

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

REVELATION 5:1-7 - The Lamb Takes the Scroll

5/28/17

Rev. 5:1-3 - *And I (John) saw in the right hand of Him (God the Father) who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.* ² *Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"* ³ *And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.*

In Revelation 5, John's vision is focused on the scroll in the right hand of God the Father. In Revelation 5, we see a search for One Who is qualified to open the seals on the scroll and to reveal its message. In the first century, scrolls were made of papyrus and sheep or goat skin sewn together and rolled up, often averaging 15 feet in length. This scroll is in the right hand of God. And the writing is on the inside and on the back.

in the right hand

This is the side of favor and strength (Ps. [20:6](#); [74:11](#); [80:17](#); [89:13](#); [98:1](#)). This is the side at which the Son is seated now awaiting His kingdom (Ps. [110:1](#); Dan. [7:13-14](#); Mark [16:19](#); Acts [5:31](#); [7:55](#); Eph. [1:20](#); Col. [3:1](#); Heb. [1:3](#); [10:12](#)) and making intercession for those who are His (Rom. [8:34](#)) as Satan, whose name means "accuser," accuses believers (Rev. 12:10) and speaks forth our sins and frailties before God just as Satan did re: Job (Job 1:6-12). But the accusations fall upon deaf ears in heaven because Jesus took upon Him our judgment, paying for our sins in full. Therefore, God always sees in those who belong to Him, the perfect righteousness of Jesus. When we place our trust in Jesus along for salvation and receive forgiveness of our sin, Jesus righteousness is imputed to us. This is the great exchange. In Jesus our sinful state/condition is taken away; therefore, God can accept us as blameless before Him. (Rom. 5:12-19; II Cor. 5:21) Jude 24-25 - *Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,* ²⁵ *To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever.*

And, this scroll has *seven seals*. It was common in the first century for a person in authority to seal an important document so that its contents would remain secret. Such documents were sealed with wax or clay and could only be opened by a qualified person. The scrolls would be read a section at a time, after each seal was opened

The prophet Daniel had been told to seal up the prophecy.

Dan. 12:4 - *But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro and knowledge shall increase.*

Dan. 12:5-9 - *Then I, Daniel, looked; and there stood two others, one on this riverbank and the other on that riverbank.* ⁶ *And one said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, "How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?"*

⁷ *Then I heard the man clothed in linen,*

Dan. 10:5-6 - *I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz!* ⁶ *His body was like beryl, his face like the*

appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.

This “man” is Jesus. Note His appearance in Rev. 1:13.

How long until the fulfillment of all Daniel had seen?

Dan. 12:7 - *...it shall be for a time, times, and half a time* (second half of Tribulation); *and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished.*

A timeframe has been given to us: *time, times, and half a time* – 1 + 2 + ½ + 3.5 years – the final 3.5 years of the Tribulation.

Time, times, and half a time also equates to 42 mos. or 1260 days (Rev. 11:1-2; Rev. 12:6, 14, Rev. 13:5).

The fulfillment of these things will occur after the breaking of Israel, after Israel is broken through suffering and persecution and devastation. During the last half of the Tribulation there is going to be great persecution against the Jewish people – and Tribulation saints as well (those who come to faith in Jesus during the Tribulation – those who were not raptured) (Rev. 12). BUT, PLEASE KNOW that the devastation of Israel becomes their point of salvation...they will be taken to Petra/Bozrah (in Jordan) (see Isa. 63:1-6) where they will be fed (Rev. 12:6; Matt. 25:31-40).

NOTE: Dan. 11:41 tells us that Edom, Ammon, and Moab (all in Jordan) (Petra is in Jordan) during the Tribulation will escape from the antichrist’s hand!!

When all nations come against Israel, Zech. 12:10ff tells us that God will pour out His Spirit on the third of Jewish people left alive after the Tribulation. They, at that point, will come to faith in Jesus!

How are we to understand all of this? Listen to Daniel’s words in Dan. 12:8-9 -
⁸ *Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, “My lord, what shall be the end of these things?”* ⁹ *And he said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.*

As students of Scripture, we’ve been awaiting the *unsealing* of this book/this scroll. The opening of the seals of this book is the enlargement, development, and continuation of the Book of Daniel, describing, from God’s side, the judgments necessary to secure the fulfillment of all that He has foretold.

With the Revelation of Jesus, we’ve come to the moment of understanding the fulfillment... BUT, there’s a pause Rev. 5:2 - *Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?”* Gabriel’s name means “the strength of God”! There’s something unique about this scroll. And someone unique must open the scroll.

Rev. 5:3 - *And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.*

Rev. 5:4 – *So I (John) wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.* Perhaps John was weeping because he thought the world would

never know the contents of the scroll. Perhaps he thought that there would be no fulfillment of God's plan. And in that case, there would be no hope!

Consolation comes from one of the 24 elders

Rev. 5:5 - *But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."*

Jesus is from the tribe of Judah (read Jesus' genealogy noted in Matthew 1:1-17 [on Joseph's side] and in Luke 3:23-38 [on Mary's side]). Read Jacob's blessing to his son, Judah, in Gen. 49:10 regarding a king coming from the line of Judah. That king would be known as *Shiloh* which means "He Whose right it is"; *Shiloh* is a title for the Messiah! NOTE: When the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 AD, the genealogical records were destroyed as well. Daniel 9:26 tells us that the Messiah had to come before 70 A.D. – Messiah would die before Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD!

Jesus is the Root of David.

Isa. 11:1 - *There shall come forth a Rod (branch, twig) from the stem (trunk) of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.*

The Hebrew word for branch is *na'tser* which means a branch; the root of *na'tser* is *na'tsar* (to guard/to watch over) which is connected to Nazareth. The Hebrew word for Nazareth is *na za ra* which means the guarded one!

Branch is a Messianic title depicting new life. We have a picture of Israel as a stump in Isa. 6:13...cut down after its exile to Babylon. Can you picture a branch even coming from a chopped down tree – from a stump – a branch growing forth and budding – blooming with new life? Throughout the Scripture there is the theme of restoration! Israel would be restored after its exile. Restoration in Scripture always comes through the Messiah, Jesus, the Branch in Whom is NEW LIFE! In Jer. 23:5 God told the Jewish people that the days would be coming when He would raise up in King David's line a BRANCH of righteousness. Jer. 23:6 - *A King shall reign and prosper and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. ⁶ In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.* This Branch is JEHOVAH our righteousness - JESUS!

Continuing on in Isa. 11:1 we read that Jesus is the offspring of David – in David's lineage. David is from the tribe of Judah. Again we see Jesus' lineage in Matt. 1:1-17 and in Luke 3:23-38. Matt. 1:1 - *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:* (tribes came about through Jacob – after Abraham)

In II Sam. 7:16 God promised David, an unconditional promise that would be fulfilled NOT based on obedience from David or from Israel – but the promise would be fulfilled based on GOD alone! That promise - *And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.*

The Kingdom would be through David. But, there is no "throne of David" upon the earth at this time. The throne of David will be established in the Millennial Kingdom from where Jesus will rule and reign. In Luke 1:32 we read of the angel, Gabriel, announcing to Mary regarding her soon-to-be born son - *He will be great, and will be*

called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

The government (the rule of God) will be upon Jesus' shoulder – Isa. 9:6 - *Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulder; and His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

This Lion of the tribe of Judah, this root of David *has prevailed* – Gk. *nikao* – conquered, overcome. Of course, Jesus has overcome – He has conquered! Jesus defeated Satan when He, Jesus, paid the redemption price through His shed blood (Heb. 2:14). *Oh, death, where is your sting?* (I Cor. 15:55). There is NO sting in death for the believer. We have been bought with the precious blood of Jesus (I Pet. 1:18-20) and our citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20). When Jesus went to the cross, He stated, "The prince of this world is judged" (Jn. 16:11). Who is the prince of this world? Satan (II Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2)

Rev. 5:6 - *And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures (angels; perhaps cherubim watching over God's throne [mercy seat]), and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb (a little lamb in the Gk) as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.*

...a Lamb as though it had been slain

A "little lamb" (Gk) – Jesus is the perfect Passover Lamb. The Passover lambs had to be of the first year in age! A lamb according to each man's need – a little lamb (Ex. 12:4-5). We've seen the glorified Christ already in Revelation 1, 2 & 3. He does not look like a lamb.

Isa. 53:7 - *...He was led as a lamb to the slaughter* Jesus was crucified on the first day of Passover when the animal Passover lambs were slaughtered in the Temple.

We know that The Lion of Judah must first be the Lamb of God in order to purchase redemption and earn the right to go forth as a Lion in judgment. Here we see the character of God – the glory of God in salvation through judgment! Grace and mercy precede judgment!

The references to Christ as a Lamb and a Lion refer to His first coming and to His Second Coming. Jesus as the Lamb and as the Lion is only mentioned in the Gospel of John and the book of Revelation.

Regarding the lamb *as though it had been slain*...will the scars of Jesus ever be erased? After Thomas insisted that he would not believe unless he saw the imprint of the nails, and put his finger into the place of the nails, and put his hand into His, Jesus', side, John 20:27 records the Lord Jesus telling Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing." Thomas' response: "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28).

The price of sin is not just death (Rom. 6:23 – the wages of sin is death) – it is ETERNAL death. Jesus He paid an ETERNAL price for us on the cross. The extent of that price is reflected in the permanent scars on His body. In Rev. 22, Scripture ends with the picture of “the throne (singular) of God and of the Lamb forever”!

This lamb appearing as slain – STOOD! Jesus, having been seated at the right hand of the Father since His ascension – now rises! He LIVES!

having seven horns – seven horns represents full power. Seven speaks to fullness. The horn in an animal refers to its power. Horn in Scripture, when referring to a person, speaks of a powerful person.

and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. We are given the meaning of the seven eyes in the text – they are the seven Spirits of God. Here we see the Holy Spirit of God. Perfection is noted in the number 7. God the Holy Spirit is sent out into all the earth. John 16:7-8 – the Holy Spirit will convict the WORLD of sin, righteousness, and judgment.

Rev. 5:7 - ⁷ *Then He* (this One Who is the SLAIN Lamb – Jesus) *came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.* Having STOOD, Jesus now takes the scroll out of the hand of the Father. He Who moved to CREATE (Col. 1:16) and to begin God’s plan of redemption, now moves to finalize that REDEMPTION which will lead to RESTORATION. Jesus is worthy to break the seals of judgment on this scroll, unleashing the judgments of God upon the earth. God the Father gave all judgment over to Jesus. God the Father *has given Him* (Jesus) *authority to execute judgment* (Jn. 5:22-27).

Once the Lamb rises to take the scroll, the plan, the program leading to the redemption and ultimate restoration of the world moves in rapid succession! As we move forward in the text, we’ll notice that there is no gradual conversion of the world. We will see the initiation of a dramatic, cataclysmic intervention on the part of God to cast out Satan and those who are in rebellion against God and to cleanse the earth

Because Scripture is ONE STORY – ONE NARRATIVE, we’re told in Daniel that One like the Son of Man, God the Son, Jesus, will approach the Ancient of Days, God the Father...

Dan. 7:13-14 - *I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. ¹⁴ Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.*

What is given to Jesus? A KINGDOM! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom!

In this interaction in Daniel 7 between the Ancient of Days, God the Father, and the Son of Man, we read that *the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom* (Dan. 7:22). The saints, the redeemed, those who are set apart unto God, believers in Jesus, will receive/possess the kingdom! We who are born again will be given the kingdom!

Dan. 7:27 - *Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.*

In Rev. 5:7 Jesus approaches God the Father seated on His throne and Jesus, Who ALONE is worthy takes the scroll out of the hand of Him that sat on the throne. What's the significance of the scroll? Why does the worship stop to give attention to scroll? What does this scroll contain?

I am suggesting that Jesus, in His actions, because of Who He is, the Lamb Who was slain knows, that in taking the scroll, He is going to fulfill God's redemptive program laid out in the OT. Redemption means to buy back/buy out of the marketplace. Slaves were known to be in bondage. Mankind is in bondage to – SIN! The earth is in bondage because of man's sin! (Gen 3:17-18; Rom. 8:20-21)

Jesus came to REDEEM mankind and to REDEEM the earth!

Jesus is our Kinsman Redeemer. Who was the Kinsman Redeemer/the closest relative in the book of Ruth? Boaz! Boaz was a type of Jesus. Boaz foreshadowed what Jesus will do. Boaz redeemed the property/land that Naomi once owned. Boaz redeemed Ruth as his bride! NOTE: the kinsman redeemer was also the blood avenger (Num. 35:9-34 [note vv. 12-28]). Here we have another picture of salvation/judgment – the glory of God in salvation through the midst of judgment.

I'm suggesting, as are others who teach, that the scroll is the sealed title deed to the earth!

This scroll reveals the judgments of God which will be poured out on the earth. This scroll reveals the Second Coming of Jesus. At His Second Coming, Jesus will rightfully inherit the earth and implement the title deed of redemption to planet earth (Rom. 8:21). God the Father tells the Anointed One Son of God...

Psalm 2:8 - *I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.*

AND, in so doing, the earth will be RESTORED. Paradise will be regained.