Chapter 5**

1. Described the “sealed” document, and why it was “in the right hand” of God. (*v. 1*)
2. Why couldn’t a “strong angel” be “able to open the scroll or to look into it”? (*v. 2*)
3. Who is “the Lion of the tribe of Judah” and why was He worthy to “open the scroll”? (*v. 5*)
4. Explain what the “Lamb standing, as though it had been slain” means. (*v. 6*)
5. What are His “seven horns and seven eyes”? (*v. 6*)
6. What happened when the Lamb “had taken the scroll” and how does that action compare Him to God? (*v. 8*)
7. How do the “harp” and “golden bowls of incense” relate to New Covenant worship? (*v. 8*)
8. In the “new song” that those before the throne were singing, Who is the object of such praise and what is meant by the phrase “You ransomed people for God”? (*v. 9*)
9. Explain what it means to “reign on earth” in verse 10.
10. How many “angels” surround the throne of God in Heaven? (*v. 11*)
11. What are the seven-fold attributes “the Lamb Who was slain” is worthy of in verse 12?
12. From where does the voice proclaim such praise to “Him Who sits on the throne and to the Lamb”? (*v. 13*)