

Revelation #14

October 9, 2022

Series Title: The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Behold I Am Coming Soon

Today's message: **Revelation chapters 4 and 5. "Part 3: The Throne Room of God: The Scroll," from Revelation 5:1!**

Introduction: In the throne room of God the Father, we see the Father holding the scroll, then the Lamb taking the scroll, signaling the beginning of, 1) the judgments of God in the Day of the Lord; 2) the final redemption of His Church; and, 3) the reclamation of the earth in preparation for the uncontested rule of God in the New Heaven and the New Earth.

I. (5:1) The Scroll

A. What John saw

1. First, He is looking into the very center of the throne room of God, which is the Holy of Holies!
 - a) I can think of no other scene like Revelation 5 in all of Scripture!
 - (1) The interaction at the throne, before the throne, around the throne (see Revelation #13 for details.)
2. John saw in the **right hand** of Him who sat on the throne a scroll
 - a) The right hand holds significance in Scripture¹
 - (1) The right hand of God is the side of *favor* and *strength*.

Examples:

- (a) Ps. 20:6: "Now I know that the Lord saves His anointed; He answers Him from His holy heaven with the saving power of his right hand."
- (b) Ps. 74:10-11: "How long will the enemy mock you, O God? Will the foe revile your name forever? Why do you hold back your hand, your right hand? Take it from the folds of your garment and destroy them!"
- (c) Ps. 80:17: "Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand, the son of man you have raised up for yourself."

¹ The following points in this section are gathered from Tony Garland's Revelation commentary, p.300

- (d) Ps.89:13: “Your arm is endued with power; your hand is strong, your right hand exalted.”
- (e) Ps 98:1: “Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.”
- (2) The right hand of God is the side where the Son is seated waiting for His kingdom. On this point the Scriptures are plain!
 - (a) Ps. 110:1: “The Lord says to my Lord: ‘Sit at My right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.’”
 - (b) Eph.1:20: “...which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms...”
 - (c) Heb. 1:3: “The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact imprint of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.”
 - (d) See also, Daniel 7:13-14; Mark 16:9; Acts 5:31; Acts 7:55-56; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 10:12
- (3) The Son is at the right hand of God making intercession for His Church.
 - (a) Rom. 8:34: “Who is He that condemns? It is Christ who died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”
 - (i) This verse is not saying that Christ condemns us. To the contrary: He saves and intercedes for us who have trusted in His atoning death and resurrection on our behalf.
- (4) The Son sits with the Father on His throne
 - (a) Rev. 3:21: “...just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on His throne.”
- (5) The Son shares the power and reign of the Father on His throne.

- (a) Rev. 5:13b: "To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"
 - (b) Dan. 7:14: "He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and His kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."
 - (c) See also Rev.6:16, 7:10
- b) **Comment:** The fact that John sees the right hand, or the power and strength of God at this time is significant because it indicates that the long wait of the patience and long-suffering of God is soon to end and judgment and the final redemption of God's people and His creation is about to commence, as we will see in Revelation 6-19.
- 3. John saw in the right hand of Him who sat **on the throne** a scroll
 - a) The throne is a vivid reminder that it is God who sovereignly rules over each and every king and kingdom, rule and rulers
 - (1) Ps 47:8: "God reigns over the nations; God is seated on His holy throne."
 - (2) See also Isaiah 6:1; and Daniel 7:9-10
 - b) The throne indicates the sovereign, righteous and holy finality of the judgments of Him who sits on the throne!
 - (1) Rev. 20:11: "Then I saw a great white throne and Him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from His presence, and there was no place for them."
 - (2) Rev. 20:12: "And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the book."
 - c) **Comment:** The throne is central to John's vision in Revelation 4 and 5. If John is representative of the Church before the throne in the throne room of heaven, then should not the Church hold a high view of the throne in our gospel preaching?
 - (1) Our Lord Jesus came the first time bearing a cross.
 - (2) But He promised us that He is coming a second time to
 - (a) Judge the inhabitants of the earth who have rebelled against the Christ, our great King and Sovereign;

- (b) And, to bring His church to glory
- (c) And to reclaim His rightful title and deed to the earth, to rule and reign over it in holiness and without hindrance.

4. John saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne **a scroll**

- a) Explanation: MacArthur: "While the scroll is a scroll of doom and judgment, it is also a scroll of redemption."
- b) Explanation: MacArthur: "It tells us how Christ will redeem the world from Satan and those with Him."
- c) There is writing on both sides of the scroll. Ezekiel describes the same scroll:
 - (1) Ezekiel 2:9-10: "Then I looked, and saw a hand stretched out to me. In it was a scroll, which He unrolled before me. On both sides of it were written words of lament and mourning and woe."
- d) There are seven seals sealing the scroll.
- e) **Comment:** The question should come up: What does this scroll have to do with the final redemption of the Church and of Creation?
 - (1) It is easy to see the judgment aspect of the scroll because with the opening of the seals, we see the unleashing of judgment upon the earth with each opening of the seals.
 - (2) But, the context of Revelation 5 is worship. As we will study next week the Lamb of God is "worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals." Why? "Because you were slain, and with your blood you **purchased** men for God..."
 - (3) Yet, until the Lamb initiates the judgments against the inhabitants of the earth who have rebelled, God's possession (people and earth) remains blemished by wicked men. He will throw them out!
 - (a) **The parable of the Tenants** of Matthew 21:33-46 shows us what will happen when the **owner of the vineyard** who holds the title and deed to the land comes to reclaim his possession.
 - (i) "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end."
 - (b) I have to think that this is a foreshadowing of "**The Day of the Lord**" which begins unfolding in Revelation 6.

B. The Significant points to learn about the scroll

1. The main emphasis of Revelation chapter 5 is placed upon the right of the Lamb of God to open the scroll and redemption as we see in Revelation 5:9.
 - a) Notice in Revelation 5:6 that the Lamb is first presented as having been slain at a time before, yet now is alive.
 - (1) Not only alive, but present at the throne to take the scroll from the *right hand* of Him who sits *on the throne*.
 - (2) The Lamb reaching out and taking the scroll.
 - b) His taking the scroll is a sign of authority and ownership. Now, in His possession, He comes to claim that which He purchased. What did He purchase?
 - (1) A people as His inheritance.
 - (2) An inheritance for His people.
 - c) See **Psalm 2** (The following argument is presented in Renald Showers' book, "Maranatha! Our Lord Come!")
 - (1) Ps. 2:1-3: The rebellious rulers of the earth are in alliance together with the sole purpose of preventing God's messiah taking possession of the earth. They reject His ownership.
 - (2) Ps. 2:7: The Messiah will declare what the Father has said concerning Him: "You are My Son; today I have become your Father."
 - (a) The Son is the heir seeking to claim His possession.
 - (b) Christ's resurrection proved His Sonship, and that He is the right heir of the inheritance given to Him by God.
 - (c) He is the heir coming to claim that which He purchased.
In the case of His inheritance of His people and His land, He paid the redemption price with His blood!
 - (3) Ps. 2:8 clarifies that the inheritance to be gained is the nations!
 - (a) "Ask of Me and I will make the nations your inheritance, and the uttermost ends of the earth your possession."
 - d) As Garland notes, "...it seems that more than just a *will* is in view. A *purchase* was made at the cross, and now the deed of that purchase is being claimed by its rightful owner."
2. What about the judgment?
 - a) There is no question, the purchase price was paid at the cross when Christ died. But we don't see that Christ is in full possession of His purchase yet.

- (1) The Church (believers) is still subject to trials, tribulations and even physical death.
- (2) The Earth is still subject to groaning as it waits for the sons of God to be revealed. (Romans 8:19-21)
- (3) The Rulers and powers and authorities of this dark world still attempt to usurp God's authority.
- b) But, as the scroll is taken from the Father's hand, the Lamb is poised to begin opening the seals, which will initiate a "chain of judgments" by which He, the purchaser, will take back what is absolutely and rightfully His.
 - (1) Garland: "In the end, the usurpers are evicted and that which has been purchased is finally in the hands of the purchaser."

C. Application:

1. The Coming of Christ at His first coming was to purchase a people for God, to be His possession.
 - a) He was without sin– the very righteous perfection of God the Son– He was worthy to receive a promised inheritance.
 - b) He bought a people from every ethnic group, kindred, tribe and tongue.
 - (1) "...and with your blood you purchased me for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (ethnic group).
 - c) He bought a place
 - (1) Earth
 - (a) Though He created it, sinful man usurped the authority of God.
2. We must never present the Gospel of God in Christ as one of many different options.
 - a) Christians today are doing a disservice to the Gospel by trying to accommodate the sensitivities of people. How do we do this?
 - (1) By being unbalanced in our approach to the Truth.
 - (a) You are out of balance if you only talk about the love of God for sinners but fail to mention His wrath coming against the unrepentant.
 - (b) You are out of balance if you talk only about the free grace of God to the exclusion of God's rightful claim for our obedience to His commands.
 - (c) You are out of balance if you love Him as Savior, but ignore Him as Lord.

- b) We must be faithful to warn people that refusal to submit to the Lordship of Jesus and to walk in rebellion to His command to believe the Gospel will result in being thrown out into utter darkness at the final judgment.
- 3. Heaven may be stirring. The Lord may be coming at any time.
 - a) Christian: don't live an apathetic life.
 - (1) Wake up. Put off sinful and ungodly behavior.
 - (2) Put on Christ and godliness.