

Syllabus
The Book of Revelation
Chapter 5

Rev. 5:1 ¶ *And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the back, close sealed with seven seals. (ASV)*

This is a scroll. The seals probably do not run up and down the seam of the scroll. It has been suggested that they each seal a section to be unrolled one by one.

Rev. 5:2 *And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a great voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?*

Rev. 5:3 *And no one in the heaven, or on the earth, or under the earth, was able to open the book, or to look thereon.*

Rev. 5:4 *And I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open the book, or to look thereon:*

Rev. 5:5 *and one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not; behold, the Lion that is of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath overcome to open the book and the seven seals thereof. (ASV)*

Israel comes into view. Her Messiah steps forth as The Lion of the Tribe of Judah, and the Root, or Source, of David. His role as the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world made Him worthy to open the scroll. He will now manifest the characteristics of The Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

The Numerical Bible: Hebrews to Revelation, (Pages 378, 379)

...we have to notice first, what is emphasized...that it is "the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David," who prevails to open the book. It is astonishing how little such a title as this seems to have impressed the mass of the interpreters of Revelation; but the lack of discernment as to Israel's place in prophecy, and that, as the apostle has said, to Israel belong the Old Testament promises...

[W]e are at the end of the addresses to the Church—the whole place of vision has now removed from earth to heaven—and that there the saints are upon their thrones around the throne of God—that the rainbow also around the throne is prophesying of a salvation by judgment of the earth itself—how plainly significant it is that we should find here just "the Lion of the tribe of Judah" coming to the front, and power put into His hand!

Israel and the earth are in the closest possible connection with one another. No blessing for the earth can be until Israel is blest, and thus the conqueror-King of Israel as seen here is every way significant.

...As we find in the second Psalm, against the One whom God has declared His Son, against Jehovah and His Anointed, alike, "the kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together;" and this spirit of rebellion, vain as it is, will not be ended until the Shepherd of Israel comes forth with His iron rod. Then, when the heathen [nations] are given Him for His inheritance, and the

uttermost parts of the earth for His possession, He shall tend them (as the word is) with a rod of iron, and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel...Christ must come to put down all rule and all authority and power... In Him at last judgment shall return to righteousness; and the rod of power which, *out* of His hands, has assumed the serpent form, now that He puts forth His hand to grasp it, is to return obediently to Him.

Rev. 5:6 *And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, having seven horns, and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent forth into all the earth.*

Rev. 5:7 *And he came, and he taketh it out of the right hand of him that sat on the throne.*

Rev. 5:8 *And when he had taken the book, the four living creatures and the four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having each one a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. (ASV)*

Take particular note of the bowls of incense which are the prayers of the saints. Later we will examine the important part these prayers play in earth's trying time.

Rev. 5:9 *And they sing a new song, saying,
Worthy art thou to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and didst purchase unto God with thy blood men of every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation,
Rev. 5:10 and madest them to be unto our God a kingdom and priests; and they reign upon the earth. (ASV)*

This "new song" can be sung by the Body of Christ. When Peter reported to the church at Jerusalem how God had visited the Gentiles, James said:

Acts 15:14 Symeon hath rehearsed how first God visited the Gentiles, **to take out of them a people for his name.** (ASV)

Note the difference between The Body of Christ and Israel in relation to each being God's inheritance. The nation of Israel is God's portion among the nations. "They are the only people which, *as a nation*, God has chosen as His own peculiar possession out of all the nations of the earth," David Baron writes in *Israel in the Plan of God*. They are a nation separated, as a nation, from the Gentile nations. We, the Body of Christ, are a people for His Name taken out of every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation among the Gentiles (nations).

The Companion Bible, Appendix 186

The Greek word, *ekklesia*, means assembly, or a gathering of called-out ones.

Rev. 5:10 And You have made them a kingdom (royal race) and priests to our God, and they shall reign [as kings] **over** the earth!† (AMP)

I have repeated verse 10 in the Amplified because of its better translation of the Greek preposition *epi*. The direction is from above downward.

John A. MacMillan, *The Authority of the Believer*, (See pages 10-15.)

The Divine Purpose of the Ages...God, having redeemed a people and purified them, has introduced them potentially into the heavenlies...they will in actuality take the seats of the "powers of the air," ...This purpose, present and future, is very definitely stated in Ephesians chapter 3:9-11. Here it is revealed as the divine will that "now (*nun*, the present time) unto the principalities and powers in the heavenly places might be made known through the church the manifold wisdom of God" (3:10). The Church is to be God's instrument in declaring to these rebellious and now usurping powers the divine purpose, and in administering their principalities after they have been unseated and cast down.

This is further declared to be "according to the eternal purpose of the ages which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord" (3:11). That is to say, God through all the past ages, has had in view this wonderful plan of preparing in Christ Jesus a people, chosen and called and faithful, whom He might place in these heavenly seats to rule through the ages yet to come...the overcoming Church, raised to sit in the heavenlies...Israel will administer the earthly kingdom and will be head of the nations, but overall will rule the exalted Church as the executive of God.

Rev. 5:11 ¶ *And I saw, and I heard a voice of many angels round about the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;*

Rev. 5:12 *saying with a great voice,*

Worthy is the Lamb that hath been slain to receive the power, and riches, and wisdom, and might, and honor, and glory, and blessing.

Rev. 5:13 ¶ *And every created thing which is in the heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and on the sea, and all things that are in them, heard I saying,*

Unto him that sitteth on the throne, and unto the Lamb, be the blessing, and the honor, and the glory, and the dominion, for ever and ever.

Rev. 5:14 ¶ *And the four living creatures said, Amen. And the elders fell down and worshipped.* (ASV)

Magnifical and Full of Glory is this Heavenly scene!!!