

In Revelation chapter 5, John calls attention to a special book held in God's right hand, and it is sealed with 7 seals. John wept because no one was found worthy to open this book. But then John saw the Glorious Lamb.

THE LAMB, JESUS CHRIST, IS THE ONLY ONE WORTHY TO OPEN THE SEALED BOOK OF JUDGMENTS.

1 The sealed book contains judgments that are to be opened onto the earth, 5:1.

A. What was it like?

Scroll: segment written on both sides, rolled & sealed; then another segment written, rolled & sealed, etc.

B. What did it signify?

Correlate 2 other scrolls in the Bible: 1] Jer. 32 - land title given to him as a scroll - signified possession of the property in Palestine. ==> Scroll has to do with title deed to the earth; right to rule; 2] Zech. 5:1-4 - flying scroll meant judgment.

Rev. 5 ==> Scroll contains judgments that are to be opened on the earth where eventually the King of Kings takes over the title deed to the whole earth (cf. Rev. 11:15).

2 A search was made for Someone worthy to take the book out of God's right hand, 5:2-5.

Why "search" when the Lamb was already there?

A. An angel asks "Who is worthy?" 5:2

B. A search found that no one was worthy, 5:3-4.

1. No one "was able" means no one "has the right / authority."

2. No one was found "worthy."

Word "worthy" is the Greek word axios, literally meaning "of proper weight" in the quality of his being, person, power, achievement.

3. John wept greatly because no one was worthy, 5:4.

Implication: John was so taken in by the grandeur of the throne room that he lost perspective and missed Jesus Christ, the central figure.

C. The only One found to be worthy was the Lion from the tribe of Judah, 5:5.

1. Jesus is the Lion from tribe of Judah.

Gen. 49:9-10 "Judah is a lion's whelp..."

"The scepter shall not depart from Judah...until Shiloh comes" (cf. Heb. 7:14; Num.24:17).

2. Jesus is the "Root of David" - cf. Isa. 11:1, 9-10 => Here "Root," not son of David!

cf. Rev. 22:16 "I am the root and the offspring of David" (Rom. 15:12).

3. Jesus "has overcome" already at the cross. Jesus' death on the cross qualified Him, and Him alone, to judge the world.

3 The Lion is the Lamb, Jesus Christ, who took this book of judgments from the Father, 5:6-7.

The "Lamb" is metaphorical description for Jesus Christ -- cf. John 1:48.

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.

A. What did John actually see & what was written symbolically?

B. The lion is the Lamb as if slain! => through death & resurrection He rules!

He is standing, not just seated at God's right hand. He is ready for action.

C. 7 horns => symbol of power and authority.

7 eyes are 7 Spirits => again, Holy Spirit in His fullness (cf. 1:4).

4 The worship is about Jesus as the worthy Lamb, 5:8-14

(Worship by 3 groups, each with a slightly difference emphasis on Jesus:)

A. Worship by singing a new song, 5:8-10

Worshippers, 5:8. 4 living creatures; 24 elders "fell down" in worship.

And they sang a new song, saying, "**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. You have made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."

Words, 5:9-10.

1. Jesus is worthy to judge the earth because of His work of redemption, 5:9.
We are His purchase, redeemed from every nation.
2. Jesus is worthy to judge the earth because of His work of reigning, 5:10.
We are His priests, who reign with Him over all the earth during the millennial kingdom.

B. Worship by loudly reciting, 5:11-12.

Worshippers, 5:11 -- many angels; 4 living creatures; 24 elders.

Words, 5:12 7-fold ascription of praise.

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

C. Worship by every created thing, 5:13-14.

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."
And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped.

Worshippers, 5:13a. "every created thing."

Words, 5:13b. The One on the throne and the Lamb are united as One G worthy of worship eternally.

Worship response, 5:14. "Amen!"

HEAVEN'S THRONE ROOM IS FILLED WITH WORSHIP BECAUSE THE GLORIOUS LAMB IS WORTHY TO JUDGE.

What will happen on earth is an extension of the authority of the Lamb in heaven.

Lessons from chapter 5:

1. Jesus Christ is the only One worthy to open the sealed book of horrific judgments on the world.
Since the Father makes the Son central to His program, I need to exalt and praise Him.

2. "All judgment is given to Son" (John 5:22-23) -- what people do with Jesus Christ today will determine their final, eternal destiny.
3. Watch out for deciding what is sin for another Christian in the area of disputable matters. Every Christian will appear before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account.
4. Don't take revenge against someone who wronged you because "vengeance is Mine" says the Lord (Rom. 12:19).

Deut. 32:35

'Vengeance is Mine, and retribution,
In due time their foot will slip;
For the day of their calamity is near,
And the impending things are hastening upon them.'

Isa. 35:4

Say to those with anxious heart,
"Take courage, fear not.
Behold, your God will come *with* vengeance;
The recompense of God will come,
But He will save you."

Rom. 12:19

Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath *of God*, for it is written,
"Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

Heb. 10:30.

For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge His people."