

Revelation Chapter 5 – Verse by Verse

Revelation 5:1-11

- **Vs 1** – Immediately after taking in the throne room scene, we are told there is a scroll in the hand of Jesus Christ sitting on the throne. Note that this chapter begins with the word “and,” indicating there is no break from the scene in chapter 4 to chapter 5 and verse 1. Bear in mind the chapter and verse numbers were not inspired of God, but simply a benefit for bible study, and don’t necessarily indicate a change.
 - This scroll is completely filled with words, which is what we can gather from the “book written within and on the backside”. In biblical times, books were written on rolls and may have writing on one or both sides. Typically, it was just on one side so as to protect the writing from being erased. This one is written on both, similar to what we read in **Eze 2:9**. This indicates that what is written on it is extensive and complete
 - Ezekiel and Daniel both had the opportunity to view this scroll: **Eze 2:8-10, Dan 10:21, 12:4-9**
 - Lastly, we see that this roll is sealed with 7 seals. Seals would attest ownership or authorize what was sealed. Only the one with authority (the seal) could open them. Apparently, they were arranged to be broken one at a time as we will see
 - Examples of word seal in the NT: **John 3:33, 6:27, Rom 15:28, 2 Cor 1:22, Eph 1:13, 4:30**
- **Vs 2** – Challenge from the “strong” angel. Not sure what would make this angel look stronger than others, but there is a difference here. Some say this is Gabriel. This is to prove that Jesus has the preeminence and the authority to open the seals
 - **Phil 2:10-11, Col 1:15-18**
- **Vs 3-4** – Not the 3 locations. There is no man in heaven (current location of kingdom saints prior to resurrection), nor upon earth (Greek epi for upon). This is the location of those alive in their mortal bodies), nor under the earth (location of those in Hades/Sheol prior to the resurrection of the unjust), that can open this scroll. Should remind us of **Rom 3:10** when considering man in his fallen state. So weak, not one could even look upon the scroll according to this verse.
 - “To look upon” doesn’t mean they can’t see it, but rather aren’t worthy to unveil its content. John could see the scroll in God’s hand (**vs 1**)
 - **Rom 3:10-18, Psalm 14, 140:3, 5:9, 10:7, 53:1-3, Isa 59:7-8, Prov 1:16**
- **Vs 5** – This elder is making a statement about the Messiah in language the Jew would understand
 - **Gen 49:9-10, Isa 9:6-7, 11:1-5, 10, Jer 23:1-6, 33:12-22, Zech 3:1-10, 6:9-15**
 - Judah is the tribe of kings. Jesus had the authority to unveil the contents of this book (**Matt 7:28-29**)
 - Jesus Christ is God manifest in the flesh (**John 1:1, 14**)
- **Vs 6** – First to note is that John now sees a Lamb in the midst of the throne room. The Lamb appears to have been slain, but is yet standing, signifying the death, burial, and resurrection of Messiah
 - Just spoke of Messiah being the Lion of the tribe of Judah (kingly authority and strength). Now we see another characteristic in the Lamb
 - Submissive, meek, mild – Messiah submitted perfectly to the will of the Father
 - **John 1:29, 35-36, 5:30**
 - Lambs were sacrificed for sin (Passover)
 - Standing is associated with judgement: **Psalm 7:6, 94:1-2, Acts 7:54-60, Rev 3:20**

- Example of “things that are” (Rev 1:19). Seven horns and seven eyes represent the 7 spirits of God “sent forth into all the earth”
 - Can’t be referring to Isa 11:2 as many attest, but rather actual spirit beings that are of some elite class that are **before** the throne of God (Heb 1:14, Zech 4:1-10, Rev 1:4, 4:5)
- Vs 7 – The Lamb takes the book from Him on the throne. May be odd to think Messiah is taking it from Himself. Messiah and the Father are one, but no one has seen the Father **at any time** (John 1:14, 18)
 - Paul was caught up to the 3rd Heaven, but who did he see? He received his revelation of the mystery from Jesus Christ (2 Cor 12:1-4, Gal 1:11-12).
- Vs 8 – Reaction to the Lamb taking this book is worship. Finally, the judgment is come and all will be made new. The whole throne room erupts in worship of the Lamb.
 - This is no problem, knowing Jesus is God and represented by the Lamb. If Jesus were not God, this would be a problem as it would break the first commandment of God
 - All the “elders” are noted to have a harp and golden vial/bowl of odors
 - We have another example of the “things that are” (Rev 1:19) in this verse
 - The odors are the prayers of the saints
 - Understanding that this is the true tabernacle, the heavenly, of which the earthly was made after its pattern (Heb 8:1-5, 10:1), we can understand better what these elders are doing. The Levitical priesthood was assigned to music and offering of incense (2 Chron 29:25, Psalm 141:1-2, Ex 25:6, 30:1-8, 40:17, 27, 30-34)
 - Should be noted that the prayer of the Unrighteous are not mentioned
 - Prov 28:9
- Vs 9-10 – The elders and four beasts break into song, most likely with their harps, to sing praise of the Lamb
 - Very clear this Lamb is Jesus Christ (Rev 1:17-18, Isa 53:1-12)
 - Elders and beasts singing on behalf of Israel (Heb 1:7, 14, Psalm 104:4)
 - Seem to be instructed to in Isa 44:23 and Isa 49:13, though read the chapters for context. Angels sang for joy during creation week in Job 38:7
 - Language is familiar to Israel being the kingdom of priests redeemed not by their good works but by God’s work and grace through Christ (Ex 19:5-6, Jer 31:31-34, Eze 36:21-36, 1 Pet 2:9)
 - This is the 2nd of 2 times that angels are said to sing, the other in Job 38:7
 - Opening this scroll, Christ will begin to reclaim what is rightfully His “out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation,” and administer judgment to those that “would not”
- Vs 11 – Now we learn that there are “many” angels all around the throne for this event. The number given here obviously to intend that they are beyond measure there are so many.
 - The phrase in the Greek is “myriads of myriads and chiliads of chiliads”, which would translate to “ten thousands of ten thousands and thousands of thousands”. Should remind us of Heb 12:22 and Matt 26:51-54 that there are innumerable angels that currently exist even if we can’t see them.
- Vs 12 – What a wonderful praise chorus to behold! Jesus is worthy of our praise. His redemptive work and love for mankind is amazing!
- Vs 13-14 – Now all of creation joins in acknowledging the glory and honor due Him that is on the throne and that is the Lamb.

- Note that all “ktisma” (anything created, translated creature here) gives praise. The text describes those in heaven (location of those that “sleep” in Christ, in other words, Circumcision saints awaiting resurrection, as well as the Body of Christ since we will be in Heaven with resurrected bodies at this point), those on earth (still alive in the “earthen vessel”), those under the earth (in Sheol/Hades awaiting the resurrection unto damnation), also in the sea (both of those locations references in [Rev 20:11-15](#)).
 - The last two locations could be a reference of only the righteous, or animal life, as the world to come is delivered from the evil
- All of creation joins this song of praise ([Psalm 96, 98, 148, Rom 8:19-22](#))