

REVELATION CHAPTER 5

John has been caught up to heaven in chapter 4 he described the Father who sits on the throne of heaven.

The light of His glory radiated out so fiercely that all John could describe were the colors coming from Him. Now John tells us that God is holding something. Five observations about what John saw...

1. THE SCROLL

Revelation 5:1 (NIV), Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals.

Whenever the Bible begins a chapter with Greek word "Kai" ...Then I saw...
That means chronologically and categorically it is linked to the previous chapter.

John has just been in front of the throne room. He is standing in front of the throne of God then I saw in the right hand of him. He's looking at the throne in all of chapter 4. Then he sees an object in the right hand of the Father on the throne.

The Father is holding a book a scroll in his right hand. Have you ever noticed how prominent the right hand is in the Bible? It's mentioned well over a hundred times in Scripture.

In Jewish culture the right hand indicated authority, strength, and power. God is holding this book in His right hand. He is the one with all power and authority over what is written in it.

This little seven-sealed scroll contains the secret of Revelation 6. These will be the seven seals that get opened in the next chapter. This book holds the key to the tribulation period. So what is this scroll?

2. THE SEARCH

Revelation 5:2-4 (NIV), And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" 3 But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. 4 I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.

John is in heaven. He is seeing the end of the story of all of humanity. What has caused John to weep uncontrollably? He is sobbing. He said, I wept and I wept. He is broken hearted.

This is more than the fact that he doesn't get to see what's inside the scroll. There is an extensive search that takes place. There is no one in heaven no one on earth and no one in Hades underneath the earth not one person is found who is worthy and it breaks John's heart.

Let's have a brief Jewish history lesson so you can see what the scroll is. God spoke to the prophet Jeremiah concerning Israel and He says if Israel doesn't turn to God they're going to be captive for 70 years.

Israel disobeys God's commands and goes into exile for seventy years. It was also prophesied that they would return after 70 years. God said that they would return to their home land.

To prove that they would go home God tells Jeremiah to do something really strange. He tells Jeremiah that his cousin, Hanamel, has a piece of land. He tells Jeremiah to buy the land. Jeremiah knows it's going to be useless. It is in Jerusalem and Nebuchadnezzar is about to take over Jerusalem.

Jeremiah knows it is going to be 70 years before the Jews get to go back to Jerusalem. He's old and knows if he buys the land, he won't be alive when they go back. Jeremiah obeys God and buys the land.

Jeremiah 32:9-12 (NIV), So I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out for him seventeen shekels[a] of silver. 10 I signed and sealed the deed, had it witnessed, and weighed out the silver on the scales. 11 I took the deed of purchase—the sealed copy containing the terms and conditions, as well as the unsealed copy— 12 and I gave this deed to Baruch son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and of the witnesses who had signed the deed and of all the Jews sitting in the courtyard of the guard

Jeremiah buys this piece of land and gets the deed. He receives a sealed scroll as title deed to the land. The deed is wrapped up and it is sealed.

He gives it to Baruch, his secretary and tells him to place it in an earthen jar. This sealed scroll verified that he was the owner of the land. Jeremiah knows that his heirs will take this sealed scroll to prove that they own the land when they get to come back.

He takes this and does as God tells him. As history tells us that many years later Jeremiah heirs did go to the authorities. They presented the scroll as the basis of their kinship of Jeremiah

They reclaimed the land when Israel came back from Babylonian captivity. They had to prove to the authorities that they were worthy to open the scroll and to own the property. They did that by showing who they were and that they had the sealed scroll.

This is basically the scene that's taking place in heaven. Let's come back to heaven. The seven sealed scroll that's in the right hand of God breaks the heart of John.

He weeps uncontrollably when nobody is worthy to take and open it. God is holding in His right hand a title deed. It is the title deed of planet earth.

That seven-sealed scroll is the title deed to the earth. It is earth's title deed. God is holding it in his right hand and it is breaking John's heart.

Why would the title deed of the earth need redeeming? God had given man the earth as an inheritance. But man lost the earth by selling himself into bondage to sin when they fell in the garden.

That's why at the temptation of Jesus in the desert Satan was able to show Jesus all the

kingdoms of the world, and say,

Matthew: 4:9 (NIV), “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

Jesus doesn't deny it as a matter of fact. He makes it even more clear by calling the devil the ruler of this world in John 12:31. The devil had been given authority over the earth by man.

The title deed to earth was given by God to Adam. Adam had title deed. He lost it by sin to Satan. Satan's theft was permitted only for a time by God.

He's taken things from humanity that never belonged to him. God gave it to Adam. The title deed has been and still is in God's right hand.

He's holding it right now. Since Adam's fall, he's held it until legal representation of the original owner comes until the owner redeems it just like the relatives of Jeremiah came redeemed their land. God is holding the title deed. The scroll is a legal document. It's sealed with seven seals which is the Jewish law and custom.

3. THE SAVIOR

Revelation 5:5-7 (NTV), Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals." Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.

Here is a striking picture of the Holy Trinity. Jesus is seen standing in the center of God's throne, yet He takes the scroll from the Father who is sitting on the throne. And He has the Seven Spirits previously identified as the Holy Spirit!

In this symbolic vision we see seven horns a picture of His perfect power, and seven eyes showing His perfect knowledge. In the Bible a horn represents power and authority.

2 Samuel 22:3 (NIV), My God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. He is my stronghold, my refuge and my savior from violent men you save me.

The horn in Scripture speaks of strength. This word picture was much more obvious before man had guns. The animals with horns, tusks, and teeth were the ones with the power. The horn of an animal is like the right hand of a man. His defensive and offensive power rests in it. The horn in Scripture represents power and authority.

We see Jesus Christ now in power and authority. Jesus the lamb slain is now the conqueror.

Vs. 7, "He (Jesus) came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.".....

In the Law of Moses if a person was forced to sell his property or himself into slavery. His nearest of kin could buy back what his relative had to sell. That law was given to be a picture of Christ and was fulfilled by him.

Our father Adam sold us into bondage and sin Christ our kinsman Redeemer bought us and brought us into liberty, righteousness, and life. Jesus is our redeemer He is the kinsmen redeemer.

Romans 5:19 (NIV), For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

In Old Testament Law the Lord gave each of the tribes an allotment of the Promised Land. Those allotments were divided among the families of those tribes.

The Lord told them in Leviticus 25 that the land was really His so they had no right to sell it permanently:

Leviticus 25:24-25 (NLT), With every sale of land there must be a stipulation that the land can be redeemed at any time. If any of your Israelite relatives go bankrupt and are forced to sell some inherited land, then a close relative, a kinsman redeemer, may buy it back for them.

This is further insight into the concept of the kinsman redeemer. A family member who had the right to buy back the land. A good example of this is found in the book of Ruth,

The Jews had a law the Jewish Law of Redemption. According to the Jewish law three things could be redeemed, a slave, a wife, and land.

There were qualifications of a redeemer. The first qualification was one must be family. You couldn't redeem something for someone not in your family.

The second qualification was you had to be willing to pay the redemption price. The third qualification was you had to be able to legally pay the price.

In the right hand of God is the title deed to the earth. Somebody has to redeem the earth. Jesus takes the title deed from the Father and He is worthy.

He is worthy because He became our kinsmen by being born of a virgin. Are we related to Jesus Christ? The New Testament goes to great lengths to establish the fact that we are children of God

Since Jesus is the Son of God and we also are sons of God we become joint heir with Jesus. As children of God Jesus is not only our Savior Jesus is our brother our kinsman-redeemer our closest male blood relative.

He was willing to pay the redemption price. He went to the cross willingly. He paid the price for redemption.

He could legally pay the price because He was the only sinless man. Jesus Christ became the redeemer. Jesus takes the scroll from the father and Satan is about to lose his hold on the earth.

When Jesus died on the cross-He defeated the devil the work was done but the judgment has not been executed. The devil is still out there.

He's still working in our lives he's still buffeting the church. Often when someone is convicted in a court of law the judge gives them a period of time before he serves his sentence.

At the resurrection Jesus convicted Satan but sentencing hasn't been executed yet. He's still running around as a roaring lion. He's still buffeting the church. He's still the prince of the power of the air he's still the God of this world.

Jesus is about to establish His earthly kingdom. That is what the taking of this title deed is all about. That is what starts happening when each of the seals is opened.

It is now time for Jesus to assert his earthly authority and take back the world from the one who stole it. That's what is taking place now that He has the scroll in His hand.

In the next verse the fact that Jesus has the scroll in His hand creates quite a stir in heaven. Things start erupting in heaven immediately after this.

4. THE SONG

Revelation 5:8-10 (NIV), And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. 9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

Now they suddenly erupt in song. When we see what happens with the seals if you don't understand that the scroll is earth's title deed it looks rather strange.

All kinds horror is about to be poured out on humanity and all of heaven breaks out in a party. They're not celebrating the horrors that are about to happen. They're rejoicing that Jesus is exerting his earthly kingdom.

They're rejoicing that He's taking back the title deed that the devil stole from humanity and now He's putting it back in the hands of the rightful owner. Now there's a commotion that starts taking place.

How many of you remember the old song Power in the Blood? You talk about the truth. They're saying because of the power of your blood you are worthy, they're singing a redemption song about the blood of Jesus.

5. THE SINGING

THE VOICE OF ANGELS

Revelation 5:11-12 (NIV), Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. 12 In a loud voice they were saying: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

Now it has gone beyond the multitudes and the angelic hosts have entered in. All that has happened is that Jesus has taken the title deed. He has taken the little scroll from the Father and suddenly heaven is in an uproar.

They are singing and worshipping and He's not done a thing with it. He just took it, but they know the significance of the little scroll. They know what this means that now it's time.

Did you know that Job tells us that that at creation the angels sang? Luke tells us that at the birth of Christ the angels sang. Now they're singing and exalting the Lamb of God the redeemer of mankind the redeemer of the earth.

THE UNIVERSAL WORSHIP OF CHRIST

Revelation 5:13-14 (NIV), Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!” 14 The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

John sees beyond the millennial kingdom to the very end at the Great White Throne Judgment. He's seen a day coming when everybody on the universe when every created being is going to worship the Lamb of God

Everyone will worship him one day. Every being will worship him one day. Those who rejected him will worship Him before they are cast into the lake of fire.

Every demon will bow his knees and worship the lordship of Jesus Christ. The devil himself will bow his knees and worship the lordship of Jesus Christ. Believers will bow their knees and worship the lordship of Jesus Christ,

Today we have the privilege of worshipping Him not by decree but by desire. We get to worship God tonight because we love Him and because we want to. The day is coming when every creature will worship Him.

We worship Him today not because we must but because we can. We worship Him today not because we're commanded to but because we're permitted to, we have the privilege as children of the most high God to worship Him.