

Revelation 5 The Seven Sealed Scroll

THE PREVAILING LAMB

Rev 4-5 must be read together. There is a clear continuity with the throne vision of **Rev 4** in **Rev 5:6-11**. This is a beautiful vision of Christ's enormous victory over sin and the saints giving glory to him.

v1 Right hand: Symbol of action and power. **Psa 80:17; 110:1**. Jesus Christ is seated at God's right hand: **1 Pet 3:22**. God's right hand is a constant theme in the OT: **Psa 18:35; 44:3; 48:10; 60:5; 98:1; 108:6; 118:16; 138:7**. **Him that sat on the throne:** Jesus Christ as the manifestation of God. See notes on **Rev 4:2-3**. **Written within and on the backside:** Literally "on the inside and the outside." An echo back to the scroll Ezekiel was given in **Ezek 2:10**. See also **Rev 10:8-10**. It was written on both sides because it contains events relating to the ecclesia and those in the world: **2 Cor 7:5**: "without were fightings, within were fears." **Sealed with seven seals:** A complete sealing. Similar to Jesus' parables, Revelation is hidden to those outside the ecclesia: **Isa 6:9-10; 29:11-14; Mt 13:9-17**.

v2 Proclaiming with a loud voice: A contrast to the loud voice that appealed to all to worship Babylon: **Dan 3:4**. Likewise an angel with a loud voice proclaimed God's plan to overthrow the kingdom of men: **Dan 4:14-17**. Also a loud proclamation to the nations after Armageddon: **Rev 14:7,9,15; 19:17**. **Who is worthy to open the book?** Christ alone can open the book and loose the seals. He was "made so much better than the angels" and "hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they" **Heb 1:4**.

Open the book: 700+ years previously, Daniel was told to "shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end." Daniel's reply, after then receiving a vision of Christ and the Saints in glory

was "O, my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?" **Dan 12:8**. The book that was shut up to Daniel can now be opened.

v3 No man was found worthy: Literally "to unroll the scroll or to read it." No man has ever lived a sinless life before God. This is also clear from **Isa 59:16**. "And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him." See also **Isa 44:23; 63:5**. The Divine Sonship of Jesus Christ enabled him to be the sinless bearer of our nature: **Isa 11:1-2, Rev 22:16; Rom 1:3-4**.

v4 I wept much: John's strength of feeling and thirst for understanding; **Psa 42:1** "As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God."

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.

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?

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

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

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.

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

John had the spirit of Christ and the prophets who "enquired and searched diligently" God's Word: **1 Pet 1:10-11**. Those with this spirit will be blessed: **Psa 50:4-5; 119:103; Mt 5:6; 7:7-8; Jas 1:5; Rev 1:3**. **No man found worthy:** Repeated for emphasis.

v5 One of the elders: See notes on **Rev 4:4**. A royal priesthood: **1 Chr 24:4,18; 25:1,31; Rev 5:8-10; 14:3; 19:4-8**. The saints are entirely dependent on the Lamb prevailing. **Weep not:** Words of comfort! **Lion of the tribe of Juda:** One of the cherubic faces: **Rev 4:7**. When he comes in judgment he roars like a lion: **10:3**.

Root of David: From **Isa 11:1-2** where Christ is described as a shoot growing out of the stump of Israel and also out of its roots. He is "the root and offspring of David": **22:16**. Son of God and Son of Man. He is the root, God manifest in the flesh: **Jn 1:1,14; Rom 11:16; 1 Tim 3:16**. As Mary's son, he is David's offspring: **Lk 1:32-33; Rom 1:3**. He is the fulfilment of all David's hopes and desires: **2 Sam 23:5**. **Prevailed:** Christ's victory over sin opened a new phase in God's purpose: **Mt 28:18; 1 Pet 3:22**.

v6 Lamb: Christ as the lamb appears over 20x in Revelation. He "overcomes the world" because he is the lamb - one who is submissive to God's will: **Mt 26:39; 1 Jn 2:15-17; Rev 7:13-17; 13:8; 17:14**. Overcoming the world involves tribulation, but believers overcome by faith knowing that the lamb has already overcome on our behalf: **Jn 16:33; 1 Jn 5:4**. Overcoming the world is the goal of all believers: **Rev 2:7,11,17,26; 3:5,12,21; 21:7**. The final victory of those who overcome the world is in **Rev 11:15; 15:2**.

The lamb will be the centre of divine rule on earth, the object of adoration: **5:6,8,12,13**. He unlooses the seals, thus controlling the destiny of nations: **6:1**. He is the source of divine love and salvation: **7:9,10,14**. He is the shepherd of the flock: **7:17**. He is the recorder of the book of life: **13:8; 21:27**. He is the leader and shepherd of the redeemed: **14:1,4**. He is the conqueror of the beast: **14:10**. He is the leader in the choir of redeemed saints: **15:3**. He conquers the 10 horns: **17:14**. He is the bridegroom: **19:7,9; 21:9**. He is the foundation stone and light of New Jerusalem: **21:14, 22,23,27**. Ruler of the future age: **22:1,3**.

In the midst: Christ occupies the throne. He is also in the middle of the saints. In **Rev 22:3** the Lamb is seated in the "throne of God" while "his servants shall serve him". **As it had been slain:** This Lamb had been resurrected! This lamb "takes away the sin of the world" **Jn 1:29,36**. He is also the Lamb of **Isa 53:7,8** cp. **Acts 8:32**. The lamb is "without blemish and without spot" **1 Pet 1:19**. **Seven horns:** Christ is all powerful. Horns represent power. The beast of **Dan 7:7-8** had ten horns. **Seven eyes:** He is all-seeing like God: **2 Chr 16:9**. The "eyes" are an aspect of the Cherubim in **Rev 4:6** and **Ezek 1:18; 10:12**. **Seven spirits:** See notes on **Rev 1:4; 3:1; 4:5**.

Colour code: Blue (God and Jesus Christ); Red (sin/devil/judgment of wicked); Green (Kingdom); Orange (important words & phrases); Purple (return of Jews to the land); Yellow (practical exhortation). Prepared for Rathmines Bible School Teenagers.



are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

v7 Right hand: Symbolises strength and power: **Psa 80:17; 110:1; Eph 1:20-21; 1 Pet 3:22**. **Him that sat upon the throne:** See notes on **Rev 4:2**. Christ is unique in that he is not only the lamb but also the King.

v8 Four beasts, 24 elders: Literally 4 living creatures, not wild beasts. See notes on **Rev 4:4-8**. **Harps:** Saints also have harps in **14:2; 15:2**. In **1 Chr 25:7** 288 priests prophesied with harps. Our hearts strike the strings of the harp, to express thankfulness: **Eph 5:19**.

Golden vials full of odours: Literally incense (see margin). Incense in the law symbolises prayers to God ascending: **Psa 141:2, Lk 1:9-10**. Gold symbolises tried faith: **1 Pet 1:7**. Faithful prayers can save believers who are sick: **Jas 5:15**.

v9 New song: New in experience, in immortality. The words of the song are not unknown as they are revealed here. Read **Psa 40:3; 96:1, 98:1-2; 149:1**. A new song is also sung in **Isa 42:10-13** in the context of Christ coming in judgment on the nations. **Redeemed:** Brought back: **Acts 15:14; 20:28; Rom 3:23-25**.

Kindred, tongue, people, nation: The faithful from many nations who rejected Babylon's teaching: **Dan 3:4; Rev 14:6; 17:15**. **v10 Kings, priests:** Divine rule and spiritual guidance: **2 Chr 15:3**. Priests also played music: **1 Chr 25:1; 1 Pet 2:9; Rev 14:2**. See notes on **Rev 4:4** (priests) and **4:6** (kings). **Reign on the earth:** Saints possess the Kingdom: **Dan 7:22,27**. A Millennium, 1000 years: **Rev 20:6**.

v11 Many angels: The saints will be "equal unto the angels" **Lk 20:36**. **Ten thousands:** Multitudes: **Dan 7:10** cp. **Deut 33:2; Ps 68:17; Jude 14**.

v12-14 Loud voice: Continues the accolades given to Christ in **5:11**. **Ages of the Ages:** The Millennium: See notes on "for ever and ever" in **1:6**. **Amen:** See notes on **1:7; 3:14**.