

Revelation 5 – The Lamb Receives the Kingdom

I. The Sealed Book Cannot Be Opened (1-4)

A. The One On The Throne Holds A Sealed Book (1)

1. The book is written on front and back
2. The book is sealed with seven seals
 - a. The book is a combination of the sealed book in Dan. 12:9-10 and the scroll written on the back and front in Eze. 2:9-10
 - b. The image may also be referencing the sealed book in Isa. 29:11
3. What Exactly is This Book? (Various Explanations – listen to audio for contextual analysis)
 - a. The Lamb's book of Life – Records the names of the saints
 - b. The Old Testament – Christ is the one who unlocks the correct interpretation
 - c. The Ten Commandments – Because they were said to be written front and back (Ex. 32:15)
 - d. The New Covenant – When Opened and put into effect, the Old Covenant Judgments are Poured Out
 - e. A Will or Testament – Roman law demanded that at least 7 witnesses seal a testament, and on the death of the testator, someone would be charged with enforcing the will or testament
 - f. A Title Deed to Creation – The Father passes ownership to the Lamb

B. No Creature is Able To Open the Book (2-3)

1. A Strong Angel Calls For Someone Worthy To Open the Book and Break the Seals (2)
2. No One in Heaven or Earth is Able To Open the Book (3)

C. John Mourns That No One is Worthy To Open the Book (4)

II. The Conquering Lamb Is Worthy To Open The Book (5-7)

A. John Hears the Lion Of Judah Is Worthy (5)

1. An Elder Shows John One Who Has Overcome and Is Worthy
 - a. The Lion from the Tribe of Judah
 - i. Fulfillment of Gen. 49:9; Heb. 7:14
 - b. The Root of David
 - i. Fulfillment of Isa. 11:1 (c.f. Rom. 1:3; Luke 1:27)
2. This Lion has Conquered (Overcome) and so is Worthy
 - a. The Lion's "Overcoming" or "Conquering" make Him Worthy
 - b. We will see that He "overcame" by his death and resurrection

B. John Sees A Slain Lamb Standing Near the Throne (6)

1. Where on the Throne is the Lamb?

- a. Between, near it, on it?
- 2. The Lamb has Been Slain
 - a. Referencing the Exodus Passover Lamb
 - b. Referencing the Messiah slaughtered like a sheep Isa. 53:7
- 3. The Lamb has Seven Horns and Seven Eyes
 - a. Horns are the symbols of power – 1 Sam. 2:10; Ps. 89:17; 1 Ki. 22:11; Ps. 112:9; Jer. 48:25; Dan. 7:21
 - b. Seven Eyes – References Zech. 4:10, which Speaks of the All powerful Spirit – Also 2 Chron. 16:9, in which the eyes look to God’s Sovereignty and power
- C. The Lamb Takes Possession of the Sealed Book (7)
 - 1. The Lamb is given the Dominion and The Kingdom
 - 2. Read Dan. 7:13-14 – The Lamb is being Enthroned and Worshiped at the Right Hand of the Father
- III. The Conquering Lamb Receives Worship Due To God (8-14)
 - A. The Heavenly Court Worships the Lamb (8-10)
 - 1. The Elders and the Creatures Fall Down Before The Lamb (8)
 - a. The Elders are pictured in their roles as priests
 - b. The Elders Each Hold a Harp – the
 - c. The Elders Each Hold a Bowl of Incense
 - 2. The Elders Sing a New Song of Worship (9-10)
 - a. The New Song
 - i. In Rev. 4:11, the song of Worship was to The one on the Throne because He is Creator
 - The Words “Worthy are you” are repeated here to the Lamb. This is what they said in 4:11
 - ii. The “New” Song is worship to The Lamb
 - iii. The “New Song” references the new song of salvation in Ps. 96:1-2 (Also in Isa. 42:10 – the context is the Messianic deliverance Isa. 42:1-4)
 - b. The Lamb is Worthy to Break the Seals
 - i. The Lamb who is able to break the seals is the fulfillment of Dan. 12:4 –
 - ii. Daniel’s prophecy was sealed until the time of the latter days
 - c. The Lamb is Worthy Because of His Sacrificial Death
 - i. He is worthy because he was slain (see v. 9)
 - ii. The Lamb’s death gives Him authority to open the book – His resurrection is also in view because he is yet alive, standing near the Throne
 - d. The Lamb is Worthy Because He Has Redeemed a People
 - i. His people are made a Kingdom of priests
 - ii. His people will reign upon the earth

- iii. The Lamb has fulfilled the purpose of God throughout Scripture. He has purchased a people out of the covenant curse and fulfilled Gen. 3:15, the first gospel promise.
 - iv. The Exodus imagery here shouldn't be missed – a lamb was slaughtered and redeemed a people out of their bondage – Christ inaugurates a New Exodus from Sin and Death
 - v. They will Reign on the Earth?
- B. The Heavenly Host Worships the Lamb (11-12)
 - 1. A Myriad of Angels Joins the Worship of the Lamb (11)
 - 2. The Angels Ascribe seven Divine Attributes to the Lamb (12)
 - a. 7 attributes are ascribed to the lamb in worship – some of the same ascribed to the Father in 4:11
 - b. Daniel 7:10 being fulfilled here
 - i. God's people are about to go through suffering (see letters to the churches in chapter 2-3)
 - ii. They need to know that the Lamb has conquered and is truly the Messiah foretold in Daniel
 - iii. The kingdom has come (and is coming)
 - c. Camera pulls back to see greater multitude worshipping
- C. The Whole of Creation Worships The Lamb (13)
 - 1. Every Creature Under Heaven, on earth, and under the earth
 - 2. Every Creature Ascribes Worship Due to God
 - a. The camera pulls back again to show all of creation worshipping the Lamb
 - b. Here is another glimpse of the “already-not yet”
 - c. Pushing this into the future millennium nullifies the encouragement and instruction to those first century churches of chapter 2-3
 - 3. The Point: the new age has come. The kingdom is at hand and though the world will still rage and persecuted God's people in the present, God is in control. – in the first century and today
 - 4. The battle is already won even though we are still fighting
 - 5. The Lamb has truly conquered by his death and resurrection and all of creation owes Him worship
- D. The Heavenly Court Joins the Creation in Worship (14)
 - 1. The Camera Pans Back in
 - 2. The book is about to be opened
 - 3. The rest of Revelation flows out of the contents of this book