

Revelation Chapter 5 Commentary Summary

The Scroll and the Worthy One

Revelation chapter 5 continues John's heavenly vision begun in chapter 4. The scene remains centered upon the throne of God, yet attention now shifts to a mysterious scroll held in the right hand of Him who sits upon the throne. This scroll is written on both sides and sealed with seven seals, signifying a complete and legally binding document.

A mighty angel cries out asking who is worthy to open the scroll and loose its seals, yet no created being in heaven, on earth, or under the earth is found worthy. John begins to weep intensely because the inability to open the scroll means redemption and judgment cannot proceed. Evil would remain unchecked, creation unreclaimed, and the promises of God seemingly unfulfilled.

One of the twenty-four elders comforts John and points him to "the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David." Yet when John turns, he does not see a conquering lion, but a Lamb standing as though freshly slain. This powerful image reveals the heart of Christ's victory: He conquers through sacrifice. The Lamb bears the marks of redemption yet stands alive in resurrection power.

The scroll itself appears to reflect the imagery of an ancient title deed. Jewish legal customs, reflected in passages such as Jeremiah 32, involved sealed and open copies of legal property documents. Many interpreters therefore understand the scroll to represent the title deed to the earth. Adam forfeited dominion through sin, allowing Satan to become the present ruler of this world system. Yet Jesus Christ, as the sinless Kinsman Redeemer, alone possesses the legal and moral right to reclaim creation.

The qualifications for redemption required:

- A human redeemer related to mankind
- One free from sin
- One possessing the power and authority to execute redemption

No angel could qualify because angels are not human. No human sinner could qualify because all have sinned. Only Jesus Christ fulfills every requirement.

The Lamb possesses seven horns and seven eyes, symbolizing perfect power and perfect knowledge. The seven eyes are identified as the seven Spirits of God sent into all the earth, emphasizing the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Thus, Revelation 5 presents a magnificent display of the Trinity: the Father upon the throne, the Lamb in the midst of the throne, and the fullness of the Holy Spirit proceeding from Him.

When Christ takes the scroll, heaven erupts in worship. The twenty-four elders fall before the Lamb singing a new song celebrating redemption through His blood. Their song confirms that redeemed humanity from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation has been made kings and priests who shall reign with Christ upon the earth.

The chapter concludes with universal worship as countless angels and all creation proclaim the worthiness of the Lamb. Revelation 5 therefore stands as one of the clearest declarations in Scripture of both the deity of Christ and His absolute worthiness to redeem creation and judge the earth.

Condensed Sermon Motes

Revelation 5 — “The Worthy Lamb”

Introduction

- Revelation 4 showed the throne room of Heaven
 - Revelation 5 reveals the mission of Heaven
 - The church is already present in Heaven
 - Attention now shifts to a sealed scroll in the Father’s right hand
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1. The Scroll in the Right Hand of God

Revelation 5:1-3

- The right hand symbolizes power and authority
- The scroll is written inside and outside
- Sealed with seven seals
- A mighty angel asks: “Who is worthy?”

The Scroll

Most likely:

- A legal title deed
- Connected to Jeremiah 32
- Property redemption imagery
- Adam forfeited dominion at the Fall

The Problem

- No angel
- No human
- No being in creation is worthy

John weeps because:

- If nobody can open the scroll
 - Creation remains under curse
 - Evil remains unjudged
 - Redemption is unfinished
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2. The Lion Who Appears as a Lamb

Revelation 5:4-7

One elder says:

- “Do not weep”
- “The Lion of Judah has prevailed”

But John turns and sees:

- A Lamb as though slain

Powerful Contrast

- Lion = King
- Lamb = Sacrifice
- Jesus conquers through His Cross

Why Jesus Alone Is Worthy

The Kinsman Redeemer had to be:

- Human
- Sinless
- Powerful enough to redeem

Jesus alone qualifies.

3. The Trinity Displayed on the Throne

Revelation 5:6-7

- Father on the throne
- Son in the midst
- Holy Spirit represented by the seven Spirits of God

Seven Horns

- Complete power
- Omnipotence

Seven Eyes

- Complete knowledge
- Omniscience

Not three thrones.

One throne.

One God revealed in Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

4. Heaven Erupts in Worship

Revelation 5:8-14

The elders sing:

- “You were slain”
- “You redeemed us by Your blood”

The Church Is Present

Redeemed people from:

- Every tribe
- Every tongue
- Every nation

Made:

- Kings

- Priests

Millions upon millions worship the Lamb.

Closing Application

Jesus is not merely a teacher or prophet.

He is:

- The Lion of Judah
- The Slain Lamb
- The Redeemer of creation
- The rightful King

The future described in Revelation 5 is not symbolic fantasy.

It is the coming reality for every believer in Christ.