



ONLY THE LAMB IS WORTHY TO OPEN TO SCROLL REVELATION CHAPTER 5 VERSE BY VERSE COMMENTARY

SUMMARY OF REVELATION CHAPTER 5

In Revelation chapter 5 John saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. Then a mighty angel proclaimed in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?” But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it.

John wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. Then one of the elders said to John, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

Those around the throne sang a new song to Jesus, the Lamb of God, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”



Rev 5:1 Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals.

Rev 5:2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?”

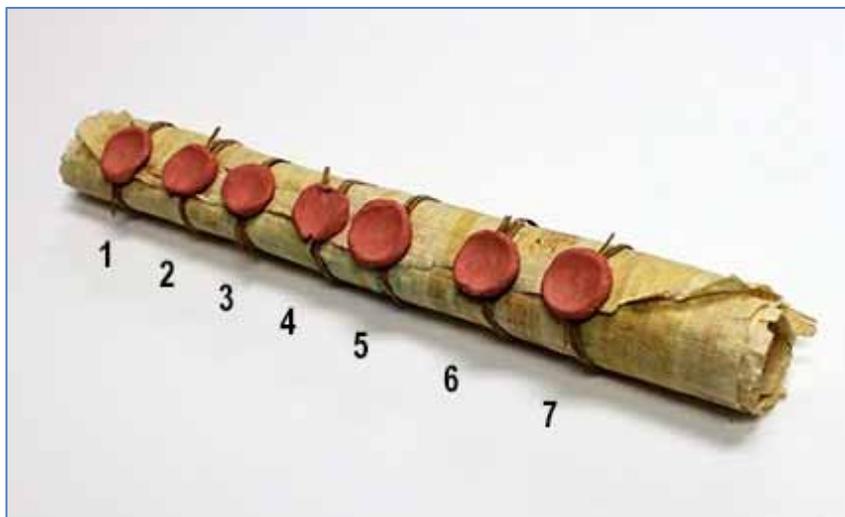
Rev 5:3 But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it.

“Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals.” This book is here seen by the Apostle John as being in the right hand of God, to signify that, as He alone directs the affairs of future prophecy, so He alone is able to reveal to anyone of His choosing. It is written, not on the inside only, as was the usual way, but, like the roll of the book which Ezekiel saw (Ezekiel 2:9-10), it was written within and without.

Ezekiel 2:9-10 (NIV)

Then I looked, and I saw a hand stretched out to me. In it was a scroll, which he unrolled before me. On both sides of it were written words of lament and mourning and woe.

This book was also tightly sealed, to signify that the mystery of God is made known solely when God decides in His sovereign authority.



“And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?’” We must understand the full meaning when John uses the word “worthy.” It is not simply equivalent to “brave enough” or “strong enough.” Here John is telling us worthy means glory and righteousness and seems to imply total moral fitness. This is a feature in the heavenly world. It was not lack of John’s intellectual capacity so much as the remnant of moral unworthiness which prevented the opening and reading of the book.

“But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it.” Wow--no one was able in all of God’s creation - in heaven, or on earth, or in the place of departed spirits (Sheol-the Abyss where Baal was held). No one was able to “open the scroll.”

In fact, no one was able to “even look inside it.” In all the earthly realm, the heavenly realm and the spiritual dungeon no one was qualified to see or explain what the mysterious scroll might contain. God’s mystery is only revealed by the Lamb of God. Only the Lamb is worthy.

Rev 5:4 I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.

Rev 5:5 Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

“I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.” John is not ashamed to call attention to his weeping and tears. He wanted to know what the future held in the scroll. Once opened, John would learn about the Four Horsemen that would promote a false Gospel about Jesus with the Qur’an. John would learn about the first rider with a crown and bow on the white horse-Mohammad.

John would learn about the rider on the red horse-Abu Bakr. John would learn about the third rider on a black horse with a pair of scales to calculate his new Islamic taxes-Umar. And John would learn about the fourth rider on a pale green horse-Uthman. John would learn the Four Horsemen would soon have authority over a quarter of the world with the Umayyad Caliphate. Their four colors are the universal colors of Islam. But here, John does not know anything about the future because the scroll is not open, and John weeps.

“Then one of the elders said to me, ‘Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.’” Christ’s victory has this impact. Only Jesus, the Lamb of God can open the scroll. Jesus is not just a “messenger” as written in the Qur’an. Jesus is the Son of God.



Rev 5:6 Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

Rev 5:7 He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.

“Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders.” The position of the Lamb is described from John’s point of view. Jesus (the Lamb) is not sitting on the throne, but in the middle front of it, and the Lamb is surrounded by the four living creatures. The twenty-four elders are present as well. Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is in the center, and to Jesus all things bow and sing.

“The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.” In Revelation 4:5, John told us that the seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, are the seven Spirits of God. We learn here seven spirits are before the throne and are also sent out into the world. They do the work God commands them to do on earth.

“He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.” The Lamb has conquered; He has risen from the dead and He has taken the scroll. Jesus did not “grab” it out of the Father’s hand. The Father gave it to Jesus. Jesus was loved by the Father, and Jesus loves the Father.

Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. Revelation 5:7 (NIV)



Rev 5:8 And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people.

Rev 5:9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.

Rev 5:10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

In Revelation 14:3 the "new song" is also sung by the symbolic 144,000 Jewish servants of God who accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Only the redeemed Jews can sing it. They fulfill "*Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life*", (Daniel 12:2). Those Jews that reject Christ; "*others to shame and everlasting contempt*", (Daniel 12:2) will never be able to sing the new song to the Lamb in heaven.

Revelation 14:3 (NIV)

And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.

NEW SONG LYRICS

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

The song is new in the sense that it is a song by the symbolic 144,000 Jewish people redeemed in Revelation 14:3, giving thanks for the Lamb's blood that "*purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation*." This new song is distinguished from the songs sung in heaven before the work of redemption was completed by Jesus Christ.

"You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." John does not say this will be a reign under the Savior as a literal kingdom on the earth. John does not say the saints will descend from heaven and occupy thrones of power under Christ as a visible king. Jesus said clearly "*My kingdom is not of this world*."

John 18:36-37 (NIV)

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place." "You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Rev 5:11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.

Rev 5: 12 In a loud voice they were saying: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

Rev 5:13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”

Rev 5:14 The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

John looked and saw many angels and heard their voices. They praised Jesus Christ as they were standing around the throne along with the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders.

John says the number of angels were “*thousands and thousands*”, and then for emphasis says; “*ten thousand times ten thousand.*” John tells us he saw 100 million angels- a general term to communicate either a countless number, or an exceedingly great number. We should not take literally that it was exactly 100 million angels. What John is telling us is that all the heavenly hosts, the uncountable angels, the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures were praising Jesus Christ—the Son of God.

The fact that the Father allows the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures to fall down and worship Jesus Christ and the Father proves Jesus was really God—just as Jesus told us.



Revelation 5:12 NIV

In a loud voice they were saying: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”