

Revelation 5:1-14 RSV *The Worship of THE Redeeming Lamb*

[1] And I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals;

The scroll is completely sealed (seven seals) The scroll represents God's eternal plan, his decree which is all-comprehensive. It symbolizes God's purpose for the entire universe throughout history and concerning all creatures in all ages and unto all eternity.

These seals are arranged so that when each is broken, a portion of the scroll can be unrolled and read.

What is this scroll? *God's explanation containing "the secrets of our world's affairs and its history."*

[2] and I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?"

[3] And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it,

[4] and I wept much that no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.

Vs 2-4: *Opening the scroll required One who had both worthiness and power.*

He wept because the unopened scroll meant an unexecuted divine plan. To open the scroll means the universe is governed for the church and God's glorious redemptive purpose is being realized!

[5] Then one of the elders said to me, "Weep not; lo, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

The conqueror is both "Lion" and "Root" in the house of David. Both of these are the very source of strength. Compare Genesis 49:4,10. "Lion was a symbol of strength and "Lamb" was a symbol of weakness and sacrificial offering.

Christ conquered sin on the cross.

[6] And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders, I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth;

The Passover Lamb is living (even though it had been slain) i.e., He is standing

John uses the Lamb designation more than two dozen times in his book

Seven horns denote complete power while seven eyes show the perfect and seeing Spirit. Christ is perfect in power and perfect in discernment.

[7] and he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne.

Took the scroll indicates that Christ at His ascension received authority to rule the universe according to God's eternal plan!

From this point forward it is "The Throne of God and of the Lamb". (22:1)

God governs the universe through the Lamb. This initiates a new beginning in heaven and on earth.

[8] And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and with golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints;

The four creatures and the 24 elders hold instruments of praise – a harp and golden books full of incense (symbolizing prayer) This had never happened before. It called for exuberant praise.

The saints may be saints on earth, or the martyred saints mentioned in Chapter 6.

[9] and they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy art thou to take the scroll and to open its seals, for thou wast slain and by thy blood didst ransom men for God from every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

[10] and hast made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on earth."

The song of redemption (vs 9-10)

(v10) Compare Exodus 19:4-6

[11] Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands,

The Angels (not including the Cherubim) surround the 24 elders in a wider ring.

[12] saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

Notice the seven excellencies that the Lamb is worthy to receive:

Power - wealth - wisdom - strength - honor - glory - praise

[13] And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all therein, saying, "To him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might for ever and ever!"

(vs12-13) The Lamb reigns over all creation. Therefore, we have nothing to fear.

These verses are to the One "who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb." From this point forward the Throne will be described in this way.

(v13) The whole universe is governed by the Throne, that is by God through the Lamb. When the Lamb ascended to heaven, He sat down at the right hand of God.

[14] And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.