

Seven Sealed Scroll

Revelation 5:1-10

I. Introduction:

A. Context

- *In Rev. 4 John was called up to heaven by Jesus to receive a revelation he recorded.*
 1. – God's glory and majesty
 - a. John described the brightness & beauty of God's glory & majesty as light through a diamond & a Sardis stone. The Bible describes God as light.
 2. – Elders
 - a. 24 elders sitting on 24 thrones around God's throne represent the raptured church.
 - b. Elders being in heaven before the tribulation supports pretribulation church's rapture
 3. – Sea of glass that was like crystal
 - a. John described the area around God's throne as a sea looking like glass or crystal.
 - b. Based on the temple in the O. T., this represents the absolute purity of God's throne.
 4. – Living creatures
 - a. John described four living creatures around and attending to the throne of God.
 - b. They're living creatures God created for His purposes that serve & do exactly for which they were created. They worship God night & day, never ceasing.

II. Seven sealed scroll (Revelation 5:1)

- *Starting chapter 5, John's description moves to a scroll in the hand of God the Father.*

A. John saw a scroll.

 1. – Written on both sides
 - a. A scroll was written on 1 side, the *recto* side or the flattest side of the papyrus scroll.
 - b. However, if there was much information the writer might use both scroll sides.
 - c. This scroll contains much information for it has writing on both sides.
 2. – Seven seals
 - a. Documents were sealed for privacy. Information in this scroll is to be revealed to the 1 worthy to read it. The 1 for whom it's meant is the only 1 who can open & read it.
 - b. Content: This scroll contains judgments, a record of what happens in the last days, in the tribulation & beyond, and God's plan for the culmination of human history.
 - c. Importance: Information in this scroll serves as warning for all lost & without Christ

III. Call of the strong angel (Revelation 5:2-4)

A. Who is worthy?

1. Powerful angel called out to all creation, asking, is anyone worthy to open the scroll?
2. The offer is open to every creature God has made. No one stepped forward!
3. No creature in heaven, on earth, or under earth is qualified to take the scroll & open it.

B. John wept much.

- *Because there was no one to open the scroll, John confessed that he wept much.*
 1. – Frustrated promise
 - a. In **Rev. 4:1** John was promised a revelation of the things that would come to pass.
 - b. This promise was now frustrated because there's no one qualified to open the scroll.
 2. – No one qualified to reveal God's plan.

- a. Troubling him was God's plan couldn't be revealed as 0 was qualified to open it.
- b. Application –Today we suffer from a lack of accepting God's available message.
- c. We have the full and clear revelation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- d. Jesus offers to forgive & save all who call on His name by faith. (**Romans 10:13**)

IV. Encouragement from an elder (Revelation 5:5)

A. Jesus is qualified.

- *One of the 24 elders said to John, no need to weep, there is one who is worthy.*
- *Jesus is the one who is worthy to receive and open the scroll.*(three things about Jesus)
 1. – Lion of the tribe of Judah
 - a. This title goes back to Jacob's final blessings on his sons.
 - b. Jacob called Judah the lion's whelp (**Gen. 49.9**). Jesus is from Judah's tribe, in King David's lineage. Jesus is greatest of the tribe of Judah making Him the Lion of Judah.
 2. – The Root of David
 - a. Referring to **Isaiah 11**, prophet said a shoot would come forth of David's lineage.
 - b. David's lineage seemed dead, but Jesus was born of virgin Mary, of David's lineage.
 - c. Jesus is the root of David who will one day sit on Israel's throne & rule the world.
 3. – Jesus has prevailed.
 - a. Jesus is qualified to receive & open the scroll because he has prevailed, He's victor.
 - b. He defeated sin & evil on the cross, death & grave when He arose again on 3rd day.
 - c. Jesus has redeemed a people who are His own.

V. The highpoint of John's vision (Revelation 5:6)

A. Jesus appears as the Lamb of God.

- *John saw Jesus standing in the midst of the 4 living creatures and the elders.*(description)
 1. – Lamb that was slain
 - a. The evidence of Jesus' crucifixion is visible in heaven.
 - b. The scars are evident in his hands, His feet, and in His side.
 - c. Jesus bears the evidence in His resurrection body of what He did for you and me.
 - d. For eternity we'll be reminded of what Jesus did for us every time we look at Him.
 2. – Lamb with seven horns
 - a. Horns in the Bible represent power. 7 is the number of completeness, perfection.
 - b. John is speaking here of the omnipotence of Jesus as God. Jesus has all power.
 - c. No one can stand against Him. He has all power as King of kings & Lord of lords.
 - d. Jesus will return at battle of Armageddon & with spoken word destroys all wicked.
 - e. The antichrist, false prophet, & the beast will be cast into the eternal lake of fire.
 3. – Seven eyes
 - a. These eyes, John said, are 7 Spirits of God. This aspect speaks of His omniscience.
 - b. As God, Jesus knows all things. Nothing, no one is hidden from His view.

VI. Jesus took the scroll out of the Father's hand. (Rev. 5:7-10)

A. Worship around the throne

1. Moment creation's been groaning for, Jesus takes what's called "the title deed" to earth
2. Jesus paid for the redemption of man. He'll redeem all creation & remove sin forever.
3. 4 living creatures & elders have golden bowls of incense which are the saints' prayers.
4. Prayers of the saints are precious to God & will be poured out when Jesus takes scroll.

B. A new song

1. The elders (the church raptured & in heaven) will sing a new song. (**Rev. 5:9-10**)
2. This song further verifies the church is raptured before the tribulation begins.