

Revelation Ch. 5

INTRODUCTION TO CHAPTER 5:

- Chapters 4 & 5 are part of the same story or phase and a chapter division doesn't particularly seem to be needed.
- Chapter 4 focuses on the throne of God and He who sits on it. Chapter 5 gives a further description of the One, The Lion and the Lamb, both of which represent Christ.
- The resurrection and rapture of the saints has already occurred.
- Essentially our Lord is preparing to finish the task of taking possession of and purging / purifying the world that he has already paid for.
- Who owns the Earth? This is the question that is about to be answered.
- Escrow is about to close in a big way!

V: 1 *"And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals."*

- *"And I saw..."*, reiterates that John is an eyewitness to the events.
- In Ch. 4 all we see is light around the throne. Now a hand holding a tightly sealed scroll is "revealed", in the hand of God the Father.
- The word "book" in the KJV is better translated "scroll" in Greek.
- What book?
 - The book of the new covenant? no...
 - The Lambs book of life / book of judgment? no...
 - The title deed to the world? **YES!**

TITLE DEED TO THE WORLD:

- This is not readily apparent in the context of this verse, but typological teaching brings us to that conclusion.

1. **The Earth is permanently God's possession by right of creation.**

Psalm 24:1-2 "The Earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; The world, and they that dwell therein. For He hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods."

2. God established with the children of Israel that the land given to each tribe was a permanent gift. While it could be sold, it could also be redeemed - for a price - by the legal owner or a kinsman, to keep it in the family.

- Whenever land was sold, or forfeited, there was always a redemption clause in the contract.
- Essentially what was sold was not so much the land as the right to use it or control it, kind of like a lease system.

Leviticus 25:23-25 "23The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me. 24And in all the land of your possession ye shall grant a redemption for the land. 25If thy brother be waxen poor, and hath sold away some of his possession, and if any of his kin come to redeem it, then shall he redeem that which his brother sold."

Isaiah 54:5 "For thy maker is thine husband; the Lord of hosts is His name; and thy redeemer the Holy One of Israel; the God of the whole earth shall He be called."

3. Just as an Israelite could sell, lose, or giveaway his land for a time, so Adam gave Satan dominion over the Earth in the garden of Eden.

Genesis 1:26, 2:15 Adam had been placed in the garden as a custodian, to dress it, keep it, and have dominion over it, but he didn't own it.

- Adam's forfeiture was of dominion, not ownership.

2 Peter 2:19 "... of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage."

- In **Matthew 4:8-10** Satan tempts Jesus with the worldly kingdoms and Jesus does not dispute Satan's ability to make such an offer.

Jesus refers to Satan as:

John 14:30 "... for the prince of this world cometh,..."

2 Corinthians 4:4 "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds"

Ephesians 6:12 "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

- The bottom line is that you don't necessarily need to own something to control it.
- Satan is prince of this world, which is why there are so many problems in the world today, so we shouldn't blame God.

- This is only a temporary situation though because God has promised the world to the children of men.

Psalm 115:16 "The Heaven, even the Heavens, are the Lord's: but the Earth hath he given to the children of men."

- As described earlier in Leviticus, a lost estate in Israel could be redeemed by a kinsman with the purchase price.
- God is the only one who could pay the price, and to be a kinsman He became a man, "the second Adam".
- "kinsmen redeemer" is "goel" in Hebrew.
- The redemption price was more than mere money.

1 Peter 1:18-20 "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you."

John 1:29 "... behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

- Virgin birth: the Redeemer had to be a man / kindred and had to be sinless / be able to pay the price.

2 Corinthians 5:21 "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."

- The price has been paid, now it's just a matter of taking possession.
- In the parable of the hidden treasure in **Matthew 13:44** we see that the buyer wants the treasure, but has to buy the whole field to get it. He then gives everything he has to pay the price.

field = world / buyer = Jesus / treasure = all believers

- We see the same redemption typology in **Jeremiah 25:11, 32:6-15** Jeremiah is in prison for prophesying about the Babylonian captivity, and he explains the sense in surrender as opposed to slaughter. Real estate prices are dropping in Jerusalem and he directs his servant to purchase a plot of land. He records the transaction twice, once sealed, once not. He buries the deeds in a clay jar with the intent that a kinsman redeemer will redeem the land at the end of the captivity, which he also prophesied would occur. All this pursuant to the requirements that are laid out in Leviticus.

- The deed to the sale was written and sealed, a duplicate was made bearing testimony to what was recorded in the sealed copy identifying who had the right to open the sealed copy.
- The transaction was not fully consummated until the kinsman came forward to break the seals and display the official title deed and right of ownership.

The Son of man, Jesus, is given dominion over the Earth, later He receives the title deed.

Daniel 7:13-14 ¹³I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. ¹⁴And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed."

- As this unfolds in Revelation we see the deed to the world / scroll is kept safely with it's creator, being left there by the Lamb who paid the price.
- There is only 1 scroll, but it's brief message is recorded on both the inside and outside.
- Roman law at that time required that a will be sealed 7 times. The number "7" is not accidental, and shows up frequently throughout Revelation.
- The Lamb, our Goel is about to start breaking the seals.
- This is why Jesus came as a man, why he came to earth, to be our redeemer, to save us!

V: 2 *"And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?"*

- We see the Father seated on His throne, in His right hand, the hand of strength and authority, is the scroll.
- "Strong angel" speaks to the importance of the message. Gabriel is the messianic arch angel and his name means "strength of God."
- Proclaiming = speaking with authority without added commentary.
- Who has the power to open the book?

Matthew 28:18 "All power is given unto Me in Heaven and in Earth."

- Jesus has the power, authority, and the right to open the book, to break it's seals.

- Who can open the seals must all be established before all the heavenly host and all the redeemed, thus the strong angel proclaiming in a loud voice - no whispering, winking, or things done in secret.
- Who has the right, and the ability to take possession? Jesus.
- When the goel showed up and was able to redeem the property he would call for the elders of the city to meet before the city gates as witnesses.
- You would bring out the scroll that had all the requirements on it, and you would break the seals. Then you would open the scroll and show your ability to meet the requirements and pay the price. Then you could purchase the property back, redeeming it, in the year of redemption every seven years.
- Likewise if you were a Jew and sold into slavery you remained a slave for 6 years, in the 7th. year you would be set free.
- The Jewish law of redemption - being set free!
- This is even more significant because man was sold into slavery to sin about 6,000 years ago. The time of redemption will soon be upon us!

2 Peter 3:8 "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."

V: 3 *"And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon."*

- None is worthy, no not one.

Romans 3:10 "As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one:"

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

- None of the angelic host - good or bad, could qualify, none of them are kinsmen to Adam.
- There are billions of men, but none qualify.
 1. They are the ones being redeemed.
 2. They're all a bunch of sinners, having fallen far short of perfect holiness, which is the standard.
 3. This holiness must be demonstrated, not imputed.
- None of the saints could even look upon the scroll because they didn't even have a "right" to be there, they are there because of the grace of God.

Ephesians 1:7 "In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."

Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast."

V: 4 *"And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon."*

- John is very upset. From his perspective he is seeing this whole thing being played out before him. We on the other hand have the Word of God before us and know how it will end.
- John was upset because if no one is worthy that means that the world would continue to be controlled by Satan, the results of which have become all too evident in this sinful world.
- John and the rest of us are all anxious to see Jesus set things right.

Romans 8:22 "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now."

- John's tears end where ours do.

Revelation 7:17 "... and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."

Revelation 21:4 "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

V: 5 *"And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof."*

- John is comforted by one of the elders - good form!
- The elder comforts John, knowing what's going to happen. This points to the church.

John 15:15 "Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my father I have made known unto you."

- Don't cry, look, the Lion of the tribe of Judah... Jesus!

Genesis 49:9-10 "Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be."

- Jesus is the only one who can open it.

Revelation 3:7 "... these things saith He that is Holy, He that is True, He that hath the key of David, He that openeth and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth."

Note: The elders and redeemed saints are acting in the capacity of "witnesses" for Jesus as He claims the rights as the Goel.

V: 6 *"And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth."*

- Note the 2 views or perspectives between verses 5 & 6. The Elder see's Jesus as the Lion of the tribe of Judah, John sees him as the Lamb.
- Again he says "I saw", first hand experience.
- The Lamb is Jesus as he suffered.

John 1:29 "... behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

1 Peter 1:19 "But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:"

- Horns speak of power, 7 horns speak of complete power.

Matthew 28:18 "All power is given unto me in Heaven and in Earth."

- Jesus is our "Horn of Salvation".

Luke 1:69 "And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David."

Joshua 6:4-20 - God commands that the people, and the Ark of the Covenant, with 7 trumpets made from rams horns to march around Jericho blowing the horns, and they were given victory, the walls fell down. The walls fell outward to be precise.

- 7 Eyes speak of complete knowledge, all seeing, omniscience.

Zechariah 4:10 "For who hath despised the day of small things? For they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the Lord, which run to and fro through the whole earth."

Zechariah 3:8-9 "... behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH. For behold the stone that I have laid before Joshua, upon one stone shall be seven eyes: behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the Lord of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of the land in one day."

- Jesus came first as a lamb, in meekness. His second coming is that of a lion, in power and authority, ruling over all.
- In His capacity as the Lamb, He paid the price of our redemption, it is in this capacity that He must receive the title scroll.

Isaiah 53:7 "... He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth."

- His wounds are still evidence of His suffering on our behalf. Just as they were after His resurrection when no one seemed to recognize Him at first.

John 20:19-28 Jesus appears to His disciples and shows them his wounds.

Isaiah 52:14 "As many were astonished at thee; His visage was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men:"

- After His resurrection many people did not recognize Jesus at first.
 1. Luke 24:13-32 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus.
 2. John 20:14 Mary Magdalene at the tomb with "gardener".
 3. John 21:4 Apostles on their fishing trip
- He will also have a glorified body as we saw in Rev. Ch. 1.

V: 7 *"And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne."*

- Jesus takes "the book" from the Father who is on the throne.
- Daniel saw the same vision, but not the completed act.

Daniel 7:13-14 “¹³I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. ¹⁴And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.”

- Jesus moves to the throne through the tribulation, then He judges the world in righteousness, then He reigns in righteousness.
- Jesus is no longer our intercessor because we are with Him. He now becomes the judge moving from being the Lamb to the Lion.
- Jesus is acknowledged by God the Father before all creation that Jesus, the Lamb is the one who is the world's redeemer. And we're witnesses!

V: 8 *"And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints."*

- Jesus takes possession & control!
- All the creatures and elders worship Jesus completely, no holding back!
- Harps refer to praise.
- Vials = bowls of incense, the sweet smell of the prayer of the believers.
- God said He would answer our prayers.

John 14:14 "If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it."

- Our prayers are a sweet fragrance to the Lord.

Psalms 141:2 "Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice."

- Many believers have been praying over the centuries "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven..." (**Matt. 6:9-10**)
- Those prayers are now being brought to the Lord - a sweet aroma - and are being answered! Just as He said He would!
- We also see the Tabernacle model or type in **Exodus 30:8**, the altar of incense before the mercy seat, near the lamp stand, past the laver.

V: 9 *"And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;"*

- All the redeemed sing a new song of praise - affirming His worthiness, testifying to His sacrifice and works of salvation.

Philippians 2:9-11 ⁹Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth. ¹¹And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Psalms 150:6 "Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord."

V: 10 *"And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."*

- 3 times in the book of Revelation we are told that the believers will be kings and priests:

Rev. 1:6 "And hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

Revelation 20:6 "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years."

- These functions apply to the millennial kingdom where they are needed, after that they are not needed.

Luke 19:17 "And He said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities."

- This is all part of the rewards promised to the believers.

V: 11 *"And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;"*

- The angels join in the praise and worship.
- The term 10,000 is actually "myriad", thus "myriads of myriads" - or innumerable, all singing at once!

- We're not on Earth during the tribulation, we're in Heaven singing before the first seal is loosed!

V: 12 *"Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing."*

- The first doxology (praise) in **Rev. 4:11** gives a three fold blessing to the act of creation, glory - honor - power.
- This, the next doxology gives a 7 fold blessing to His work of redemption.

V: 13 *"And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever."*

- The praise and worship continues - every living creature joins in!
- Every living creature and the Earth itself was cursed and suffered as a result of man's sin. Now, as our redemption is at hand - no pun intended - the whole Earth and all living creatures rejoice.

Romans 8:22 "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now."

Psalms 148 - we see a similar scene pictured.

- You would think that the only exceptions are probably those from whom it is being redeemed; Satan and his followers but...

Philippians 2:9-11 ⁹"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth. ¹¹And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

V: 14 *"And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever."*

- This is a very brief, and somewhat inadequate description of the praise and adoration that is lifted up to Jesus.
- **Psalms 146-150**, the last 5 Psalms each begin with, and end with the exhortation "Praise ye the Lord" which is "Hallelujah!"
- In the New Testament this phrase is only used 4 times, all in **Revelation Ch. 19**, verses **1, 3, 4, & 6**. All in connection to a similar praise session.
- The last verse in the last Psalm

Psalm 150:6 "Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord."

- Read **Psalms 146-150** as a group.
- "Any attempt to spiritualize these promises to the church is doing violence to the Word of God. If the Author of the book may make promises to the children of the loins of Abraham and then fulfill them in a "spiritual" way to the children of the gentiles who have become Christians, then He may well cast off the believers in Christ and fulfill His promises to them by calling out some other people or by creating some new species. No, God is not a god of caprice." - Donald Grey Barnhouse.

Hallelujah!