

A Journey Into the Heavens
The Seven Sealed Book
December 2, 2015

In chapter four we saw John caught up to heaven to the very throne room of God. There he gazed upon the rainbow-circled throne of God and witnessed celestial beings acknowledging the glory of God in creation. The focus of chapter four was the beauty and glory of God on His _____.

Now in chapter five our attention shifts to the seven-sealed book in the right hand of him that sat on the throne (5:1). Chapters four and five actually describe one scene in heaven, with chapter four describing the throne room and the Occupant of the throne, and chapter five dealing with the seven-sealed book and the only One _____ to open it!

The word book in verse one should be translated “_____” because in John’s day there were no books as we know them today, only scrolls. The scroll in God’s right hand was written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals (5:1). The scroll was so full of writing that it could not all be contained on one side, and thus information overflowed to the backside as well.

We are not told in this chapter what is written on the scroll, but when the seals are broken in chapter six, the judgements of God will be poured upon the _____. When the seventh seal is opened, the trumpets begin to sound (chps.8-9). Then, at the sounding of the seventh trumpet, Revelation 10:7 says...the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets. (Daniel 12:8-9)

The seven-sealed book contains the unfolding of the consummation of the age, the _____ of time as we know it, the setting up of Christ’s kingdom, and the inheritance of the saints who will reign with Him (5:10).

I. The _____ (5:2-4)

A problem immediately arose when an angel asked in verse two, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? The problem was no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon (5:3). John says in verse four, And I _____ much, because no man was found worthy to open and to the book, neither look thereon.

There are many great saints in heaven - Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Elijah, Peter, Paul, James - but none are worthy to open the scroll. Why? Because of the _____ of the scroll. Later, when the seals of the scroll are broken, disasters will take place on earth, so we know the scroll has to do with the earth and its redemption.

To better understand the nature of the scroll, we must remember what God said about the redemption of land in the Old Testament. (Leviticus 25:23). If an Israelite should lose the land God had allotted him, then a plan of redemption must be granted. So who is worthy to redeem the forfeited land? (Leviticus 25:25)

According to God's law, an Israelite could sell or lose his land only for a time. A lost estate in Israel could always be _____ by a kinsman redeemer. This was to keep the transaction a private matter so as to not to embarrass the family for losing the land.

Therefore, the seven sealed book contained the terms of redemption for the entire earth, and the only _____ worthy to open it was a kinsmen redeemer who could pay the price of redemption.

II. The _____ (5:5-7)

John had begun to weep in verse four when no one was found worthy to open the scroll, but in verse five he is comforted by one of the elders saying, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David hath prevailed to open the book...

Jesus was worthy because He had the redemption price and because He was the Lion of the Tribe of Juda and the Root of David (5:5). The tribe of Juda was God's chosen kingly tribe that would rule His land. Therefore, Jesus was indeed the Kinsman Redeemer with _____ rights because He was of the tribe of Juda and the Root of David and will rule from the New Jerusalem.

He alone had the right to open the book because he had prevailed. The Greek word translated prevailed, from which we get the English transliteration used by a sports company, _____, means "victor" or "overcomer". It is the same word translated overcome in the letters to the seven churches in chapters two and three. Not only is Jesus the Lion of Judah and the Root of David, but He is also the great Prevailer, who overcame the power of Satan at the cross and paid the price of redemption for all creation!

John looked to see the Prevailer who was worthy to open the seven-sealed scroll, but instead of a lion he saw a _____ with the marks of sacrifice on him,...a Lamb as it had been slain...(5:6). This clearly link Jesus to the passover lamb. (Exodus 12:5-7;13)

It should also be noted that the Lamb is **STANDING**, emphasizing the resurrection, rather than lying dead from the crucifixion. Jesus is standing alive and ready to step forward and take the scroll! Previously he had been sitting with His Father on His throne (3:21), now He is standing ready to _____!

The lamb had seven horns, which may be a reference to the incident when the children of Israel first entered the Promised Land and encountered the wicked city of Jericho blocking their way. (Joshua 6:4-5)

Just as the walls of Jericho fell when the priest blew the seven trumpets of ram's horns, so the invisible evil walls that have kept Jesus from His promised inheritance will come tumbling down when the seven trumpets are sounded!

The seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth (5:6) have already been discussed in our study of Revelation 1:4 & 4:5 in conjunction to the seven names of the Holy Spirit.

In verse seven, Christ comes to the _____ stage and takes...the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. Christ alone is worthy to redeem the world by taking and opening the seven-sealed scroll.

III. The _____ (5:8-14)

All the hosts of heaven were well aware of the implications of the Lamb's taking the seven-sealed scroll, so they break forth with three hymns of praise (verses 9,12,13). The number of singers praising Christ increases from 28 in verse eight to _____ creation in verse 13.

The 24 elders, who represent all saints of all times, each has golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of the saints (5:8). These vials, or bowls, apparently represent all the prayers of the saints that have been answered until now.

A common prayer of all true Christians throughout centuries will begin to be answered in chapter five. (Matthew 6:10)

Verse 10 reveals the praise of the Lamb rests also in the fact He had made a fallen human race into kings and priests who would reign on the earth.

In verse 11 John sees and hears an even greater multitude joining in the chorus of praise. The phrase ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousand of thousands simply means the number was _____ counting. This innumerable heavenly host sings a sevenfold ascription of praise to the Lamb saying He is worthy... to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing (5:12).

The use of these seven words suggests that all possible tribute and homage was given to Christ, since the number seven represents _____ or totality!

In verse 14, every being in heaven joins the ascription of praise, and the four living creatures respond by saying Amen. Some have wondered if saying _____ in a formal worship service is appropriate and biblical. Well, one must conclude that if it is proper in heaven, it must be appropriate on earth!

The third song of praise is in verse 13 and is both unto him that sitteth upon the throne (God the Father) and unto the Lamb (God the Son). This praise will never end, going on for ever and ever!

All of this praise resulted from the Lamb taking the scroll from the Father's right hand, indicating that God's eternal plan of setting all creation free from sin and death and of rendering judgement upon all who have rejected His Son is about to be _____!

One day, perhaps sooner than any of us realize, the seals will be broken and the eternal Kinsman Redeemer will redeem the earth and all of creation.

Revelation 5 makes it clear Jesus is WORTHY to claim and to rule not only the earth but also all creation. Certainly this makes Him worthy to claim and to rule every part of your _____!