

# The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Cornerstone Church of Alexandria MN

Pastor Darryl Knappen

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Message Title: What Worship Is Like in Heaven Around the Throne of Jesus Christ Our Lord,

Today's Passage: Revelation 5:1-14 ESV

Introduction

Verse One

**[1] Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals.**

- In chapter 4 we saw an image of God the Father seated on His throne and we stated that this throne indicated God's sovereign power over all things in the universe including all things that happen in your life much like he did with Job.
- Now in this chapter we see in God's right hand a scroll indicating the actual battle orders or commands from God which He determined will take place on earth in the end times (much like the documents ancient kings had sealed with their signet rings to carry out their orders).
- The right hand of a king is always the right hand of authority.
- Being seated on the throne indicates a position of power and authority (say when a congressman is seated in his office by vote)
- Since the scroll was written on both sides, it indicates that the orders were precise and detailed (since most scrolls were only written on one side).
- The seven seals (placed on the top edge of the chapters) were symbols of safety. No one was allowed to know the content of these orders until the one and only authorized person was found to break them and with that breaking reveal not only the content, but authorize the orders to proceed with the attacks upon the enemies of God.

Verses Two – Four

**[2] And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" [3] And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, [4] and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.**

- A heavenly angel asks one of the most important questions in all the universe. It is this: "Who, based on their worthiness, has the right to break the seals?" If that question had not been asked, and a search had not been made to find that person, we would be inclined to think that many individuals were worthy or authorized to open the scroll.
  - Our Lord is unique. The term monogenes (John 1:14,18; 3:16,18; 1 John 4:9) in Greek (only begotten in many versions) means one (mono) genes (species or kind) so, one of a kind.
    - Gautama Buddha? Died a sinner approx. 411 B.C. (Is still dead, at least bodily)
    - Mohammed? Died a very great sinner June 8<sup>th</sup> 632 A.D. (Is still dead, at least bodily).
    - Confucius? Died a sinner in 479 B.C. (Is still dead, at least bodily).
    - Joseph Smith? Died a sinner in 1844 A.D. (Is still dead, at least bodily).

- Ellen G. White? Died a sinner in July 16, 1915 (Is still dead, at least bodily).
  - Neither Lucifer, (now Satan), nor Gabriel, nor Michael nor any other created being is worthy to open and initiate the final stages of human history.
- After a fruitless universal search was completed, John broke down in the most gut-wrenching sobbing imaginable.
  - Here are his thoughts:
    - How is God going to be vindicated if His plans for the world-wide reign of Christ cannot be initiated?
    - How will Jesus ever be truly glorified if the promises of His world-wide glory and rule are never started?
    - How can the followers of Christ be guaranteed co-rulership of the world and be vindicated for their patient suffering if their leader is incompetent?
    - What will happen to the enemies of Christ if they end up being victorious instead of vanquished?
    - If no one can be found to unseal the scrolls then life has no meaning at all.

## Verse Five

**[5] And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."**

- The candidate who is qualified to open the scrolls and begin the end-time events must have the correct titles as well as the correct resume. Here, an elder tells John that the Lord he loves so much has all the correct titles. He is:
  - The Lion of the tribe of Judah. **(Genesis 49:9-10 ESV) Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.**
  - The Root of David. **(Revelation 22:16 ESV) "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."**
    - Root indicates source. Therefore David came out of Jesus since Jesus was the origin of the entire human race when He created it with the Father.
    - At the same time that he was the original ancestor of David, he was also the descendant of David. What other person can say they were both grandparent and grandchild of someone else?
  - The Conqueror. Battle plans are of no use if the enemy is certain to be victorious. Our Lord has already defeated the enemy at the cross so every plan to end the ages is now fully operative and guaranteed to be successful.

**Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. (Hebrews 2:14-15 ESV)**

**(Jesus) who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, (2 Timothy 1:9-10 ESV)**

**Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8 ESV)**

## Verses Six and Seven

**[6] And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. [7] And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne.**

- John was expecting to see a majestic lion, proud, fierce, intimidating. Instead he sees a lamb and a little lamb (arnion) at that, defenseless, helpless, the weakest of all animals. This little lamb had marks indicating it had been slain.

**(Isaiah 53:7 ESV) He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.**

- John sees this slain lamb standing (ready for action) between the throne of the Father, and the four living creatures and between the elders indicating that it too was the focus of worship, just as much as the Father was (is).
- The slain Lamb had on its head 7 horns indicating the totality of power (horns were always symbols of authority and power in Scripture and 7 being the number of completeness)
- The slain Lamb also had seven eyes indicating the omnipresent activity, knowledge, and wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

**(Zechariah 4:10 ESV) For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice, and shall see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. "These seven are the eyes of the LORD, which range through the whole earth."**

**(Isaiah 11:2-4 ESV) 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 the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.**

- Our Lord took the scroll from the Father's hand indicating Jesus receiving from the Father the authority and power to carry out the plans. The Father's grip on the end time plans would not be released to just anybody.

## Verse Eight

**[8] And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.**

- More praise is due the Savior once He has taken the scroll because He is about to execute long overdue justice and judgment upon the inhabitants of the earth. He has waited patiently for this moment to occur and now that it has the worship might sound like a whole lot of cheering going on!
- The bowls of incense, a staple ingredient to worship, are the prayers of the saints most likely pleading for justice and judgment to begin. Those prayers, although delayed are about to be answered.

## Verses Nine and Ten

**[9] And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, [10] and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."**

- The elders worshiped Jesus by singing a new song (it had to be new since this was a new occasion, Jesus had never before taken the scroll from the Father's hand before to begin the process of end-time judgment.
- They said that Jesus was worthy of this praise and of this honor because of four things:
  1. He was slain, this in itself is nothing to be praised for since many people have been murdered throughout history, but with Jesus this was voluntary, and self-initiated. More of this in the application.

2. He ransomed an entire race of people called Christians/believers/saints. Who did He ransom (think ransom money here) them from? NOT SATAN, as is sometime incorrectly taught. Jesus ransomed us from the Father for we owed the Father payment for all our sins we committed against Him and against one another. (Sinning against one of God's creatures especially a redeemed one, is a direct sin against God. It would be like someone trying to hurt one of your children!)
3. He made members of this race priests. This race included someone from every tribe and language who Jesus promoted as priests whose responsibility it is to bring people to God.
4. Jesus made each member of this group a co-regent, whose destiny it is to reign with Christ on the earth over other humans, animals, creation etc.

#### Verses Eleven – Fourteen

**[11] Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, [12] saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" [13] And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" [14] And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.**

- Worship begins to emanate in concentric circles from the center of the throne room outward involving billions of worshipers. Think the Hallelujah Chorus by Handel sung by the most powerful voices multiplied by billions.
- A myriad equals 10,000. A myriads of myriad would be 10,000 times 10,000 or 100 million. However John said myriads not myriad so 100 million times 100 million, so now we are into the billions.
- The elders and everyone else sang and said that Jesus is worthy to receive seven things. These seven are things that Christ will receive on earth. He will receive all earthly power (all kings will bow to Him) earthly wealth (All tribute will be brought to Him) all earthly wisdom (all human intelligence and creativity will be devoted to Him) all earthly might (all remaining generals will turn over the keys to every remaining weapon) all earthly honor (all earthly celebrations will be honoring the King of Glory) all glory (every earthly award will be given to the Lord) all blessing (all earthly praise will be directed to His person and throne).
- Finally the worship of Jesus crescendos to an unbelievably loud decibel when all of creation joins in worship with all their strength including animals, birds, and even fish!

#### Application

- Do you admire Jesus because of His power? Or do you worship Him because of His humility? The most powerful person in all the universe voluntarily, laid down His own life to redeem and rescue you. He is worthy of your praise, your obedience, your loyalty and your witness.