

CHAPTER FIVE

“THE SEVEN SEALED BOOK”

Revelation 5:1-7

Because of the tremendous importance of rightly understanding the remaining chapters of Revelation, one great Bible scholar said, “The little seven-sealed book in the hand of one on the throne, mentioned in *Revelation Chapter Five*, contains the secret of the chapters that follow, and is the **key** that opens the entire book of “Revelation.” So it is that *Chapter Five* is a continuation of *Chapter Four*. It begins with a conjunction (“*and*”), thus linking the two chapters.

If we make a mistake here, we cannot rightly understand the rest of the book. The right understanding of this mysterious little book will give to us a right understanding of the rest of Revelation. As we study these verses, we will try to see the plain teaching of God’s Holy Word.

What we will study in this chapter takes place in Heaven, where John was caught up in the spirit to meet the Lord, and where he saw Christ sitting on the throne . . . a throne encircled by a rainbow . . . at first John saw nothing but Christ . . . he was completely occupied by the splendor of the vision of his Lord. You can imagine how the sight of the glorified Lord swept John into another realm. Gazing upon the majesty of Jesus on the throne, nothing else caught his eye for a period of time that is undetermined here. Then he sees someone he has not seen before. He notices another sitting on the throne - and in his hand, the little book. That other one is God the Father.

The Greek word used here for “book” should have been translated “*scroll . . . a roll of parchment sealed with seven seals.*” Heaven comes to a standstill. A diligent search is made in an effort to find someone who is worthy to break the seal, open the book, and read the message. Until the person is found, nothing further can be revealed. Everything hinges and depends upon finding one who is worthy to remove the seven seals and make known the message of the book.

In this little book or scroll is contained the Revelation and the account of all that is to follow, as having to do with God’s last dealings with man, angels, saints, Israel... all of His creation. In this seven-sealed scroll is contained what is known concerning the blowing of the seven trumpets and the pouring out of the seven vials of the wrath of Almighty God.

The little book sealed with seven seals contains the redemption terms for the entire earth. Jesus redeemed the soul at Calvary (*1 Peter 1: 18-23*). He will redeem the body at the RAPTURE (*1 John 3: 1-12*). Jesus will, redeem the earth and all creation during the time of the removal of the seven seals from the scroll (*Romans 8:18-23*).

To understand the seven-sealed book, we must go back to the Old Testament. There is a verse somewhere in the Word of God which sheds light on any other verse, no matter how hard it may be to understand. There are many laws, and regulations in the system of laws, concerning Israel and their dealings with God. Among these laws are three concerning redemption.

- 1. THE LAW OF REDEMPTION CONCERNING A WIFE.** If the husband died, leaving no children, the husband’s brother was to take his widow, so that his name would not die. But first he must be able to support his brother’s widow. If he were not financially able to care for the woman, he had no right to take her. Jesus, with His own blood redeemed the Bride (the Church). Jesus was able, He was the only one who could redeem man.

2. **THE LAW OF REDEMPTION CONCERNING A SLAVE.** If a man lost all he had, and could not pay his bills, his creditors could take him as a slave. Adam lost all he had when he sinned but second Adam paid the ransom note with His own blood.
3. **THE LAW OF REDEMPTION CONCERNING LAND.** *Leviticus 25:23–25* ²³*The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me.* ²⁴*And in all the land of your possession ye shall grant a redemption for the land. “If thy brother be waxen poor, and hath sold away some of his possession, and if any of his kin come to redeem it, then shall he redeem that which his brother sold. The first Adam sold out to the devil, the second Adam bought it back with His blood what the first Adam lost.”*

The book sealed with seven seals concerns the terms on which Adam’s lost estate (the whole creation) may be redeemed by the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Lamb slain but raised, the Lamb with seven horns, seven eyes, yes, the second Adam “*Who came to give His life a ransom (buy back His own) for many.*” I have pointed out that Jesus redeemed the Bride at Calvary. He redeemed us from the slavery of sin through His sinless life. He ever lives to make intercession for us. He will redeem the price of ground (the earth) when He comes again.

God holds the scroll containing the price and conditions for redeeming the land (the earth) and is here returning it to those who lost it because of man’s sin. In our present Scripture the Church has already been raptured, the saints are with Jesus in the air (prophetically) and will soon be ready to reign with Jesus here on earth. The saints at the time of John’s writing (prophetically) would soon be ready to reign with Jesus, but the earth is still under the curse. Sin is ruling, the devil’s the prince of the power of the air, the god of this age. The whole world lieth in the lap of the wicked one. Someone must be found who is willing, worthy, and able to meet the redemption terms listed under the seals on the scroll. Therefore, an all-out search was made. John wept much because no man was found worthy to open and read the book, nor look upon it.

John’s heart was broken because he knew that everything depended upon his finding someone who is worthy to be the kinsman, redeemer, to open the seven seals. John knew what the book contained, and he knew that if that book were never opened, if the seals could not be removed:

1. All Old Testament Prophecies would be void concerning the reign of Jesus upon this earth.
2. All creatures would remain under the curse. (*Romans 8:22*)
3. Israel would never be restored. (*Romans 11:1-36*)
4. The Bible would be untrue. (*Matthew 5:18*)

Then one of the elders spoke to John saying, “*Weep not: behold, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.*”

This Jesus and Him only is worthy to open the seals. Why?

1. Jesus was the seed of David
2. Was willing to pay the price
3. Was able to pay the price and was the only one

Then Jesus the Lamb stood in the midst of the Heavenly and came and took the book out of the right hand of Him that sat upon the throne.

- I. **Verse 1:** *And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.*
 - A. The book in the right hand of the Lord Jesus Christ is actually a scroll of either sheepskin, papyrus, or vellum.
 - B. Its subject is redemption, and its contents unlock the remainder of this chapter. The message is contained on the inside and outside, and is enclosed by seven seals.
- II. **Verse 2:** *And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book and to loose the seals thereof?*
 - A. The search for a member of the human race, past or present, or any rank of angel to open the book proves fruitless. None is worthy!
- III. **Verse 3:** *And no man in heaven, not in the earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.*
 - A. John is heartbroken!
 - B. Is there no hope?
- IV. **Verse 4:** *And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.*
 - A. John's lament has to do with the fact that this scroll is also the title deed to the earth.
 - B. As long as it remains sealed, Satan will be in complete control of the planet.
- V. **Verse 5:** *And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.*
 - A. John's weeping ends at the place where all tears are dried. He is pointed to Christ where tears are turned to joy.
 - B. Christ is the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David.
 - C. Since Judah is the leading tribe of Israel and a Lion is the king of beasts, Christ is thus pictured when He comes as Israel's King (See **Revelation 19:16**)
 - D. It is at this same moment that the Lord God gives "...unto Him the throne of His father David" (**Luke 1:32**). Let's go further in proving that our Saviour is the One John sees.



The Opening of the Sealed Scroll (Revelation 5:5-14)

VI. Verse 6: *And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.*

- A. As mentioned previously, the seven-sealed scroll is the title deed to the earth and its subject is redemption.
- B. The *Lamb of God (1 John 1:29)*, who earned the right by redemption to the title deed of the earth, is the only One worthy to open the seals.
- C. This is the Lamb who died for you and for me. Yes, *Christ died for our sins (1 Corinthians 15:3)*
 - 1. He shed His precious blood to purchase our redemption, for *the blood of Jesus Christ [God's Son] cleanseth us from all sin (1 John 1:7)*.
 - 2. John who recorded the fact that Jesus was the *Lamb of God* when He walked upon the earth, now says that no one can overcome but *by the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 12:11)*.
 - a. Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power?
 - b. Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?
 - c. There is no other way!
 - 3. Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission for sins. “...*without shedding of blood is no remission.*” (**Hebrews 9:22**)
 - 4. This Lamb is worthy because of the sacrifice He paid for your sin and mine. Yes, worthy is the Lamb to be praised for time and eternity.
- D. The Lamb's seven horns pictures strength. Jesus said, *All [authority] is given unto me in heaven and in earth (Matthew 28:18)*. The seven eyes picture the fact that He sees everything each of us does: *All things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do (Hebrews 4:13)*. Since “seven” means perfection, there will be no mistakes made as the judgment is meted out because the seven spirits of God—a picture of the Holy Spirit in all of His fullness—rest upon Christ without measure.
- E. Coupling His power:
 - 1. His power (*seven horns*)
 - 2. His all-seeing vision (*seven eyes*)
 - 3. His filling of the Spirit of God (*seven spirits*)
 - 4. All in a sevenfold way “*And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: ⁽²⁾And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD*” (**Isaiah 11:1-2**).
 - 5. Not one mistake will be made during the Tribulation hour. The One found worth now acts.

VII. Verse 7: *And he came and took the book out of the right hand of Him that sat upon the throne.*

On to “PART II”

PART II

Revelation 5:8-10

“When Jesus had by himself purged our sins, He ascended and sat down on the right hand of the majesty on high”. (**Hebrews 1:1-3**) Jesus is sitting on the throne with God the Father.

- I. **Verse 8:** “And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.”
 - A. The twenty-four elders, representatives of all of God’s saved people, share in this glorious moment. The praise is so spectacular that the redeemed break out in song. What a heavenly choir—the largest ever assembled
 - B. Christians fall down before the Lamb. They all have harps and golden vials full of precious odors which are the prayers of the saints.
 - C. Did you know that God bottles up prayers and these prayers are sweet perfume in God’s nostrils? According to this verse, the prayers of the saints will be used in worshiping the Lamb after He is declared worthy to open the seals of the scroll. I wonder how many prayers we have sent up to be bottled?
 - D. Now listen to the choir:
- II. **Verse 9:** “And they [sang] a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nations; ...”
 - A. The heavenly host bursts forth in singing “a new song.” That song announced that Jesus was worthy to open the book that contained the seven seals.
 - B. The song is termed “a new song” because its theme, REDEMPTION when fully accomplished, will create “**all things new.**”
- III. **Verse 10:** *And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.*
 - A. The song is in appreciation of the fact that Christ was slain on Calvary’s cross, that His precious blood was shed, and that it was shed for the entire world. *But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: (1 Peter 1:19)*. This includes Presbyterians, Lutherans, Methodists, Catholics, Baptists, Pentecostals, anyone saved by the blood of the Lamb.
 1. Because He purchased redemption through His precious book, we have been made kings and priests.
 2. You are somebody if you are born again.
 3. We shall reign with Jesus for a thousand years and shall be recognized in our redemptive nature.
 4. So rejoice, the best is yet to come. If God be for us, who can be against us? Therefore, we know that we are on the winning side.
 - B. Some Christians think they are going to have their own little corner, all alone, in heaven. Not so! Christ’s sacrifice was for all kindreds, all tongues, and all people, all nations. God loves the world! The choir also sings about their soon return with Him when He comes as *King of kings (Revelation 19:11)*. At that time they—the armies of heaven—will follow Him upon white horses. At this point the angels also join in praising the Lamb...

PART III
Revelation 5:11-14

Part III opens with the words:

- I.** ***Verses 11 & 12:*** “*And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands.*”¹²¹ *Saying with a loud voice, worth is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.*”
- A. The terms “*I saw*” and “*I heard*” denote undivided attention on the part of the beloved disciple. The book of Revelation is history, it is not fiction. It is revealed fact, verbally inspired, written by John. John, testifies to the fact that these visions were actually seen and that the various sounds and voices were actually heard by Him personally.
- B. Angels are introduced here. Remember:
1. They announced the birth of Jesus and praised God.
 2. They administered to Jesus in the garden.
 3. Two angels witnessed to the resurrection.
 4. Two angels testified of His ascension.
 5. Angels will accompany Him in His victorious entry into this world when He comes in the Revelation. “*When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:*” (***Matthew 25:31***).
- C. Notice that this passage is not a song. Nowhere does the Bible teach that angels sing. They recite their praise, whereas the Church Triumphant sings her glorious message. The angels, associated with the Lord since their creation, know Him as few know Him—for they have lived with Him for thousands of years. They praise the Lamb for seven reasons:
1. His power
 2. His spiritual riches
 3. His wisdom
 4. His might
 5. His honor
 6. His glory
 7. His blessing
- Countless angels say “***Worthy is the Lamb.***”
- D. Carnal Christians who will not bow in worship to Christ here on earth, soon will!

- II. Verse 13:** *And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever.*
- A. At this point **Philippians 2:9-11** will be fulfilled: *Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: ^{10}That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ^{11}And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:9-11)*
 - B. What is the response as the heavenly hosts envision this future hour?
- III. Verse 14:** *“And the Four Beasts said, Amen! And the 24 elders fell down and worshipped Him that liveth forever and ever.”*
- A. Notice they get a head start. They cannot wait to begin their worship of the Lamb—the Lord Jesus Christ!
 - B. The praise is never ceasing. Through the Millennium, the eternal ages that roll on, the slain Lamb is the object of praise and adoration because it was the Lamb who redeemed us with His blood. It was the Lamb who said, *“Not my will, but thine be done.”* And because he was willing to say this to the Heavenly Father, He climaxed His earthly ministry by saying, *“It is accomplished [finished].”* He fulfilled every jot and tittle of the law. He satisfied every demand of the Heavenly Father. He purchased redemption for *“whosoever will.”* He is coming again to make good every promise He ever made!
YES, HE IS WORTHY! AMEN.