

**STUDYING THE BOOK OF REVELATION
THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST (12)**

REVELATION 5

The Sealed Book

Revelation 5: 1-14

King James Version (KJV)



5 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. ²And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?” ³But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. ⁴I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. ⁵Then 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.”

⁶Then 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. ⁷He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.

⁸And 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. ⁹And 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.
¹⁰You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,
and they will reign on the earth.”

¹¹Then 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. ¹²In 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!”

¹³Then 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!”

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

More on Studying Revelation Method of Communication

John received these prophecies through a series of vivid visions containing symbolic images and numbers that echo those found in the prophetic books of the Old Testament. John records these visions in the chronological order in which he received them; many of them pictures of the same events from different perspectives. He does not, however provide a chronological order in which certain historical events are to occur. For example, Jesus is born in chapter 12, is exalted in chapter 5, and is walking in the midst of His churches in chapter 1. The beast who attacks the two witnesses in chapter 11 is not brought into existence until chapter 13. John records a series of successive visions, not a series of consecutive events.

The Revelation is a cosmic pageant---an elaborate, colorful series of tableaux, accompanied and interpreted by celestial speakers and singers. The spoken word is elevated prose, more poetic than our translations indicate. The music is similar to a cantata. Repeatedly, themes are introduced, later reintroduced, combined with other themes, and developed.

The entire message is "**signified**" (1:1). This is a key to the understanding of the visions, all of which contain figurative language pointing to the spiritual realities in and behind historical experience. Signs and symbols are essential because spiritual truth and unseen reality must always be communicated to human beings through their senses. Symbols point to what is ultimately indescribable. For example, the account of the demonic locusts from the abyss (9:1-12) creates a vivid, horrifying impression, even though the minute details are not intended to be interpreted.



5:1 The **right hand** is the symbol of power and authority. The **book** (*scroll*) is the redemptive plan of God, foreshadowed in the OT, inaugurated in Jesus Christ and now revealed in its victorious consummation (*see Ezek. 2:9, 10; Heb. 2:5-10*). **Written within and on the backside and sealed with seven seals** indicates that nothing can be added to God's Last Will and testament.

5:2-4 No creature, celestial or earthly, **is worthy** to reveal or execute God's plan for "*the fullness of time*" (*Eph. 1:9,10*)

5:5 The Lion: Christ is the greatest member **of the tribe of Juda** (see *Gen. 49:9,10*). **The Root of David:** Messianic prophecy spoke of an ideal king of David's line who would combine power and goodness (see *Is. 11:1, 10; Jer. 23:5, Zech. 3:8*).

5:6 Instead of a Lion, the emblem of strength, John saw a **Lamb**, the symbol of meekness, and of sacrificial offering. The fact that the Lamb was **slain**, but is living, shows that He has overcome. God's purpose, concealed for ages, can now be revealed, and accomplished (see *Is. 53; John 1:29, 36*). **Seven horns** denote complete and perfect power. **Seven eyes** represent complete and perfect knowledge and insight.

5:7 This picture is the fulfillment of **Dan. 7:10-14**. Compare the description of "*the Ancient of Days*" in *Dan.* with the "*one like unto the Son of man*" in *Rev. 1:13-16*.

5:8 Odours represents (*Ps. 141:2*) and purifies the **prayers of saints**, redeemed sinners, which are presented by **the four and twenty elders**.

5:9 They sung a new song (*Ps. 33:3; 40:3; 96:1; 144:9; Is. 42:1-13*) in response to God's new redemptive act in history. God in Christ has inaugurated the church age (*14:1-5*). The same ascription of praise is the Lamb as to the Creator (*4:11*).

5:10 As a royal priesthood the saints **reign** now with Christ **on the earth** by their worship, their prayers, and their witness in word and deed. This sense of praise is in progress now and throughout redemptive history. (see *1:6*).

5:13,14 Every created being joins the cosmic chorus, and ascribes to the Lamb every attribute of God. All history is moving toward the predestined goal of the eventual and ultimate universal recognition of the lordship of Jesus Christ (see *Phil. 2:10, 11*). **Amen:** "*Yes, it is true!*".... **to be cont'd.**



Janet Thomas
Founder/President/CEO
Bible Stories Theatre of
Fine & Performing Arts
info@biblestoriestheatre.org
www.biblestoriestheatre.org