

Revelation – A Study of the End Times

The Apocalypse

Revelation 5:1-14

Miracle Place Church
November 26, 2023

I. Scene in heaven before the Apocalypse:

A. Revelation chapters 4 and 5 are set in heaven.

1. In chapter 4 we experience the worship of God the Father.
2. In chapter 5 we will experience the worship of Jesus Christ.
3. These two chapters allow us to see into heaven just before God pours out His judgments on the earth. (Revelation 6-18)

B. God is in complete control of the future.

1. John records, “I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book (scrolls) sealed with seven seals.” Revelation 5:1-2
2. What better way could we picture God’s ultimate sovereignty over all history.
3. No matter the power of darkness or satanic evil against God’s people on earth, history still rests in God’s hands.
4. This book (scroll) is what John focuses on in chapter 5. It contains the detailed plans and purposes of God for taking out the enemies of God and bringing to salvation all those who will serve Him.
5. The scroll has seven seals that represent seven phases. Each phase is sealed with its own seal and has to be opened separately as God’s plan and purpose unfold.

C. John is in awe by God the Father and the scroll in His right hand.

1. John hears a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the book and break its seals?”

2. No one in heaven or on the earth, neither under the earth had the authority and worth to break the seals to unleash the Apocalypse on the world. The strong angel does a universal search.
3. Any prophet could reveal this information but it will take someone with authority and power to execute the events foretold and bring them to pass.
4. John's heart is broken and he starts to weep at the thought of God's plan not coming to pass. The future of the world without God's will was too much for John to face.
5. Does this mean that the wicked will go unpunished? If God's purposes fail, then life is meaningless.

II. Wait! There is one who is qualified!

A. "John, stop weeping," said one of the elders.

1. John turns his head to look and he sees a Lamb standing. This Lamb represents the Messiah's first coming as a meek and submissive substitute who was led to a sacrificial death. (Isaiah 53:1-12 – The lamb had been slain, cut up, mutilated, which speaks of the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ.)
2. As John sees the Lamb, he then sees a Lion that represents Christ's second coming and mission.
3. The Lamb is powerful with seven horns (power) and seven eyes (divine wisdom and discernment). Zechariah 4:10
4. His eyes are the seven spirits of God (seven manifestations of the spirit that communicate to Christ all that transpires). Isaiah 11:2-4
5. The Lamb is all knowing and all powerful. This is one Lamb you do not want to reject or fight or you will face the Lion.
6. The Lamb is God's grace to save. The Lion is God's judgment to all enemies of God, those who reject the Lamb.

B. Now Jesus Christ, the Lion-Lamb, approaches the throne of God to take the scroll out of the Father's right hand.

1. First we see the worship of Jesus Christ in heaven by those around the throne. In Revelation 5:8-10, we then see worship throughout all of heaven. In Revelation 5:11-12, worship spreads throughout the entire universe. Revelation 5:13-14

looks like a wave in a pond as worship spreads to all of creation.

2. When Jesus takes the scroll, overwhelming praise starts. The four living creatures and 24 elders fall down, each one holding a harp and a golden bowl full of incense which are the prayers of the saints. God has not forgotten your pain and prayers.
3. John records the new song, “Worthy are You to take the book and break its seals, for You were SLAIN and PURCHASED for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God and they will reign upon the earth.
Revelation 5:9-10
4. Jesus is worthy because He was slain (laid down His life for us, purchased (paid our debt) and has made us kings and priests.
5. Jesus is worthy to receive power, riches, wisdom, might, honor, glory and blessing. Revelation 5:12
6. Now a loud voice communicates to all creation the authority and power of Christ.
7. All creation in unity worship, praise and celebrate the Father and the Lamb for bringing to pass the plan, will and purpose of God.
8. In chapter 6, Jesus starts opening the seals that represents God's will. Get ready for the first seal to be broken!