

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter 5

WHO IS WORTHY TO OPEN THE SCROLL?

- What is significant about the right hand?
 - Whose hand is this book in?
 - What is the significance of a scroll being written on both of the inside and outside?
 - So what is this book (scroll)?
 - Consider what happens later, when the book (scroll) is unsealed; consider the “big picture” of the other visions, too.
- About the seven seals...
 - What does seven mean?
 - What is a seal and what were they used for in the ancient world?
 - What do seven seals indicate here?
 - Interesting connection to Daniel 12:4,9
- What is the significance of a “strong angel” proclaiming, “Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?”
- Given what the book (scroll) is, what would it take to be a “worthy” opener?
 - How many candidates were “worthy”?
 - Given what the book (scroll) is, why did John weep?



Revelation 5

Rev. 5:1 I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the **throne** a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals.

² And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?”

³ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it. ⁴ Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it; ⁵ and one of

the elders *said to me, “Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.”

⁶ And I saw between the **throne** (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth.

⁷ And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the **throne**. ⁸ When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they *sang a new song, saying,

- Who is the Lion?
 - Not only is He from Judah and the Root of David, but what else makes Him worthy?
- What does a Lamb usually mean to us?
 - What would a Lamb mean to religious people of the first century?
 - So what does a Lamb standing, as if slain, look like?
 - What do horns mean in apocalyptic literature?
 - What would seven horns mean?
 - What do eyes signify?
 - How does John identify the seven eyes?
 - What are they supposed to do?
 - What comfort / message would...
 - Seven horns give to early Christians?
 - Seven eyes give to early Christians?
 - What does Jesus know?
 - What can He do about it?
- Taking the book (scroll) out of the hand of the One who sits on the throne means what?
- What is the meaning of the 4 living creatures (cherubim) and 24 elders falling before the Lamb with harps and bowls of incense?

• **A DOCTRINAL ASIDE...**

- A common argument over the years for the use of instrumental music in worship has been that harps are used (as here) in Heaven for heavenly worship.
- Please note several details here...
 - If harps are authorized, so is _____ incense
 - The word for sing in v. 9 is “_____” (to sing a cappella), thus, the presence of harps (as well as the bowls

of incense) in the text is merely _____ of worship and not an approved example for Christian worship.

- They sang a new song _____ (speaking)

“Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

¹⁰ “You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.”

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the **throne** and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.”

• **BACK TO THE MAIN POINT...**

- In this heavenly hymn of praise, what makes Jesus worthy to take the book and open the seals?
 -
 -
 -
- Reigning on the earth?
 - Reigning on the earth is not a promise to rule over a political, physical kingdom (Premillennial style), but is connected to the binding of Satan (Rev. 20:2) and the reign of the saints (Rev. 20:6) for 1000 years.
- How many is a myriad?
 - What would this crowd sound like in the following hymn?
 - What does this number hope to inspire in the readers?
- What is the Lamb worthy to receive?
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

¹³ And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying,

“To Him who sits on the **throne**, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.”

¹⁴ And the four living creatures kept saying, “Amen.” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

- And NOW who is joining the chorus?
- To Whom is this portion of the hymn directed?
- What do they say They are worthy to receive?
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____ (what’s this?)
- And the cherubim keep saying “_____!”
- Amen means _____
- The elders _____ in _____