

## Things to Come

### #7 The Throne Room (Part 2): Revelation Chapter 5

#### I. Introduction

This vision began in chapter four and continues on to chapter 8. We get to gaze into the throne room, see who sits on the throne, realize who is worthy to open the scroll and watch it unfold.

The scene in chapter five involves a search for someone worthy to open the scroll, the selection of that worthy one and then the song that extols His virtues.

A word about the scroll: this is a long piece of either animal-skin or papyrus that has been rolled up with intermittent seals. Some of these scrolls were rolled from both ends towards the middle. Others were one long scroll rolled in on itself. Apparently this one had some writing on both sides.

Scrolls like these were used for all kinds of transactions: wills, marriage contracts, bonds, rental agreements and wills. The sections were noted with wax seals imbedded by signet rings indicating the author. See Jeremiah 32 or Ezekiel 2 for biblical examples.

#### II. The Search for the Worthy One (vs. 1-4)

- A. The strong angel (is unnamed... may have been Michael or Gabriel) asks the question: "Who is worthy to open 'the book?'"
- B. The "candidate" needed to have:
  - 1. Virtuous Character
  - 2. A Divine Right or Calling
  - 3. The Power to Defeat Satan
- C. The silence was deafening! A search in all three realms of life (heaven, the earth or hades) produced no one.
- D. John's reaction: "Wept"-Strong, unrestrained emotion. Same word is used when Jesus wept over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41) and when Peter broke down after denying Christ (Luke 22:62).

#### III. The Selection of the Worthy One (vs. 5-7)

- A. One of the elders explained that there is someone worthy:
  - 1. The lion from the tribe of Judah: See Genesis 49:8-10 and Heb. 7:14
  - 2. The Root of David: See Isa. 11:1 and Rom. 1:3

3. Note that the genealogies from Matthew 1 (From Abraham to Joseph) and Luke 2 (From Joseph to Adam) prove that Jesus is a descendent of David on his father's and his mother's side of the family.
- B. He is worthy because He defeated sin (Rom. 8:3), death (Heb. 2:14-15) and all the forces of hell (Col. 2:15, I Pet. 3:19).
- C. But sitting between the throne and the elders was a lamb.
1. This is the softer word for lamb; it means "little lamb" or "pet lamb". It suggests this lamb that was kept as a pet for 4 days before it was sacrificed as part of the Passover. See Ex. 12:3-6.  
  
Special Note regarding the lambs kept at Migdal Eder outside Jerusalem. See Gen. 35:21, Ex. 12:5, Micah 4:8, Luke 2:8 and Isa. 53:7.
  2. "Standing as if slain": See I Peter 1:19
  3. "Seven horns": Horns indicate strength and power (See I Sam. 2:1, Ps. 18:2, Jer. 48:25). Seven is the number of perfection. This lamb has complete and absolute power.
  4. "Seven eyes": representing the Spirit of God and His fullness throughout the earth. See Daniel 7:13-14

#### **IV. The Song of the Worthy One (vs. 8-14)**

- A. "He came and took the scroll": It is a very dramatic moment. Literally, "He went up...he took it...now he has it!"  
  
Christ's death and resurrection are the basis of His authority to take this scroll, unleash judgment and ultimately redeem the world.
- B. The creatures and elders began to sing.
1. Harps: See Psalm 33:2, 98:5
  2. Bowls of incense: These are the prayers of the saints. See Rev. 8:3-4.
  3. Saints: God's people, set aside to do God's work. See Phil. 1:1.
- C. The three hymns:
1. vs. 9-10 Sung by the creatures and elders
  2. vs. 12 Sung by the uncountable angels (see Dan. 7:10)  
Power...wealth...wisdom...strength...honor...glory...praise
  3. vs. 13 Sung by every created thing (see Psalm 69:34)  
He is worthy!
- D. "Amen": It means "let it be" or "make it happen."

## **V. So What?**

Don't miss the message of God's sovereignty in these two throne room chapters.  
God is sovereign over all creation (4:11) and He is sovereign over redemption (5:12).

Sovereign: Supreme power or authority, jurisdiction, dominion

God is indeed sovereign over all our issues!