

Revelation #16

October 23, 2022

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

Today's message: **Revelation chapters 4 and 5. "Part 5: The Throne Room of God: The Lamb," from Revelation 5:6-14!**

Introduction: Remember John weeping and weeping as no one was found worthy to open the scroll? Then the elder commands John to stop weeping and instead, "Look! The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

Then, in Revelation 5:6, John turns to look to behold the Lion described by the elder and instead, he sees a Lamb! And not just any Lamb, the Lamb of God looking as if it had been slain.

Today we come to the crescendo of chapters 4 and 5. We watch as the Lamb of God takes the scroll from Him who sits on the throne. This act of the Lamb sets in motion the ultimate goal of redemption: the restoration of Eden on earth and the reheading of the human race by the God-man, Jesus Christ! (See Romans 5:12-19; Romans 8:18-25)

Revelation 5: 6-14: The Lamb

- I. (5:6) The Sacrifice
 - II. (5:7-8) The Supremacy
 - III. (5:9-14) The Songs
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- I. (5:6-7a) The Sacrifice: Victory through Sacrifice
 - A. He is the Lion (5:5) because He was the Lamb
 - 1. For the Lion to go forth in judgment He must **first** be the Lamb
 - a) The Lamb to purchase redemption
 - b) The Lamb to earn the right to go forth as the Lion in judgment
 - 2. What do we learn?
 - a) Mercy and grace precede judgment
 - b) The triumphant victory of the Lion first comes through the sacrifice of the Lamb.
 - (1) Victory through sacrifice!
 - B. Victory through Sacrifice
 - 1. *Lamb* provides us with the vivid imagery of innocence. Here in Revelation and in Exodus 12 the *Lamb of sacrifice* was a "little or young lamb"

- a) In Exodus we learn that the little lamb was taken in as a pet living with the family for four days before it was given as the innocent and loved sacrifice, whose blood caused the death angel to pass over.
 - (1) The blood of the little lamb of sacrifice provided coverage for the Israelites protecting them from the death angel.
 - b) Isaiah 53 equates the sacrificial Lamb with Messiah and His work as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of God's people.
 - 2. The Lamb in the New Testament
 - a) Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (Jn.1:29,36)
 - b) Peter describes the sinless blood of Christ as "precious," and Christ Jesus as the "lamb without blemish or defect."
 - (1) A clear reference to the Passover Lamb of Exodus 12:1-13
 - c) Paul describes Jesus as our Passover Lamb:
 - (1) 1 Cor. 5:7b: "For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed."
 - 3. Christ, our Passover Lamb becomes our victory over sin, death and the devil.
 - a) Revelation 12:10-11a: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony..."
 - (1) It is **by** the "blood of the Lamb" that believers overcome the devil (adversary) who hurls one accusation after another against them.
 - (2) HOW?
 - (a) Because the blood of the Lamb **actually** cleanses us from sin and guilt!
 - (b) The blood of cleansing provides our robes of righteousness!
 - (c) The blood of the Lamb that provides for our eternal life.
 - 4. The Victory of the Lion and the victory of the saints comes through the sacrifice of the Lamb!
- C. The Lamb is seen "standing in the center of the throne"
- 1. Garland observes the standing Lamb: "Having been seated to the right hand of the Father for millennia, Jesus now rises. The time of sharing the Father's throne is rapidly drawing to a close. Once He takes the scroll, as the Root of David He

will initiate a series of irreversible events which will result in the establishment of the Davidic kingdom upon the earth.”

D. The Lamb “looked as if it had been slain.”

1. This speaks of Jesus’ atoning sacrificial death on the cross.
2. His sacrifice of atonement was on behalf of those He came to save!
 - a) Hebrews 9:27-28: “Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him.”
 - b) 2 Cor. 5:21, “God made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”
3. John sees the Lamb looking as if He was slain.
 - a) He sees the wounds and scars on His body
 - (1) Isaiah 52:14 describes Him this way, “His appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and His form marred beyond human likeness—”
 - (2) Garland asks, “Will His scars ever be erased? For don’t they serve as a testimony of His love, and His resurrection from death?
 - (a) They saw His scars! (John 20:20,27)
 - (b) They did not readily recognize Him. But when He spoke their eyes were opened to see Him (Luke 24:30-31)

E. The Lamb of sacrifice, the Lamb who was slain, must be your Lamb for your redemption!

1. Victory through sacrifice!

F. The Lamb, having overcome, now is the Lamb of Sovereign Authority!

1. The Lamb is seen with seven horns
 - a) The horn in Scripture indicates power and authority
 - b) Seven is God’s number of completion.
 - c) Therefore, this Lamb has all power and authority. He is Sovereign!
 - (1) See Daniel 7:14– an everlasting dominion
 - (2) Philippians 2:9-11– God has exalted Him above all!
2. The Lamb has seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God
 - a) This description of the Lamb indicates the fulness and completeness of His knowledge and intelligence, direct from the indwelling Holy Spirit of God in all His fullness.
 - (1) The Lamb is fully God in bodily form!

(a) Colossians 2:9: "For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form..."

b) "Sent out into all the earth"

(1) Remember the seven eyes indicate full and complete knowledge. In other words, there is nothing hidden from His sight, and everything is laid bare before Him, set for judgment.

(a) Heb. 4:13: "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the **eyes** of Him to whom we must give account."

(b) See 1 Cor. 3:13; 4:5

G. The Lamb that was slain is the living lamb who will judge the earth.

1. **Victory through sacrifice**

2. The cross came before the crown!

II. (5:7-8) The Supremacy: The Living Lamb won the right to take the scroll.

A. "He came"

1. Supremacy! There is no one else who can approach the throne to take the scroll.

B. And "took the scroll"

1. It shouldn't escape our notice as the children of God and recipients of the Revelation that the Lamb, indeed, takes the scroll.

2. While this happens in heaven, "the earth slumbers below, oblivious to the thief approaching in the night." (Garland)

a) The thief in the night verses: See Matt.24:43; Luke 12:39; John 12:6; 1 Thes. 5:2,4; 2 Pet.3:10 Rev. 3:3; Rev. 16:15

C. The magnitude of the act of the Lamb taking the scroll, *second only to the cross of Christ!*

1. A.J. Seiss¹ describes it this way: "This is the sublimest individual act recorded in the Apocalypse. It is the act which includes all that the suffering creation, and the disheartened saints of God have been sighing, and crying, and waiting for, for all these long ages— for six thousand years of grief and sorrow.

2. It is a scroll of deed and ownership. "His taking of the scroll marks the initiation of proceedings to convert into reality and eventually usher in the promised kingdom."²

3. We should see the patience of God. Since the cross, grace has reigned and justice has slept. But now the time has come, marked by the Lamb taking the

¹ A.J. Seiss, *The Apocalypse: Lectures on the Book of Revelation* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996), p117

² Robert L. Thomas, *Revelation 1-7* (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1992), Rev. 5:8

scroll, for judgment to begin and redemption of all that is God's to come to full fruition! Satan and sin is about to be cast away forever and ever!

4. This one act marks the beginning of the end of the groaning of Romans 8:22 and, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign for ever and ever!" Revelation 11:15 (Garland, p310)

D. The immediate action of the four creatures and the 24 elders

1. They immediately fall down before the Lamb!
 - a) They were each holding a harp and golden bowls of incense
 - (1) The harps:
 - (a) In the OT they were used in worship
 - (b) And, In the OT they were linked to prophecy (see 1 Kings 3:15 and 1 Chronicles 25:1).
 - (2) The golden bowls: The prayers of the saints
 - (a) It marks the answer to the prayers of the faithful saints who have prayed for God to right that which sin has devastated since the fall.
 - (i) Luke 18:7: "And will not God bring about justice for His elect, who cry out day and night? Will He keep putting them off?"
 - (ii) NO! At the taking of the scroll the prayers are answered!
 - (b) Our prayers for God to avenge the wickedness wrought by the enemy will be contained in these same bowls!
 - (i) Pray! And never give up! **Luke 18:1**

E. The Lamb, alone, has the supremacy to initiate the redemption of all that is His!

III. (5:9-14) The Songs: The Worthy Lamb is praised.

A. The New Song of the Four Creatures and the 24 elders

1. These **sang** praises to the Lamb for His worthiness
 - a) To take the scroll and open its seals
 - b) Because He was "slain and with His blood He purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and ethnicity (nations).
 - (1) Redemption by His blood shows the significance of His death!
2. The song elaborates on the results of His redemptive death!
 - a) Now the redeemed are part of His kingdom and a new community of people under the Sovereign rule of God for ever!
 - b) These saints commune with God without hindrance!

- c) And these saints reign with Christ on earth through the millennial kingdom!
- B. The **loud voices** of the angels, the creatures and the elders who encircled the throne!
 - 1. Can you imagine the sound?
 - 2. Innumerable angels: myriads and myriads;
 - a) thousands upon thousands and 10,000 times 10,000
 - 3. **Saying** praises for the Lamb who was slain!
 - a) Again, for His perfect redemption wrought by His precious blood!
 - b) Giving Him honor for His perfect power and wealth, wisdom and strength
 - c) Highest praises for all His perfect and complete attributes
- C. Then, the praise reaches its crescendo with every creature
 - 1. In heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them!
 - 2. The fulfillment of the ages of praise and glory belong to Him who sits on the throne (the Father) and to the Lamb!
 - a) Psalm 69:34: "Let heaven and earth praise Him, the seas and all that move in them..."
 - b) Psalm 150:6: "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!"
- D. The four creatures conclude by continually saying, "Amen! Amen!"
 - 1. Let it be!
 - 2. What are they declaring?
 - a) That now, with the taking of the scroll by the Lamb who is worthy– let Him who is worthy to open the seals begin His final redemption of all that is His!
- E. What is about to happen?
 - 1. Soon the Lamb will send out His servants to execute judgment on the earth, to gather the people of God and prepare the earth for the return of Christ when He sets up His kingdom on earth!
 - 2. The stage is set!
 - a) Are you ready? Now is the time to look with anticipation for the rapture of the church!
 - b) Now is the time to repent and turn to the Lamb and receive salvation, the forgiveness of sins, and life everlasting!
 - c) If you have been "sleeping" now is the time to wake up and serve your God.

- (1) Romans 13:11-12: "And do this, understanding the present time: **the hour has already come** for you to **wake up from your slumber**, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. **The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light!**"