

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Week 3– Revelation 5– When He Had Taken the Scroll

February 7, 2017

### REVELATION 5:8-14

*Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. <sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, <sup>10</sup> And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.’ <sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup> saying with a loud voice: ‘Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!’ <sup>13</sup> 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, I heard saying: ‘Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!’ <sup>14</sup> Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.*

Everything was lost at the fall when sin entered the world through Satan’s temptations and man succumbing to those temptations. Not only was mankind separated from God, the earth was cursed (Gen. 1:1; Isa. 45:18; Job 38:4). Was God’s plan then thwarted? NO! What is God’s plan?

- To create man in His own image to represent God and reflect what God is like (intellect, will, emotions).
- To enjoy fellowship with God (Gen. 1:26-3:8).
- Man was given dominion – to rule the earth (Gen. 1:26; Psa. 8:3). Man was to be God’s representative on earth.

### BIBLE STUDY TOOLS:

- The plot of the Bible falls under: CREATION FALL REDEMPTION RESTORATION
- The overarching theme of the Bible: the glory of God
- The subtheme “The glory of God in salvation through judgment” is repeated throughout the Bible
- The underlying principle of the Bible: the character of God
- We need to remember that God’s will can NEVER be thwarted!

God’s original plan was postponed because of man sinning against God. Man’s sin caused the loss of his privilege. Satan usurped dominion that was intended for man. Satan is the god of this world (John 12:31; II Cor. 4:4). And, the earth would bring forth thorns and thistles (Gen. 3:17-18). Man was cast out of Eden. Mankind was separated

from God immediately. Isa. 59:2 - *But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.*

Rom. 10:9-10 - *if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*<sup>10</sup> *For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Rom. 5:12 - *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world (Adam), and death through (because of) sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.*

When man sinned, God immediately promised the Redeemer (Gen. 3:15). This Redeemer, Jesus, would defeat Satan through His, Jesus' death (Heb. 2:14). WHY did the Redeemer have to die? Because God is holy and just!

Rom. 6:23 – “The wages of sin is DEATH.” Something had to die. Jesus paid the penalty for our sin. He died the death we were supposed to die. He died in our place. Jesus wore the crown of thorns on His head, a picture of the cursed earth, as He hung on the tree.

Dt. 21:23 – cursed is he who hangs on a tree. God accepted His sacrifice and raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus' resurrection from the dead was the crowning achievement that forever separates Him from any other religious leader who has ever been or will ever live. No other religious figure in history has ever prophesied His own death and resurrection—and then accomplished it.

Why are we concerned so much with the future? Has everything in God's plan been fulfilled? Does the battle/spiritual warfare continue to rage? Satan roams this earth like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (I Pet. 5:8). We're told to put on the armor of God (Eph. 6:10-17).

God has been unfolding His plan to redeem – to buy back the earth! The earth, creation, is awaiting its redemption...

Rom. 8:18-22 - *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*<sup>19</sup> *For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.*<sup>20</sup> *For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope;*<sup>21</sup> *because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*<sup>22</sup> *For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.*

The earth is the theater of the glory of God in salvation through judgment! The earth is the focus in Psalm 2 regarding the Messianic reign of Jesus. Psa. 2:8 - *I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.*

Dan. 7:13-14 – The Son of Man approached the Ancient of Days and receives a kingdom.... Dan. 7:27 – and Jesus then gives the kingdom and dominion to the redeemed. This kingdom will be established on this earth. In Isa. 11 we read of the millennial conditions on the earth!

WHY must there be a new heavens and a new earth? All must be cleansed. Satan had access to God (Job 1; Rev. 12:10). Satan has been the prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2) and was cast to earth (Rev. 12:7-9).

The scroll in Revelation is the title deed to the earth. And, here in this book of Revelation, we see so vividly what will indeed transpire in the future. It will be in the throne room of God where GOD initiates the vindication of His holiness and justice. AND, the curse on man and on the earth will be reversed, and man and the earth will be restored. Eventually, the curse will be removed in the Eternal State – in the new heavens and the new earth (Rev. 21:1-5).

How do we understand the restoration of God’s original purposes?

- God offers salvation and those who place their trust in Jesus, the redeemed, are given eternal life with God. The redeemed will be restored to a right relationship with God.
- God the Father is going to give God the Son the kingdoms of this world (Rev. 11:15-18; 19:6; 11:6; Dan. 7:13-14; Psa. 2:7-9 [God the Father is going to give God the Son the kingdoms of this world]; Heb. 2:5-8; 3:14; II Tim. 2:11-13; Rev. 5:10; 20:4, 22:5).
- In the Millennial Kingdom, redeemed man will rule and reign with Jesus (II Tim. 2:12).
- Isaiah 11 – we read of millennial conditions in the earth; the curse will be reversed.
- Rev. 21 & 22 – in the new heavens and the new earth, the curse will be removed.

God chose to restore and reconcile the original plan. He will restore everything that was lost. For God’s credibility to be intact, everything must be restored!

“Who is worthy to restore all things?” Jesus, the Lamb Who was slain, approaches the throne.

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*Rev. 5:11-14 - Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup> saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!” <sup>13</sup> 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, I heard saying: “Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!” <sup>14</sup> Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.*

Praises to Jesus are sung in this new song (v. 9) because of redemption through His death.

*Zech. 5:1-4 - Then I turned and raised my eyes, and saw there a flying scroll. <sup>2</sup> And he said to me, "What do you see?" So I answered, "I see a flying scroll. Its length is twenty cubits and its width ten cubits." <sup>3</sup> Then he said to me, "This is the curse that goes out over the face of the whole earth: 'Every thief shall be expelled,' according to this side of the scroll; and, 'Every perjurer shall be expelled,' according to that side of it." <sup>4</sup> "I will send out the curse," says the LORD of hosts; "It shall enter the house of the thief and the house of the one who swears falsely by My name. It shall remain in the midst of his house and consume it, with its timber and stones."*

Before the longed for day of blessing can at last come, both the land and people must be cleansed from everything that defiles. This flying scroll is 30 ft. long and 15 ft. wide (a cubit is 18 inches) which is the size of the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle!

*Dt. 27:26 - Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law by observing them.'*

*I Sam. 2:3 - Talk no more so very proudly; let no arrogance come from your mouth, for the LORD is the God of knowledge; and by Him actions are weighed...according to His standard of measurement!*

The fulfillment of the flying scroll that we see in Zechariah will not take place until the time of the end. Then the final separation shall take place and the wicked will be cut off and all sin and iniquity will be finally cleansed.

There is a connection between the right to open the scroll and redemption. Redemption means to buy out of the marketplace. Slaves were purchased in the marketplace. Slaves were in bondage. Mankind is in bondage to sin! Jesus paid the price for our sin. He purchased us! This scroll is related to the fulfillment of a PURCHASE! THEREFORE, only Jesus Who paid the redemption price, has the credentials to open the scroll. Yes, Jesus purchased our redemption at the cross. But, in the throne room of God, in the future, the purchase of that redemption will be claimed by the redeemed!

A good illustration of this type of scroll in Rev. 5 is found in Jeremiah 32. Jeremiah lived in the day immediately prior to the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple by the Babylonians, which resulted in the Babylonian captivity when the southern kingdom of Judah was carried away into exile. Jeremiah had been telling his people that because of their continuing sin, they would be judged by God and that they would be carried away as captives to Babylon for 70 years.

Jeremiah had a cousin, Hanamel. Hanamel had a piece of ground. Hanamel wanted to sell it. In Jeremiah 32 the siege is already in the land. The Babylonians were already moving toward Jerusalem. And Hanamel wants to sell his land???

*Jer. 32:8 - Then Hanamel my uncle's son came to me in the court of the prison according to the word of the LORD, and said to me, 'Please buy my field that is in Anathoth, which is in the country of Benjamin; for the right of inheritance is yours, and the redemption yours; buy it for yourself.' Then I knew that this was the word of the*

*LORD.* Jeremiah's going to be dead before the captivity is over, so is Hanamel. What in the world does Jeremiah care about purchasing this land?

*Jer. 32:10* - *So I bought the field from Hanamel, the son of my uncle who was in Anathoth, and weighed out to him the money—seventeen shekels of silver.<sup>10</sup> And I signed the deed and sealed it, took witnesses, and weighed the money on the scales. Jeremiah sealed the deed. The deed contained all the information inside about the property, giving clear title to Jeremiah and his descendants.*

*Jer. 32:11-14* - *So I took the purchase deed (singular), both that which was sealed according to the law and custom, and that which was open;<sup>12</sup> and I gave the purchase deed to Baruch the son of Neriah, ... in the presence of Hanamel my uncle's son, and in the presence of the witnesses who signed the purchase deed, before all the Jews who sat in the court of the prison. And I commanded Baruch in their presence saying, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, take these deeds, this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, put them in an earthenware jar that they may last a long time.'*

Here we have indication that there is going to be a long delay prior to someone returning to take possession of the land!

Even though the land had fallen to Babylon, Jeremiah's purchase demonstrated the reality of God's promise to restore Israel back to the land (*Jer. 32:14-15, 43-44*). There are significant parallels between Jeremiah's deed of purchase and Jesus' redemption described in this chapter. In both cases, a purchase was made in advance and a period intervened before the possession was fully awarded at a future date. The southern kingdom of Judah would remain in exile in Babylon for 70 years and then would return to Israel. Jesus paid the price of our redemption through His death on the cross. We are waiting for Jesus to return to grant us full possession of what we lost in the fall!

Revelation 5 provides an introduction to the unfolding of the Tribulation – the seven years of God's wrath being poured out on the world that is left behind following the rapture - the rebellious, unbelieving world. And this pouring out of God's judgments is initiated in the throne room of God and Jesus is breaking the seals of the scroll that will unleash those judgments.

To bring the Kingdom of God to the earth, the kingdom of Satan must first be completely overthrown. Much of what follows in this book of Revelation must be understood in the context of the overthrow of Satan's kingdom prior to the setting up of God's kingdom on earth.

Jesus took the scroll as a "little Lamb". Jesus created...He sacrificed Himself (as a lamb) and then interceded for us...and has now become the Lion Who will bring judgment on this world.

The creation has been groaning – waiting for its deliverance... Believers who have suffered have been waiting for the moment when the Lamb will take the scroll and begin

the process to usher in His Kingdom. God is longsuffering. He is waiting for more souls to come to Him. “Waiting” – anticipation – watching/waiting – with HOPE – based on Who God is!

Once the Lamb rises from the right hand of the Father to take the scroll, everything is set in motion to redeem many more individuals and to redeem the earth. There is no gradual transition! The taking of the scroll is the beginning of a dramatic, cataclysmic intervention of God into history to completely defeat Satan. In this scroll, when the seals are broken one-by-one, the contents of God’s judgments will spill out via the seals, trumpets and bowls.

### ***PSALM 2 - The Messiah’s Triumph and Kingdom***

*2 Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing?*

*2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,*

*3 “Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.” 4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision. 5 Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,*

*And distress them in His deep displeasure: 6 “Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion.” 7 “I will declare the decree: the LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You.*

*8 Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance,*

*And the ends of the earth for Your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.” 10 Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth. 11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.*

### **QUESTIONS**

What impacted you in this lesson?

How did you view Rev. 5 in the past? How do you understand it now?

Why are God’s judgments necessary?

How is a person saved from God’s wrath? Does this provide comfort?

How are the passages about the scroll in Jer. 32 and in Zech. 5 helpful – or not?

How does Rev. 5 prepare you for Rev. 6 and the unloosing of the seals?

### **HOMEWORK**

What is the rapture?

What is the Second Coming?

Read II Thessalonians 2.

Who is the “man of sin”/“son of perdition”?

Who is the restrainer?

What is happening in this passage?