

Chapter 5

The Throne was the center of chapter 4. The Lion and the Lamb, both of whom represent Christ, are the center of this chapter. The events are those that take place in heaven just before the tribulation begins.

I. The Book With Seven Seals (vs.1-4)

A. 'In the right hand of God'. (A symbol of divine authority, power, and victory.)

- 'O sing unto the Lord a new song; for he hath done marvelous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory' (Ps.98:1).

Note: Although the word 'book' is used in the KJV, we should bear in mind that there were no hard-covered flat books during the lifetime of John. In those days, and in the days of the Old Testament prophets, all books were scrolls of either papyrus or vellum.

- This 'book' has been in the archives of heaven. And the time has now come for its contents to be revealed.
 - A. 'written within and on the backside'.
 - a. The book is finished; complete.
 - b. It is signed; authorized; ready to be put into effect.
 - B. 'sealed with seven seals'. (Perfectly; absolutely closed - awaiting this moment.) **Note:** Read Daniel 12:7-10.

Many names have been given this book, such as:

- a. Book of Redemptions
- b. Book of Title Deed to the earth
- c. Book of Judgment
- d. Book of Forfeited Inheritances

Note: In the Book of Leviticus we find the 'Law of Redemption', as given to Israel, having to do with wives, slaves, and land. This law provided the means whereby the one sold into bondage could be redeemed. A man, unable to pay his debts, sold into slavery with all his possessions (including his family), could look to a near kinsman to pay the redemptive price for his freedom.

- The law demanded that when a person was sold into bondage two scrolls were to be made, on which the transaction was inscribed. Stipulation was made as to the amount the kinsman redeemer had to pay to redeem this relative.
- One scroll was sealed with seven seals and put in a safe place in the synagogue. The second was left open in a room where any near kinsman, who wished to learn what was required to redeem his people from bondage, had ready access.
- The sealed copy could be opened only by a judicial act, and that by a person with proper authority.
- 'a strong angel' (v.2). Some believe this to be Gabriel. Others: another of the angels. (But the angel is not named in Scriptures.) He cries out with a 'loud voice', 'Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?' Who has the right? Who has the legal authority?
- A search is made (v.3) - in heaven, in earth, and in the regions under the earth. Yet, no man is found worthy to open the book. Think about it: This includes men like Abraham, Moses, Samuel, David, Daniel, Peter, and Paul.

- 'And I (John) wept much, because no man was found worthy'. Do you suppose the following thoughts might have come to John:
 - a. Is it only in this life that we have hope?
 - b. Is no one competent to rule the earth?
 - c. Is the earth to continue in sin and sorrow?
 - d. Is there no future for the earth?
 - e. Is Satan to continue in bringing havoc upon mankind?

II. Christ, the Lion and the Lamb (vs.5-10).

- 'One of the elders'. He was representing the Church, having spiritual insight (answers).

Note: This is what the church had been hearing from her elders, prophets, apostles, and ministers in all the ages. It is the very essence of the Gospel, which has been sounding ever since the promise made to Adam in the Garden of Eden - that the 'seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head' (Gen.3). Adam sold out to Satan, who then became the Usurper of God's Kingdom on earth. Adam was unable to deliver himself from bondage of sin, so God sent His Son, born without sin, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the seed of the woman, to deliver the children of men from bondage. Jesus purchased man's redemption with His blood! And the time has now come when God again will take possession of what has always been His, but was sold into the hands of the enemy, Satan, some 6000 years ago.

- Elder speaks to John, saying, 'Weep not' (v.5). A message of consolation and encouragement.
- 'The Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book'. **Note:** The 'lion' represents 'power'.
- 'Hath prevailed'. By Jesus' death and resurrection, He has conquered death, hell, and the grave (Rev.1:18). He has earned the right to break the seals and open the book.
- 'Stood a Lamb as it had been slain' (v.6). He who appears here as a Lamb is the same whom the elder had just described as a 'Lion'. The 'Lamb' represents 'sacrifice'. The secret of Christ's power is His sacrifice.
- 'Standing'. Even though He had all appearances of recent slaughter, He is alive, standing upon His feet. **Note:** The resurrection of Christ is not a myth, as some would have us believe, but a Biblical truth. The same John that saw Jesus dead on Calvary, here sees Him alive in heaven.
- 'Having Seven Horns and Seven Eyes'. 'Horns' speak of authority and power. 'Seven' is the number of completeness. Therefore, the Lamb has complete, or perfect, power and authority - 'Omnipotence'. 'Eyes' speak of knowledge, or wisdom, with seven making it perfect knowledge. Our Lord is - 'Omniscient'.
- Jesus, the Lamb, 'takes the book'. (The moment, for which the saints have waited.) Jesus is no longer 'Intercessor'. He now begins to judge.
- Those about the throne and within the throne 'fall down before the Lamb,' giving 'praise and adoration' (harps), and offering sweet-smelling incenses (golden bowls filled with prayers of the saints).
- 'They sing a new song' (v.9), that of 'redemption' through the blood of the Lamb. The old song was of 'creation'.
- 'And we shall reign on the earth' (v.10). This is in anticipation of the 1000-year reign of peace with Christ, which will be established when He returns to earth.

III. Host of Angels Join in Singing (vs.11,12).

- Angels were created by God for different purposes. Here, at beginning of a 'new order' of things, millions of angels are employed to proclaim the worthiness of the Lamb in completing God's plan of redemption. The 'number of angels' is indefinite. **Note:** Daniel saw this same scene (Dan.7:10), all praising and magnifying Christ, the Lamb of God.
- Seven-fold Ascription to the Lamb:
 1. Power - Omnipotence
 2. Riches - Possessions
 3. Wisdom - Omniscience
 4. Strength - Ability
 5. Honor - Reputation
 6. Glory - Praise
 7. Blessing – Worship
- All creatures, everywhere, give praise (vs.13,14). The Apostle Paul (Rom.14:11) writes, 'For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God'.

Lamb character refers to:

Jesus' First Coming
His Meekness
He is Savior
He is judged
Grace of God

Lion character refers to:

Jesus' Second Coming
His Majesty
His Sovereignty
He is the Judge
Government of God

Question: Will you be in that number of the redeemed singing around the throne eternal?