

The book of Revelation

Chapter 5

A Vision of the Heavenly Throne and the Conquering Lamb

1. The scroll that is in the right hand of God (5:1-4)

-There is a scroll that now appears in the “right hand” of God that is sealed with seven seals and is written on the _____ and _____ (Ezekiel 2:10). “In the right hand of the Father lies a scroll. It represents God’s eternal plan, His decree which is all-comprehensive. It symbolizes God’s purpose with respect to the entire universe throughout history, and concerning all creatures in all ages and to all eternity. It is full of writing on both sides.” (101)

-There is a _____ that is presented (the scroll is sealed by God with seven seals that must first be broken before it can be read). The scroll is very important and must be read for it holds the will and plan of God. “The meaning is this: the closed scroll indicates the plan of God unrevealed and unexecuted. If the scroll remains sealed God’s purposes are not realized; His plan is not carried out. To open that scroll by breaking the seals means not merely to reveal but to carry out God’s plan.” (101-102) A mighty angel asks if anyone is worthy to open this scroll. In all of heaven and among things created there are none found to be worthy to open this scroll. The result is that John _____ loudly.

2. There is One worthy to receive the and open the scroll (5:5-7)

-One of the elders comforts John with the _____ of Christ. The elder introduces Christ in a majestic and kingly way, describing Him in three powerful and victorious ways [Lion from Judah (Gen. 49:8-12), King from David’s line (Isaiah 11:1, 10), the One who conquered]. Christ is worthy because of who He is and what He has done.

-This Lion, this King, this conquering One is now seen-as a bloody Lamb. “In the vision John sees...what? You expect ‘the _____.’ Instead, you read ‘a _____.’ Christ in His suffering and death showed the characteristics of both lion and lamb. He is the real Lion, the real Lamb.” (103)

-“This is striking paradox: the conquering lion, warrior-king of Judah’s tribe and David’s line, a champion of the people of God, appears before John’s eyes as a lamb slaughtered yet standing...The slaughter suffered by the Lamb is the way He has overcome. His _____ is the _____ that makes Him worthy to open the scroll.” (Johnson, 106)

-“By a skillful use of apocalyptic images, John illuminates the central paradox of the gospel. The victory of God was humiliation and death of His Son. The Lion assumes the _____ of the Lamb and dies in order to overcome.” (Goldsworthy, 169).

-The lamb is not only seen as though “it had been slain,” but also with seven horns and seven eyes. The seven horns represent His absolute and perfect _____ and His seven eyes represent the _____ of the Holy Spirit that rests upon Him. He is worthy because He suffered. He is worthy because of His perfect power. He is worthy because of His spiritual perfection.

-The Lamb _____ takes the scroll. John’s sadness is no more as One is seen and declared worthy by the Father of having all dominion and authority (the Eternal Son who took to Himself flesh to suffer on our behalf).

3. *Praise ensues from those around the throne (5:8-14)*

-The four living creatures and the elders fall down and _____. They do so with a new song and present the prayers of the saints to the Lord. The prayers of the saints are a testimony to the Lamb’s worthiness.

-In Scripture when a “new” act of salvation by God’s people is experienced it leads to a “new song” _____ the salvation that the Lord brought about.

-“The new song now sung by living creatures and elders celebrates an exodus that makes previous rescues _____ in comparison.” (Johnson, 109).

-This first song of doxology is sang by the living creatures and the elders and declares the Lamb’s worthiness, His act of redemption, the extent of His redemption, and the results of His redemption.

-The second song (of this chapter-the fourth in this section) again highlights the _____ of Christ. Johnson points out that, “The three central doxologies of the five in Revelation 4-5 open with the theme of divine worthiness.” (Johnson, 110). This song of praise is sang again by the living creatures, elders, and now my myriads of angels (the worship of Christ is). Here is this song, “seven excellences representing all virtues and excellences in heaven and on earth.” (105) The first four represent what Christ possesses and the last three refer to what Christ receives.

-“The angels follow also and join in praising Him for it (redemption) too... Therefore, we should bless God for His mercy and goodness to others, as do angels for us, whose highest grace it is to praise God for that redemption in which they are not personally interested; how _____ then should we bless God in a sense of our own interest, to raise our hearts a degree higher still.” (Goodwin, 560).

-The third song is now sang by all of creation and is a praise to both Father and Son (2 praises were given to the Father in chapter 4 and now 2 praises were given to the Son in chapter 5 and the final song is a song of praise to both). God’s work of creation and redemption are thus praised by all _____ things. “All things ultimately _____ glorify God: His will is carried out in the universe. The throne rules. The Lamb reigns.” (105-106)