

Revelation 5

The Scroll with Seven Seals

I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. ²And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to break its seals?" ³And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it.

⁴Then I *began* to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵And 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 be able* to open the scroll and its seven seals."

⁶And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷And He came and took *the scroll* out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. ⁸When He had taken the scroll, 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.

⁹And they *sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the scroll and to break its seals; for You were slaughtered, and You purchased *people* for God with Your blood from every tribe, language, people, and nation.¹⁰You have made them *into* a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign upon the earth."

Angels Exalt the Lamb

¹¹Then I looked, and I heard the voices 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, ¹²saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power, wealth, wisdom, might, honor, glory, and blessing."

¹³And I heard every created thing which is in heaven, or on the earth, or under the earth, or on the sea, and all the things in them, saying, "To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb *be* the blessing, the honor, the glory, and the dominion forever and ever." ¹⁴And the four living creatures were saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Paul's helpful insights

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I saw – that is – he saw in the vision.

1. A right hand – what is the significance of a right hand?
2. A book – it holds information and tells a story.
3. The Him - being God on his throne.
4. Why was the book sealed with seven seals?
5. There was an angel who is strong - what does that mean?
6. The angel with a loud voice asked the question in heaven ‘who is worthy to open the seals’?
7. The realisation that no one was worthy, not even able to look into it, not even in heaven, on earth or under the earth, no one was worthy!
8. What does it mean to not be worthy?
9. The realisation hit John very deeply and he began to weep greatly. Why?
10. One of the twenty-four elders who was sitting on one of the twenty-four thrones spoke up.
11. He told John to stop weeping for he knew there was one who was worthy.
12. He describes the one as the Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Son of David, who overcame. He is worthy to open the book.
13. Overcome means to resist the temptation to be unworthy.
14. John saw the Lamb between the throne, as did John the Baptist when he saw the Lamb.
15. He describes the Lamb as having seven horns and seven eyes. He reveals they are the seven spirits of God, that is, God’s character by nature.
16. He had been sent out into all the earth, this Lamb, Jesus, came and took the book from the one on the throne, God.
17. Having taken the book the four living creatures and twenty-four elders fell down in adoration, celebration and worship. They had harps and golden incense.
18. The fragrance of this incense are the prayers of the saints.
19. A new song is given in heaven that God is always singing new songs.
20. The song, worthy are you to take the book. So the angels sing about what Jesus has done.
21. And to break its’ seals – He was able to because He is worthy.
22. You were slain and purchased through God, Jesus paid with His life the right to redeem.
23. Men from every tribe and tongue and people and nations – for God so loved the world that He gave Jesus.
24. You have made them to be a kingdom, God has established his kingdom of heaven on earth.
25. And priest to our God.
26. And they will reign upon the earth.
27. John looked again.
28. He heard the voice of many angels around the throne.

29. The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders and everyone else, that is myriads upon myriads, broke out in adoration.
30. What is a myriad? - Myriads a countless or extremely great number of people or things.
31. So all heaven was singing praises, that is speaking out declaration praise.
32. Worthy is the Lamb that was slain.
33. To receive power, riches, wisdom, might, honour, blessings.
34. All in heaven and earth and under the earth and on the sea and in the sea made these declarations.
35. John heard them saying, they spoke out, to Him – God, who sits on the throne and to the Lamb – Jesus.
36. Blessing, honour, glory and dominion forever, that is always.
37. The four living creatures describe, that is speak out, of the glory of God.
38. To amen, is to say yes, let it be, so be it.
39. The twenty-four elders fall down and worship.