**The Revelation, Chapter Five**

This chapter is a continuation of the Throne Room of the Lord God Almighty from chapter Four. Here we are introduced to the Worthy Lamb that had been slain. He gains the right to take the Scroll from God Almighty and to unseal its seven seals. Furthermore, those that will be kings and priests with him are brought to our attention (although their formal introduction, in chapter 14:1-5, will have to wait until they, too, like the Lamb, complete their sacrificial service).

This fifth chapter begins with the Lamb as it had been slain, or the beginning of the Gospel Age, but concludes with the conclusion of the Millennial Age.

**Vs. 1**

**And I saw in the right hand of Him that sat on the throne a scroll written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.**

God Almighty sits. He is in repose knowing that His Divine Plan is continuing to progress as He had previously foreseen.

*The right hand* is symbolic of power and favor. God has it within His power to release to a worthy one this intriguing scroll, obviously a record or message of great importance. Written within might mean a record of what will affect God’s true people and written without might mean what will affect those in the world. As one seal is broken open, you can read what is written inside and out. That means that the events recorded are happening at the same time, but affect these two groups differently.

The *seven seals* relate in time to the seven stages of the development of the Church as outlined in chapters 2 and 3, and also to the same time periods as the seven trumpets in chapters 8 – 11.

A notable difference is that there were seven messengers to the seven Churches, which are the same seven trumpeters. Yet, the seven seals when released allow for an understanding of events during that time, which is informative to the Church—an invitation to understand what God has already foreseen. The scroll relates what might be called God’s permission of evil in the Church (consider Rev. 6:9 – 11). The scroll also represents seven stages of revealed truths of what would be. The seals are outlined in chapter 6, part of 7 and part of 8.

**Vs. 2**

**And I saw a strong angel (messenger) proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose the seals thereof?”**

The *strong messenger* represents the Law of God. It was His Law that required a sacrifice of a perfect human who had lived up to all the Law requirements (as given at Mt. Sinai), and yet it also required a perfected New Creature, one who could live to open the seals.

*A loud voice*, as if every being in heaven and on earth might be aware of this challenge/invitation.

*“Worthy”* according to God’s requirements.

**Vs. 3**

**And no one in heaven nor in earth, was able to open the scroll neither to look thereon.**

That is, no mere human or mere spirit being could successfully respond to the necessary requirements. Even a perfect human, if he gave his life up, would then be in the dead condition, non-existing, so he would not be alive to take the scroll. Likewise, a spirit being could not offer his life in exchange for the perfect human life right needed. God had in mind a unique being who would possess two rights to life!

**Vs. 4**

**And I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and to read the scroll, neither to look thereon.**

Like John, do we “weep” in order to gain understanding to “locked” portions of God’s Word? Are we as intensely interested in understanding the record of the scroll as John was? May it be so with us…

**Vs. 5**

**And one of the elders, saith unto me, “Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose the seven seals thereof.”**

One of the 24 elders, perhaps from Genesis 49:10, or Isaiah 11:1, 10. We note that this is the only time in the Revelation that Jesus is referred to as the Lion, whereas, he is referred to as the Lamb over twenty times. This emphasizes his victory through humility and obedience. Yet, he is the Lion, strong and just, of the kingly tribe of Judah. However, that was for the type; the reality is far greater.

*The Root of David*—we find this reference again in chapter 22:16. The root means the life-source, so this would apply to our resurrected Messiah, the Second Adam (I Cor. 15:45-47). He has provided the human life-right, the ransom price. Yet it is the exalted New Creature Jesus that will administer the life attaining process during the Mediatorial phase of the Kingdom (consider Romans 4:24, 25).

*Has prevailed* — yes, Jesus is the victor. He is the victor over death and Satan (Hebrews 2:14; Revelation 1:18). He is “worthy.” (vss. 9, 12) He met all the requirements of God’s Law and Plans.

**Vs. 6**

**And I beheld, and lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb, as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.**

The Lord God Almighty is seated, but the Lamb is standing, demonstrating that they are unique and separate beings.

*In the midst* suggests that Jesus’ ransom price is a central aspect of God’s Plan.

*Four living creatures* are God’s four fundamental character attributes (see notes on Rev. 4:6-8).

*The elders* are the 24 Old Testament prophecies regarding the Kingdom of God (see notes on Rev. 4:4).

*A lamb as it had been slain* symbolizes that Jesus (the Lamb of God taketh away the sin of the world – John 1:29) has already suffered death as a perfect human and was raised by the Father on the third day. After 40 days in earth’s atmosphere ( Acts 1:3) he ascended to the heavenly courts, returning home triumphantly, to make a formal presentation of the merit of his sacrifice, his perfect human life-right, that he had deposited with the Father while upon the Cross (Luke 23:46).

In Revelation 13:8 in part: “…of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” This is different as it demonstrates that God’s foreknowledge had realized that His Plan for All would require the sacrificial death of His only begotten Son. Of course it had not and could not happen until the appointed time in the Spring of 33 A.D.

The *seven horns and the seven eyes* represent the divine power and wisdom contained in the the seven spirits sent out by God (see notes on Rev. 1:4; 4:5). These are God’s truth messages that He had his Son Jesus deliver through seven Messengers unto the Church throughout the Gospel Age. The Church is His spirit-begotten children of whom He is concerned.

*All the earth* symbolizes that the messages were distributed over the so-called Christian world, wherever that would be.

**Vs. 7**

**And he came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him that sat upon the throne.**

This is not a graduation ceremony with the giving of a diploma. No, this is much grander. However, it does symbolize that God recognizes the success of Jesus’ two part mission to earth. It does demonstrate God’s approval of Jesus being given authority to open the seals and relate the seven messages of the coming Gospel Age history of abuse to the truth and to the truth people. As related before – God’s allowance of evil in the Church, all of which was part of the Church’s development.

We will read in the following verses the grand expressions of exultation due the Lamb! Such a momentous event – God’s confirmation of His Son’s obedience, even unto death!

We cannot help but note that heaven’s reward is to grant more responsibility! The labor ends but the work continues. How often this is demonstrated (Matthew 19:28; 25:21; Luke 19:17, etc.).

**Vs. 8**

**And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and twenty four elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them a harp and golden bowls full of incense which are the prayers of holy ones (See Diaglott).**

Yes, God’s character attributes pay tribute to Jesus for obediently fulfilling his part of the Plan that they had devised.

The Old Testament prophecies concerning the Kingdom of God pay tribute to the fulfillment of their prophecies concerning the sacrifice of the Lamb (perhaps Isaiah 53, Exodus 12 Passover, or as Jesus himself had stated upon his resurrection “Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of hearts to believe all that the PROPHETS have spoken: ought not Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and ALL THE PROPHETS, he expounded unto them in the scriptures the things concerning himself.” Luke 24:25 – 27, also 24:44 – 46).

The *harps* represent that the Old Testament Scriptures were harmonized in their testimony as demonstrated above.

The *golden bowls of incense*, the *prayers of saintly Ones*, show that God’s faithful people as found in the Old Testament, had been praying to God for His Kingdom to come to earth. As the prophecies had foretold, this aspect of the suffering Messiah was a necessary and fundamentally imperative development for the future establishment of the Kingdom of peace and righteousness.

**Vs. 9, 10 NAS version in part:**

**And they sang a new song, saying, Worthy art thou to take the scroll, and to break its seals; for thou wast slain, and didst purchase for God with thy blood (men), from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. And thou hast made them to be kings and priests to our God; and they will reign over the earth”.**

It is a *new song*, a new understanding, because this had never happened before. Jesus opened a new and living way. He was our forerunner, the first to ever have been resurrected (anastasis), Hebrews 10:19 – 21; Acts 26:23. Consider I Peter 1:10 – 12.

Yes, Jesus provided the ransom price to FIRST redeem his future Bride. The 144,000 would be purchased and developed during the Gospel Age, coming from a world-wide assortment of men and women. God designed to have a complete (four groupings being stated) representation of humans so as to be best enabled to assist their fellow humans up the Highway of Holiness in the Kingdom of peace. All ethnic groupings, languages, societies and countries would comprise the great “smelting pot” from which God through Jesus would call the Church.

These 144,000 would become Kings (or a Kingdom) of priests. Kings denotes authority to give instructions, lay down laws, pass judgments. Priests suggests that they first sacrifice themselves to God (Romans 12:1) in the same manner in which their High Priest did (Hebrews 3:1). This prepares them to be Priests in the Kingdom of peace, that is, teachers of God’s requirements. They too can then assist people in how best to understand their own weaknesses and overcome them. As we now have a sympathetic High Priest to assist us (Hebrews 4:14-16), so we shall be able to assist them.

We see that the 24 elders are singing about someone other than themselves, though the KJV beclouds this with its inferior translation.

To reign “over” the earth rather than “on” the earth demonstrates that the Kingdom of God will have two phases – heavenly (spiritual) and earthly; celestial and terrestrial ( I Cor. 15:40); the “stars of heaven” and the “sand of the sea shore,” as demonstrated in the splitting of the Mount of Olives, to the north and south depicted in Zech. 14:4.

**Vs. 11**

**And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the living creatures and the elders: and the number of them was myriads of myriads (Diaglott), and thousands of thousands:**

*Voice* (in vs. 12 “a loud voice”) suggests a grand heavenly exclamation of praise. There is no definitive number of angels given in scripture (consider Psa. 68:17; Daniel 7:10; Hebrews 12:22).

**Vs. 12**

**Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.**

1. *Power* – Strong’s #1411 *force.* Lexicon usage—inherent power, strength.

(Note: in Rev. 4:11 it is the same Greek word. In Rev. 5:13 “power” is St. #2904 *vigor*. Lexicon usage—might or dominion.)

Jesus himself states in Matthew 28:18 that all power in heaven and earth is his (post resurrection, and God Almighty being excluded).

1. *Riches* – Strong’s #4149 *wealth, money, possessions.*

As part of Jesus’ reward, he received immortality, life within himself (John 5:26). He also receives the planet earth and all that is there (Ephesians 1:14; Hebrews 1:2-4).

1. *Wisdom* – Strong’s #4678 *wisdom.* Lexicon usage—insight.

In a picture, King Solomon prayed to God for wisdom, by which he was able to rule successfully and wonderfully his kingdom, typical of Christ’s kingdom (until Solomon’s terrible decisions based upon his fallen passions caused his loss of godly wisdom).

1. *Strength* – Strong’s #2479 *forcefulness.* Lexicon usage—ability or might.

The Lamb receives the ability to forcefully subject or overcome any and all opponents to his reign of righteousness. He will rule with a rod of iron (Rev. 2:26, 27).

1. *Honor* – Strong’s #5092 *a value, valuables, esteem, dignity.* Lexicon usage—pre-eminence.

He has pre-eminence because he was/is the VICTOR. He conquered death and the one who had power of death, the devil (Hebrews 2:14).

(Note: this is the same word in Rev. 4:9, 11; 5:13).

1. *Glory* – Strong’s #1391 *glory.* Lexicon usage—favorable recognition, splendor.

Yes, the Lamb is worthy to receive recognition of what he accomplished! He is the king of kings and Lord of Lords (Rev. 19:16).

(Note: this is the same word in Rev. 4:9, 11; Rev. 5:13).

1. *Blessing* – Strong’s #2129 *fine speaking, elegance of language, commendation, adoration.* Lexicon usage—adulation.

There’s no one (but God) that could “bless” the worthy Lamb. Rather, all can offer commendation and adoration for his beautiful character and his great perseverance against all the forces of darkness!

(Note: same word as vs. 13).

Every knee will bow to Jesus Phil.2:12.

We read of seven expressions of great praise to the Lamb, signifying complete or perfect accolades.

**Vs. 13 From the Siniatic Mss. in part:**

**And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing and honour and glory and power be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.**

This grand chorus of ALL CREATURES, celestial and terrestrial, giving praise unto the Father and unto the Son, the One God and His Lamb, who was faithful and obedient to Him, will finally come at the conclusion of the Little Season, following the Millennial Age. It denotes the wonderful HARMONY of all ecological systems of life—that of the celestial realm of which we know little (except as Paul writes: “there is the glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars, for star differeth from star in glory.” I Cor. 15:41), and that of earth.

The apostle Paul wrote similarly in Ephesians 1:10.

**Vs. 14 Diaglott in part:**

**And the four living creatures said Amen. And the elders fell down and did homage.**

IT is only fitting that God’s own character attributes and His prophecies regarding His Kingdom here reach their final, successful conclusion (His Word will not return unto Him void).

***Amen, may it be so.*** Here at the end of the 4th and 5th chapters, we are leaving the most holy and magnificent verses of the great throne room! We will still read of the throne room from time to time yet in the Revelation. In the following chapters we will start to read again (like chapters 2 and 3) the history of the Gospel Age into the Millennial Age and beyond. Both the good and the bad are all foreknown by God and allowed as part of the necessary education and testing of His spirit-begotten children, and afterward the world of mankind. All is necessary to fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant, “in thee and thy seed shall all the families of earth be blessed”.

End.