

## Revelation Chapter Five

5:1 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.

1. This chapter is a continuation of chapter four.
2. The message in chapter four is plain. God rules and His creatures worship.
3. If the aforementioned is true, then the Roman emperors deserve no worship.
4. In chapter five, the scene continues with the One on the throne having a book in His right hand written within and on the backside. The writing on both sides shows the vast amount of material to be revealed. God is going to show them all they need to see.
5. This book would have been a scroll.
6. It was sealed with seven seals. This means it would probably have been waxed together in some way with official seals on it.
7. The seals are security seals. This was done so that no unauthorized person would receive the message.
8. God alone knows the future. The number seven is the number for perfection thus the future is perfectly known by God and will remain a secret until a qualified person (Christ) comes on the scene to reveal it.
9. One cannot know the mind of God until He reveals it: 1 Corinthians 2:9-11 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.
10. So, only Deity could reveal the content of the book.

5:2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

1. John sees a strong angel asking the question, "Who is worthy to open the book?"
2. Psalm 103:20 Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.
3. Man cannot probe into the secret things of God: Deuteronomy 29:29 The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.
4. Romans 11:34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?
5. At times, God wanted revelation sealed: Daniel 9:24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to **seal up** the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Daniel 12:4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and **seal the book**, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

5:3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. 4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

1. "And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon." This means that no one in heaven or on earth or any who had lived: past, present and even future was worthy to open the book.
2. John wept because no one could be found to open the book.

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3. We must understand John's disappointment. He had been told that he was going to be shown things that would be hereafter: Revelation 4:1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.
4. What does this say about those who claim to be able to see into the future and have no revelation to back it up? It makes them liars and false prophets.
5. All of God's promises and plans depended upon one opening that book of revelation for the future. So it is with Christianity. It cannot function without the written revelation that God has given us.
6. Now, one can see why John wept.

5:5 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.

1. One of the elders tells John not to weep. A solution to the problem has been found.
2. While it is true that no one in heaven and earth and under the earth was worthy to open the seals, there was one worthy.
3. The revelation and plans of God would not be aborted.
4. The Lion, the Root and the Lamb is about to appear on the scene.
5. "The lion by reason of his strength and courage is known as the king of beast. The Lion of the tribe of Judah thus signifies the kingly power and majesty of Christ the Lord. He is Conquerer, the Ruler, the King whose genealogy is traced through the tribe of Judah." (Winters p.80).
6. Genesis 49:10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.
7. Hebrews 7:14 For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.
8. The root of David shows His tie to that lineage: Isaiah 11:1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: Matthew 1:1 The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. 1 Chronicles 17:11-15 And it shall come to pass, when thy days be expired that thou must go to be with thy fathers, that I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom. 12 He shall build me an house, and I will stablish his throne for ever. 13 I will be his father, and he shall be my son: and I will not take my mercy away from him, as I took it from him that was before thee: 14 But I will settle him in mine house and in my kingdom for ever: and his throne shall be established for evermore. 15 According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.
9. "The Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof."

5:6 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.

1. In the midst of the throne, no doubt, carries the idea that the Lamb was sharing the throne with God. Revelation 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. Revelation 7:17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. Revelation 22:3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:
2. Jesus is here called a Lamb: John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. Acts 8:32 The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb

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before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: 1 Peter 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

3. This Lamb appeared as if It had been slain: John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.
4. The Lamb is symbolic of the sacrificial system thus representative of redemption.
5. "Having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth."
6. Jesus had the Holy Spirit without measure: John 3:34 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.

5:7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

1. The Lamb takes the book out of the right hand of God.
2. Now there is hope that the seals can be broken and the book opened.

5:8 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.

1. When the Lamb takes the book, the four creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb.
2. Notice, the Lamb is worthy of worship.
3. All twenty eight beings have harps and golden vials full of odours which are the prayers of the saints.
4. It is almost as if they are saying before you reveal the future consider the cries and the appeals of your children.
5. Our prayers carry much clout with God: James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. 1 John 5:14-15 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him. Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.
6. The harps in this verse do not constitute Bible authority for the use of mechanical instruments of music in worship. The issue is not was there instrumental music in the Old Testament. Neither is the issue, is there instrumental music in heaven? The issue is where is the authority for the church to use instrumental music in worship to God? There is no such authority!

5:9 And they sung 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 nation;

1. The theme here is **Worthy is The Lamb**. Three reasons are given as to why He is worthy:
  - a. Thou wast slain. (v 9).
  - b. Thou hast redeemed us. (v 9).
  - c. Thou hast made us unto our God kings and priests. (v 10).
2. They sung a **new song** which indicates that the Lamb is worthy to open the book. The song could not have been sung prior to His sacrifice.
3. Even though the Lamb was once slain, He now lives. Our entire hope is built on the fact that Jesus lives.
4. A song says, "**Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.**"

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5. Think of what a source of encouragement this scene must have been for the Christians of the first century. The Jews and the Roman government thought they had defeated the Christ at calvary, but He lives. Romans 1:4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: 1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
6. Jesus foretold His death and resurrection: John 10:17-18 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. 18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father. Matthew 12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.
7. If Jesus knew what the future held for Him, and He did, then He also knew what the future held for the Christians of the first century.
8. They acknowledged that they had been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb: Revelation 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, Revelation 7:13-14 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? 14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
9. The redeemed were our of every nation: Acts 10:34-35 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: 35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

1. Revelation 5:10 and madest them to be unto our God a kingdom and priests; and they reign upon earth. (ASV)
2. We are in the kingdom: Colossians 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:
3. We are priests: 1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:
4. Revelation 1:6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.
5. Christ is King only as long as the kingdom (church) stands. or to put it another way, until the end of time: 1 Corinthians 15:24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.
6. There will be no literal earthly kingdom as taught by the premillennial people.
7. Christ is to be both King and Priest on His throne: Zechariah 6:12-13 And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: 13 Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.
8. Christ cannot be a priest on earth: Hebrews 8:4 For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law:
9. Christ cannot be a king on earth: Jeremiah 22:28-30 Is this man Coniah a despised broken idol? is he a vessel wherein is no pleasure? wherefore are they cast out, he and his seed, and are cast into a land which they know not? 29 O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD. 30 Thus saith the LORD, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his

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seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah. Matthew 1:11

And Josias begat Jechonias and his brethren, about the time they were carried away to Babylon:

10. Mark 9:1 And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.

5:11 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;

1. A new voice of praise appears.
2. The angels were all around the throne.
3. We sing, "***He could have called ten thousand angels.***"
4. John is speaking of an innumerable host.
5. Hebrews 12:22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

5:12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

1. The angels sing praises to the Lamb.
2. Only God is worthy of worship, therefore, Jesus is God.
3. The angels declare the Lamb to be worthy of:
  - a. Power.
  - b. Riches.
  - c. Wisdom.
  - d. Strength.
  - e. Honour.
  - f. Glory.
  - g. Blessing.
4. Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

5:13 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 for ever and ever.

1. Psalm 148:1-5 Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the heavens: praise him in the heights. 2 Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts. 3 Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light. 4 Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens. 5 Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they were created.
2. Psalm 33:6-9 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. 7 He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses. 8 Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. 9 For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.
3. Philippians 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;
4. Romans 14:11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.
5. Psalm 24:1 The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.
6. Those who stand up and curse God to His face are His.
7. An atheist can deny God for a lifetime, but he is still the creation of God.

5:14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

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1. God desires His creation to worship Him.
2. All of creation obeys God except mankind.
3. John 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.
4. The Greek reads, He came to His own things but His own ones would not receive Him.
5. Romans 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.
6. Some people worship and serve the creature more than the creator.
7. The Roman emperor or anyone else is not worthy of worship.
8. We must make sure that we spent a lifetime in praise and adoration to the true and living God.
9. It would be terrible to be in a Devil's hell in all eternity and never get to praise God.