

## REVELATION Chapter 5

*Teacher: John M. Brown, Olive Hill Church of Christ, Sunday Bible Class, July 2014*

***The scene described here continues from chapter 4, where we saw God the Father upon His throne, surrounded by redeemed man and the Holy Spirit. Now, we see the Son of God there!***

### I. GOD'S SEALED BOOK, 5:1-7

#### A. God holds a Book in His right hand, vv. 1-4

1. It is written “within and on the backside” (“front and back”) and sealed with seven seals (a complete message, but completely sealed! – compare Ezekiel 2:9-10).
2. A strong angel with a loud voice asks: “*Who is worthy to open the book...?*”
  - a. No one was found worthy to open it, not in heaven, or in earth, or under the earth (the realm of the dead: Romans 10:7; Ephesians 4:7) – *No created being!*
  - b. This book was beyond human disclosure, and this caused John much grief.

#### B. One found worthy to open it: THE REDEEMING LAMB! vv. 5-7

1. He is the **LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH** (Genesis 49:8-10; Isaiah 22:21-22; Hebrews 7:14).
2. He is the **ROOT OF DAVID**
  - a. The Old Testament promised One coming who would rule upon the throne of David (1 Samuel 16:13; 2 Samuel 2:4; 5:3; 7:12-16; Amos 9:11; Zechariah 12:6-13:1; Isaiah 9:6-7; 11:1-4, 10).
  - b. Jesus is the fulfiller of that prophecy! Matthew 1:1; 9:27; 12:23; Luke 1:30-33; Acts 2:29-36; 13:33-39; Romans 1:3; 2 Timothy 2:8).
3. He is the **ONE WHO PREVAILED** (“overcame” – cf. John 16:33; Hebrews 2:14).
  - a. Through His death and resurrection, He has won the victory!
  - b. Compare v. 9; 1:18; Hebrews 2:14; Colossians 2:15
4. He is the **SLAIN LAMB**.
  - a. Slain for the sins of the world (Isaiah 53; John 1:29, 36; 1 Peter 1:20; Revelation 13:8).
  - b. He has seven horns.
    - (1) “Horns” were symbols of power (Daniel 7:7-8; 8:3-10, 19-27).
    - (2) The Lamb has complete (“seven”) authority or power.
  - c. He has seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God.
    - (1) The Lamb has the Holy Spirit (Revelation 1:4; 3:1; 4:5).
    - (2) These “eyes” are Deity’s omniscience (2 Chronicles 16:9).

- (3) Remember that Jesus promised the apostles the Holy Spirit (John 14:25-26; 16:12-13; Luke 24:49; Matthew 3:11), which He had authority to promise and send (“in my name”).

5. He is the **ONE WHO RECEIVES AUTHORITY FROM THE FATHER**.
  - a. He “took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.”
  - b. See Matthew 28:18; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:20-23.

## II. THE LAMB’S PRAISE, 5:8-14

### A. The beasts and elders worship the Lamb.

1. They have harps (compare 14:2) – these were symbols of rejoicing (cf. Psalm 137:2).
2. They have odours (“incense”) which are the prayers of saints (8:3).
3. Consider our altar – see Hebrews 13:10, 15

### B. The “new song”:

1. “Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals...”
  - a. The Lamb was *slain*: the song announces redemption by the blood of the Lamb
  - b. The Lamb *redeems* every kindred, tongue, people, nation (Hosea 1:10; Romans 9:25-26; 1 Peter 2:10).
  - c. The Lamb *made* the redeemed kings and priests (Revelation 1:6):
    - (1) *Rulers*: The church (Christians) rule with Christ (Romans 5:17; 8:17; 2 Timothy 2:12)
    - (2) *Worshippers*: The church is the priesthood (Hebrews 13:15; 1 Peter 2:5, 9).
  - d. The reign is on the earth (Matthew 5:5; Romans 5:17; cf. Jeremiah 1:10).
2. The angelic host: 10,000 x 10,000 and thousands (= more than one hundred million!)
3. What they all (beasts, angels, elders) say: “*Worthy is the Lamb...*” to receive
  - a. **Power**: supreme and absolute authority
  - b. **Riches**: unlimited resources (Psalm 24:1; Romans 12:33)
  - c. **Wisdom**: the counsels of God (Colossians 2:3)
  - d. **Strength**: omnipotence, power (Psalm 93:1)
  - e. **Honor**: worthy of adoration, praise
  - f. **Glory**: “brightness” (John 17:5; James 2:1; Hebrews 1:3).
  - g. **Blessing**: praise, adoration, thanksgiving (Romans 9:5)
4. Every creature (the whole creation) worships the FATHER and the LAMB (see Ephesians 3:14): ***Blessing, Honor, Glory, Power.***
5. To this song:
  - a. Four beasts said “Amen” (“so let it be”).
  - b. Twenty-four elders fell down and worshipped him.