

I. The Description of the Scroll (Rev. 5:1)

- A. John saw a scroll in the Father's right hand (the hand of action and authority). Many, including myself see this scroll as representing the *title deed* of the earth and *action plan* to restore all things to God's original intent. It speaks of the harvest of all nations and preparing the Church as a Bride to partner with Jesus in ruling the earth. It gives the authority to cleanse the earth of evil and replace its unrighteous governments so as to fill the earth with God's glory and righteousness.
- B. Contained within this scroll are the final steps necessary to fulfill to the fullest extent every prophetic word given by the Lord to humanity. Namely, the two primary prophetic promises given to God's people throughout the entirety of redemptive history. (See Foundations of our Faith Series "Road to Emmaus 1-3")
1. The Anointed One – The first purpose and promise of God was to see a return of the dominion that Mankind forfeited to Satan. He promised them a child who would deliver all of mankind from the tyranny of sin. This promised child would grow up to be the King of the Earth and His kingdom would never end.
 2. His Dwelling place – The second was God's desire to dwell in unbroken communion and presence once again with His beloved ones. He longs for reconciliation and restoration of the relational reality He once knew.
- C. The scroll was so full of words that John could see writing on the outside as well as on the inside of the scroll. Seven seals, suggests the profound divine nature, infallibility, perfection, and completion of the information it contains. In John's day people used a seal to keep the contents of a document secret, unchangeable, and free from tampering until some authoritative person broke the seal. This may be the same scroll or book of prophecies God instructed Daniel to seal until the last days. (Eze. 2:10; Dan. 12:4, 9)

II. Who is Worthy (Rev. 5:2-4)

- A. The fact that John points out that this angel was "strong" meaning authoritative and powerful brings further proof that this scroll was divinely unique. The original language of this text indicates that this angel was heralding or preaching rather than asking a question. He heralds with a loud voice to the entirety of the created order. Who is worthy to take this scroll and open its seals?

1. This proclamation of “who is worthy” can only be rightly appreciated through the context of what John just beheld (Rev. 4:1-12). This scroll has been written and issued by the Enthroned One who’s holiness mandates perpetual adoration and worship. Who’s worthy to breach the garment of unapproachable light to take it out of His hand, let alone, open its seals and execute the actions with perfection written within?

"What simpler and more sublime way of picturing God's ultimate sovereignty over all history could be found than this picture of the scroll resting in the hand of God? However strong evil becomes, however fierce be the satanic evils that assail God's people on earth, history still rests in God's hand." (George Ladd)

- B. Who is worthy to own the whole world, lead all its governments, and cleanse it from all sin and evil? What man has the wisdom, humility, and power to fully cooperate with the divine nature of unrelenting merciful love and perfect justice? Who could withstand the pressure of total power over all the earth and remain faithful to the heart of the Father?

1. No created being had ability or authority to break the seals or even to learn of God's plans contained in the scroll. John could not have said it any stronger. The strong angel looked through the entire universe’s past present and future to find someone worthy, and could not find anyone worthy to even look at the scroll.

- C. The devastating reality begins to unfold in the heart of John that no one was going to be found to lead humanity to its destiny and fulfill the promises of God. Can you imagine the bitter realization that all of God’s dealings and purposes for humanity from creation till now would indefinitely be postponed? John begins to weep uncontrollably as he sees the hopeless fate of the earth and its inhabitants. No one is worthy.

III. Behold the Prevailing One (Rev. 5:5)

- A. As John was reeling in anguish over the deferred hope of the fulfillment of God’s plan, one of the 24 elders comes to him and tells him not to despair. For One has been found worthy and has earned the right to take and open the scroll!!

B. The Elder announces two prophesied messianic titles of Jesus that spoke of the One who would fulfill the promises of God to His people. As God's ultimate Anointed One, Jesus alone possessed the character and authority necessary for this task. He overcame Satan, sin, and death, so He could implement God's purposes for the future that this scroll revealed. The most fascinating aspect of these titles of Jesus that the elder proclaims is that they point to His humanity not His divinity.

1. Behold the Lion of Judah - The elder tells John that the One found worthy is the Jewish (Human) King whom Jacob prophesied was going to come from the tribe of Judah. The symbolism of a Lion speaks of a King who is bold, powerful, heroic, majestic, vigilant, dominate, aggressive, and the King above all kings. (Gen. 49:9-10; Num. 24:9; Is. 31:4; Hos. 11:10)
2. Root of David – The Father decreed that because David had it in his heart to build the Lord a dwelling place on the earth that He would establish his throne forever. David would have an heir from his bloodline (human) who would receive the nations as His inheritance. (2 Sam. 7:1-17; Ps. 2:8; Is. 11:1-12; Jer. 23:5-6)

IV. Behold the Lamb (Rev. 5:6)

A. John now turns to see this powerful lion like king, and instead sees a humble lamb bearing the marks of sacrificial death. Men want symbols of power to represent their position or identity. They use powerful and fierce beasts or birds of prey such as those that represent nations and sports teams. But the representative of the kingdom of heaven is a Lamb, representing humility, gentleness, and sacrificial love. Jesus the Lion desires to be seen primarily as a slain lamb forever. Jewish orthodoxy has been unwilling, or able, to reconcile these two roles into one person so they concluded it must be two different people. A messiah who dies and then one who rules.

1. Slain Lamb - The Lamb is presented as living (stood a Lamb), but He still had the marks of previous sacrifice upon Him (as though it had been slain). As it had been slain also speaks of the truth that the sacrifice of Jesus is still fresh and current before God the Father. Central to His eternal identity is His sacrificial death. He is still represents Himself as being in the very act of laying down His life for the offences of man. The lamb is the primary identity of Jesus in the following chapters of the book of Revelation. It is used 20 times to refer to the One executing plans in the scroll. (Ex. 12:1-3,6; Is. 53:2-7; Jn 1:29; 1 Pet. 1:19)

“The coming judgment beginning in chapter six and following is dictated and administrated by the Lamb who already offered an escape from judgment by taking judgment upon Himself. The judgment will come upon a world that hates the Lamb and all He stands for, and rejects His offer of escape.” (David Guzik)

2. Seven Horns - Seven biblically speaks of completeness and perfection. Thus, it is the divine number. Horns are the biblical symbol for power or strength, and represents kingly authority. The Lamb was seen as having 7 horns representing the fullness and divine nature of His power. (Num. 23:22; Ps. 75:4; 132:17; Dan. 7:20-21; 8:5)
 3. Seven Eyes – As we learned from the Seraphim eyes symbolize wisdom and understanding. Having 7 eyes speaks of the Lamb having the fullness of divine wisdom and discernment. (Zech 3:9, 4:10; Eph 1:18)
- B. I believe the that the clause "which are the seven Spirits" refers to both the seven horns and the seven eyes. In this case John means that the Lamb has the seven spirits that are before the throne. In other words, He is the possessor of the fullness of the Holy Spirit of God. The Lamb not only bears the marks of sacrificial death, but also the marks all power or omnipotence (seven horns) and all knowledge and wisdom or omniscience (seven eyes). (Acts. 16:7; Rom 8:9)

V. Responding to the Revelation

- A. Revelation 5 is one of the grand chapters in Scripture that magnifies the messianic identity of Jesus. The Father draws back the veil to give us insight into Jesus’ destiny on the earth as the Anointed One. Here are 4 practical ways we can respond to the truths found in this chapter.
1. Commit to see His Beauty
 2. Commit to His Leadership
 3. Work to Establish His Kingdom
 4. Rule and Reign through Intercession

We want to encourage you to submit questions about our study in the book of Revelation. Please email Pastor Justin at justinfrie@restorationfellowship.net and we will take time to answer your questions on Sunday mornings so we can all benefit from the discussion.