

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

An open scroll with Hebrew text, likely the Book of Revelation, is the central focus. The scroll is unrolled, showing two pages of dense, handwritten text in a cursive script. The background is a dramatic, fiery landscape with a bright orange and yellow glow, suggesting a sunset or a divine light. The overall atmosphere is one of mystery and revelation.

Review

- In the ch 4 we saw a glimpse of Heaven as John is 'caught up' and told "*Come up here and see the things which must be 'after these things'*"
 - literally, things that are to occur after the church age.
- John is then 'immediately' – *in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye* - before the throne in Heaven and sees the One sat upon the throne.
- The focus of ch 4 is on the throne

Review

- Note: up to this point, John has been looking at the Triune God on the throne.
 - That is, the Father, Son & Spirit in One; hence the Holy, Holy, Holy chorus sung by the four angelic 'living creatures'.
- As John's eyes seem to be adjusting from the sheer brilliance of all he is looking at, he becomes aware of the most awesome sight in time and eternity!

Review

- John describes the brilliance of this scene as being like pure Jasper...
- ...yet at the same time blood red –
 - suggestive of the impending wrath to be poured out upon this unbelieving and Christ rejecting world.

Review

- John's not the first to see this incredible scene
- In [2 Corinthians 12:4](#) Paul was also caught up to Heaven.
- Paul simply says that what he saw 'it wouldn't be right to utter'
 - in other words, it was so wonderful that any attempt to put it into words would not do it justice!
- Paul does at least say that God dwells in such a magnificent clothing of light that 'no man can approach'! (see [1 Timothy 6:16](#)).

24 Elders = The Church

- Firstly, the elders are clothed in white raiment – which is specifically given to the Church (Rev 3:4-5 / 3:18 / 19:8 / 19:14)
- Secondly, they have crowns of gold on their heads – which are only promised to the Church in scripture (1 Cor 9:24-25 / 1 Thess 2:19 / 2 Tim 4:7-8 / James 1:12 / 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- Thirdly, they are redeemed to God by the blood of the Lamb (Rev 5:9).
 - This can only be the Church, as Christ's blood was not shed for any angel or any created being except man, and it is the Church who are the redeemed

24 Elders = The Church

- Fourthly, they are from every kindred, tongue, people and nation (Rev 5:9), which proves them to be the Church – and clearly shows that the ‘24’ is used as in the OT, to be representative of the whole.
- Fifthly, they are kings and priests to God and shall reign on the earth – as again is only promised to the Church (1 Peter 2:9 / 2 Tim 2:12 / Rev 20:6 / Rev 22:5).

24 Elders = The Church

- Sixthly, in the other recorded visions of Heaven found in the Old Testament, (*Isaiah 6 /Ezekiel 1 etc*), we observe that the other heavenly creatures are found (*the Cherubim and Seraphim and Angels etc.*), but the 24 elders are not seen Heaven at that time.
 - Given the fact that both *Isaiah* and *Ezekiel* give us so much detail about what they saw, we must conclude that the 24 elders were not in heaven at that time.
 - This confirms what Jesus said in *Matthew 13*, and what Paul said in *Ephesians 3*, that the Church was a 'mystery' hidden in ages past

24 Elders = The Church

- Seventhly, the 24 elders are sitting on *thrones*. (The word translated 'seats' in the King James is the Greek word 'thronos', which is better translated as 'throne' (as it is at the beginning of verse 4).
- Rev 3:21 states: *"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."*
- This promise is not given to any angel.

24 Elders = The Church

- Finally, the term 'elder' (Greek - Presbuteros) is used sixty-six times in the new testament, twelve times in this book, and it is *always* used to describe older, senior, or elder in connection with seniority / maturity in the church.
- The term is never applied to any other being except man.



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter 5

The Throne Room of the Universe

Introduction to Chapter 5

- The focus now shifts from the Throne to the legal proceedings in the Throne room of God

¹ And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

Revelation 5:1

- This word 'book' is *biblion*
– from 'biblos'
- The inner *bark* of the papyrus plant, from the reed family,
- Grown along river banks, laid out to dry in long strips



¹ And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

Revelation 5:1

- This scroll is a legal document “both sides”
 - Papyrus usually had 1 smooth side for writing
- It was the practice of Rome to seal important documents with 7 seals
- What document is so important that God Himself holds on to it?

The Title Deed To The Earth

- In Genesis 1:26-30 God passes the Title of the newly created Earth over to Adam
- Through his pride and jealousy, Satan sets about usurping man, causing Adam to forfeit his inheritance
 - Satan's 'ownership' is confirmed in 2 Cor 4:4 & Luke 4:6-8
- According to the rules of inheritance:
 - *“If thy brother be waxen poor, and hath sold away some of his possession, and if any of his kin come to redeem it, then shall he redeem that which his brother sold”*
- Lev 25:25

The Right of Redemption

¹And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz

Ruth 2:1

- The book of Ruth is an incredible model of God's plan of redemption!
- Naomi has forfeited her land...
- In steps Boaz, who is a wealthy kinsman
- He redeems the land...not for the land's sake...
- But to purchase his bride!

The Title Deed To The Earth

- Adam had 'become poor' and been forced to give up his possession
- Only a kinsman was entitled to claim back the land...
- But he would have to *able* to redeem it
- That would mean paying the price for which it had been sold
- That price was sin
- So only a sinless kinsman of Adam could redeem the land!

2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

Revelation 5:2

- Note: a strong angel!
 - This is no trivial occasion
- The question is asked for all to hear!

3 And no man **in heaven**, nor **in earth**, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

Revelation 5:3

- Note where they looked.
- In Heaven
 - this proves that men are in Heaven, and further supports the Rapture occurring in Rev 4:1.
- In Earth
 - this is to be expected as it is the usual abode of mankind.

3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither **under the earth** was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

Revelation 5:3

- **Under the earth**

- **this is another one of those scriptures that strongly suggest that Hades / Sheol is a real physical place that is 'geocentric' i.e. in the centre of the earth.**

- **Other examples of this are: Numbers 16:30-33 (Korah) / Psalm 28:1 / Psalm 30 / Prov 1:12 / Ezek 31:16-17 / Eph 4:9 etc.**

- **No one was found worthy in any of these places – no surprise really!**

No One Worthy

- 2 The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God.
- 3 They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

Psalm 14:2-3

No One Worthy

- 10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:
- 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.
- 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

Romans 3:10-19

No One Worthy

¹⁹ Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

Romans 3:10-19

4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

Revelation 5:4

- John ‘sobbed convulsively’.
 - **We might not get it, but John did!**
- If no kinsman of Adam be found, who had the right to redeem the land (earth)...
- ...and was also able (worthy) to do so...
- it would stay in the hands of it’s current owner
 - Satan.
- Now you see why John was so upset!
- *Note: tears in Heaven!*

5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

Revelation 5:5

- It is worth noting that it is one of the elders who steps forward to explain the situation to John
 - *“Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.”* John 15:15

5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the **Lion of the tribe of Juda,** the **Root of David,** hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

Revelation 5:5

- Two titles are given to Jesus here:
- One to answer to the ‘Worthy’ requirement.
 - drawn from **Genesis 49:9-12**
- One to answer the ‘Kinsman’ requirement
 - drawn from **Isaiah 11:1-5**

The Lion of Judah

⁹ Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up?

¹⁰ The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

Genesis 49:9-12

The Lion of Judah

¹¹ Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes:

¹² His eyes shall be red with wine, and his teeth white with milk.

Genesis 49:9-12

The Lion of Judah

- Redeemer of the Land:

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field” **Matthew 13:44**

“For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth” **Job 19:25**

The Root of David

- ¹ And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:
- ² 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 of the fear of the LORD;
- ³ And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

Isaiah 11:1-5

The Root of David

- 4 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.
- 5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

Isaiah 11:1-5

The Root of David

“For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh” Roman 8:3

“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” 1 Timothy 2:5

“And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit” 1 Cor 15:45

5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

Revelation 5:5

- Jesus has prevailed and is now legally entitled claim title of the Earth
- The seven seals will be the beginning of the judgments God will pour out on this World

6 And I beheld and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

Revelation 5:6

- John is taken aback by this sight!

6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

Revelation 5:6

- This is the moment everything will become clear.
- When we look upon this defenceless Lamb, we will realise His love for us.
- All pain & suffering will be understood

8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

Revelation 5:7-8

- The vials will be poured out on the earth
- All injustice will be dealt with
- Not a prayer will be lost

9 And they sung a new song, saying, **Thou art worthy** to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for **thou wast slain**, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Revelation 5:9-10

- He is worthy because He was slain
- The focus is on Christ!

9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Revelation 5:9-10

- A trivial point?
- Part of a wider satanic deception?

Them or Us?

- Verses 9 & 10 have caused some controversy in the past.
- Many modern versions have a note in the margin saying that the *'best manuscripts'* or *'the most ancient manuscripts'* or *'the most authoritative manuscripts'* say: 'them'.
 - Some have 'them' without even a footnote!
- This is important because if it's 'us' then the Church is in Heaven before the Tribulation starts.

Them or Us?

- The English translation we have for the book of Revelation was actually done from 95 Greek manuscripts – not all of them were complete.
- Now scholars will be quick to tell you that only 23 of the 95 manuscripts say ‘us’ in verses 9-10 of chapter 5.
- On the surface this appears to be a problem, but as they say: ‘a little bit of knowledge is a dangerous thing’;

Them or Us?

- We find out that out of the 95 Greek manuscripts used, only 24 manuscripts have chapter 5 verses 9-10 in them, and out of those 24, 23 of them say 'Us'
 - the only Greek manuscript that says 'them' is the Alexandrinus, from Alexandra in Egypt – the home of the Gnostics!
 - Even the Siniaticus says 'Us'! This means that over 95% of the earliest manuscripts say 'us' – placing the Church firmly in Heaven before the Tribulation.
- There is just one manuscript, from a place that was renowned for false doctrine, says 'them'. Sadly, most modern versions follow this corrupt manuscript.

- 11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;
- 12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

Revelation 5:11-12

13 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, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

Revelation 5:13-14

An open scroll with Hebrew text, illuminated by a warm light, set against a dark, textured background. The scroll is unrolled, showing two pages of text. The lighting is dramatic, with a bright glow emanating from the center of the scroll, creating a sense of revelation and divine light. The background is dark and textured, possibly representing a cave or a hidden place.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

To be continued...