

## The Scroll!

### Revelation 5

Last Sunday we began looking at the 3<sup>rd</sup> major section of Revelation which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> vision of John in Revelation. As we entered the throne room of God, we see John's description of worship around the throne in:

A. Worship Before God's Heavenly Throne 4:1-5:14

And last week we looked at chapter 4:

1. The Throne of God 4:1-11

Today we will move into chapter 5 where we are introduced to the Scroll.

2. The Scroll 5:1-5

Chapters 4-5 anticipate the coming judgement which is about to be poured out beginning in chapter 6. The scroll being opened begins the moment all of Christians and creation has been waiting for.

Romans 8:19-22, "For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not

by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time."

A sealed scroll is a deed or a contract. Dr. Robert Thomas writes, "The full contract would be written on the inner pages and sealed with seven seals. Then the content of the contract would be described briefly on the outside."

In Jeremiah 22 you have Jeremiah making a land purchase in this manner. The scroll that John sees in God's hand is the title deed to the earth. The cost will be revealed in chapter 6, which we will look at next week. It is also worth noting that in Ezekial 2 the prophet saw the same scroll.

Let's read:

Revelation 5:1-4, "Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" 3 But

no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. 4 I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.”

The mighty angel could have been Gabriel, it could have been Michael, we don't know, and John didn't tell us.

Can you feel the tension building? Do you see the drama unfolding? John sure did in that it moved him to tears. But he didn't have the inside scoop that the rest of the audience knew. He was weeping so loudly that we read this next:

Rev. 5:5, “Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

This is like 1998 Minnesota Viking Quarterback Randall Cunningham rearing back and throwing the football as hard and long as he could knowing that the rookie phenome Randy Moss was on the other end just waiting to bring it home. Before it was barely out of Cunningham's hand Viking fans were cheering because they knew what was going to happen. That

is what the elder here was bringing John into. Hey, don't worry, we are about to score a touchdown...Jesus is on our team.

All of heaven knew it was coming, they have been waiting for this moment for so long and God just stood up and put the scroll into play. This is what we are waiting for! The moment God hands the Scroll to Jesus the end is upon us.

The elder describes Him as the Lion of the tribe of Judah and the Root of David. These are two messianic names of Jesus. The elder is pointing to the only one who can open the scroll, and that person is Jesus.

You will also notice that the elder says that He has triumphed. This triumph points back to Jesus' work on the cross in which he conquers sin, death and the grave. It is that victory that gives Him the authority to open the scroll.

Can I get an AMEN!

### 3. The Lamb 5:6-8

Now, listen to this passage very closely.

Rev. 5:6-8, “Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. 8 And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people.”

John says he saw a lamb, the word he uses here reflects the tiniest of lambs, a pet lamb. Then he says that it looks as if it had been slain, but He is alive. What John is seeing is the lamb with its wounds clearly visible. The nail scars, the spear wound, the crown of thorns marks, the beatings...

Imagine this scene in heaven, the sacrificed lamb moves to the center and takes the scroll from God the Father. The place is going praiseworthy.

The 4 living creatures and the 24 elders fall down again in worship.

Now, notice this next part. They all had a harp...get use to it, music will be different in heaven...but notice the next part: they each had a golden bowl full of incense. Got that? Oh, the incense are the prayers of God’s people...our prayers...our prayers are the incense around the throne of God.

Your prayers are in those bowls. How important do you think it is to pray now?

#### 4. The New Song 5:9-14

Rev. 5:9-10, “And they sang a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”

In chapter 4 we had 2 songs and now here in chapter 5 we have the first of 3 new songs. It again affirms Jesus’ worth and authority to take the scroll and open the seals. Again, it reflects back upon His sacrifice. We will reflect on that sacrifice as we take communion later today.

By Jesus' blood He bought people from every tribe and language and people and nation. He bought people from all over the world! But that isn't all, He made them into a kingdom, making us priests to serve God and to reign on earth. Jesus did all that by His sacrifice!

There is no greater love than to lay down your life for another. Our God, our God, laid down His life for us, His disobedient children.

Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Now it takes another step up:

Rev. 5:11-12, "Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. 12 In a loud voice they were saying:

"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

OK, first, that's 100 million angels, all circling the throne. All singing the 4<sup>th</sup> song of this section of Revelation. Needless to say, there is a whole lot of singing going on up there.

But it doesn't stop there, it escalates again.

Rev. 5:13, "Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

This is the culmination of praise, as our redemption is made complete. Notice the last verse of all of the Psalms:

Psalms 150:6, "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord."

We have arrived at the crescendo of the worship service in heaven and here is how it looks:

Rev. 5:14, "The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped."

So be it, so be it. That is what Amen means.

100 million angels, all creatures in heaven and on earth all worshipping the Lamb. All worshipping Jesus, then He opens the scroll, but that is next week.