

# Revelation

## Prologue

**1** The revelation of Jesus Christ, which he gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, <sup>2</sup>who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup>Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

## Greetings and Doxology

<sup>4</sup>John,  
To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup>and among the lampstands was someone “like a son of man,” <sup>b</sup>dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup>His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. <sup>15</sup>His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. <sup>16</sup>In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun, shining in all its brilliance.

...his feet as though dead. Then he held his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.”

in your favor: You hate the  
the Nicolaitans, which

<sup>7</sup>He who has an ear,  
what the Spirit says to  
To him who overcomes,  
right to eat from the tree  
is in the paradise of God

*To the Church in Smyrna*

<sup>8</sup>“To the angel of the church  
write:

These are the words of  
the First and the Last, who  
came to life again. <sup>9</sup>I know  
your afflictions and your poverty-  
rich! I know the slander  
say they are Jews and are  
a synagogue of Satan.  
I am afraid of what you are  
I tell you, the devil will put  
in prison to test you, and  
for persecution for ten days.  
I will give you the crown

<sup>11</sup>He who has an ear,  
what the Spirit says to  
He who overcomes will  
all by the second death

## REVELATION 5:1-8

- **The Scroll**
  - Likely the destiny of the world
  - This destiny will be revealed throughout the coming chapters
  - Revelation is not a verbatim dictation of this scroll, but a depiction of events from this scroll



## REVELATION 5:1-8

- **The Scroll**
  - **Written on both sides**
    - **Highly irregular**
    - **The back of the scroll would have been where the seams of the papyrus was evident and where the glue would be applied**
    - **Only used in extreme cases where space was required**

## REVELATION 5:1-8

- The Scroll
  - 7 Seals
    - Either 7 collective seals or successive seals
    - Given the unveiling of what happens with each seal, likely these were successive seals on the same scroll

## REVELATION 5:1-8

- **Mighty Angel**
  - The angel's voice is heard through heaven, earth, and in the realm of the dead
  - Who is worthy?
    - The scroll reveals God's moral judgements
    - Only one who is completely good can open the book

## REVELATION 5:1-8

- No One Found
  - The mightiest of angels are unworthy
  - All of living creation on earth is unworthy
  - All those who have gone before are unworthy

## REVELATION 5:1-8

- John's Response
  - Wept and wept
    - This wailing implies the depth of John's despair
    - Since it cannot be opened does it mean that God's purposes will not be completed?
    - John realizes just how fallen we are

## REVELATION 5:1-8

- John Consoled
  - There are real, personal interactions in heaven
  - We are not worshipping robots
  - We will be a rational, functional, glorified creation



## REVELATION 5:1-8

- Who Is Worthy?
  - Lion of Judah, Root of David
    - Neither expression is definitely used in the OT to describe Christ
    - They both allude to Christ's lineage and power

## REVELATION 5:1-8

- Who Is Worthy?
  - He has Triumphed!
    - Implying a former event that has created an ongoing condition
    - The triumph has occurred and will remain in effect

## REVELATION 5:1-8

- The Lion of Judah
  - A Lamb? That was slain?
  - Seven horns represent the fullness of strength
  - Seven eyes representing the fullness of the Spirit of God

## REVELATION 5:1-8

- The Lion of Judah
  - Christ, of the tribe of Judah and the line of David, is supremely powerful and all-knowing, and that he has won his victory by his atoning and sacrificial death.



## REVELATION 5:1-8

- Taking the Scroll
  - Represents the perfect harmony of the will of God and the will of Christ
  - There can be no difference as they are One, yet separate

## REVELATION 5:1-8

- Change in Worship
  - Fall down before the Lamb
  - Recognizing that all worship has been given to God, yet the Lamb is also worthy
  - The image of holding the scroll and receiving praise, express equality with God

## REVELATION 5:1-8

- Golden Bowls of Incense
  - People's Prayers
  - Ps 141:1-2 - I call to you, Lord, come quickly to me; hear me when I call to you. May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.

## REVELATION 5:1-8

- **Golden Bowls of Incense**
  - While the saints in the churches are being tortured and martyred on earth
  - In heaven their prayers are not simply heard, but are received as precious offerings



## REVELATION 5:1-8

- Ephesians 5:1-2
  - Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

## REVELATION 5:1-8

- **2 Corinthians 2:14-17**

- **But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.**

## REVELATION 5:1-8

- **2 Corinthians 2:14-17**
  - To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task? Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, as those sent from God.

## REVELATION 5:1-8

- Philippians 4:18-20
  - I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.