

## Revelation Chapter 5:1-14

### **WORSHIP THE LAMB**

#### Introduction

Have you ever picked up a package at the store and read on the outside label "all natural ingredients"? Typically I will look for the product that has "unnatural or supernatural" ingredients! Chapters 6-19 contain the supernatural contents of God's Big Book. The scroll mentioned in chapter 5 contains the judgment of mankind written in advance. In those chapters are three sets of seven judgments. Three is the number of the Godhead and seven is the number of perfection or completion. This is a picture of God's perfect judgment on a planet and a people that has strayed far from God's original plan. These judgments are a kind of divine repossession process whereby God is taking back the property that rightfully belongs to him. Not just this giant piece of dirt called earth, but the people who inhabit this world. And to kick out the beings that don't belong here. In chapter 4 John sees a picture of the worship of the Creator. In chapter 5 heaven's host worship the Redeemer.

#### **God's Big Book--the Scroll (v.1)**

**1. You might think that God would use an encrypted CD, after all it is the 90's.** This Scroll is very important. In ancient days they used parchment or papyrus. Both were expensive. Papyrus was made from the reeds that would grow near the mouth or delta of the Nile. Reeds were flattened and placed horizontal and vertical, they were soaked in salt water and then pounded flat. Then they would take a pumice stone and rub the "paper" smooth. It was very costly. The scroll of the book of Revelation would have been about 15 feet long. You would write on both sides of the paper to conserve space. This scroll is sealed with seven seals. Ancient wills were sealed with the seals of seven witnesses. All the events of chapters 6-19 are contained in this scroll. As the scroll is opened, Judgment begins. In ancient days, when a Roman will was sealed (seven seals) each witness of the will had to be present in order to unravel the will. In Jewish law a scroll was used as a title deed.

2. Some Bible scholars believe this is "God's will". As this scroll is opened and read, history is consummated. Some have seen in this will the symbolism of the title deed to the earth. In Jewish law, a person did not lose title to property permanently. Families forfeited property for a certain time period. If you owed money and could not pay it, you could turn your property over for payment for a period of years. The person would own your home for a period of six years. A document would be drawn up. On the inside of the document would be a description of the property and on the outside would contain the terms of redemption. Then the document would be sealed seven times. At the end of the 6th year, if you could prove you met the requirements for redemption, you could get your property back. If not, your next of kin would have the option of redeeming the

property, so it was kept in the family. He would be known as the kinsmen redeemer.

One Bible teacher writes: "Six thousand years ago, Adam forfeited the title deed of Planet earth to Satan. Satan took legal possession of the planet earth. For 6,000 years, Satan has held dominion over the earth. As the 7,000 year approaches, a scroll is produced. It is the title deed to planet earth. A mighty angel proclaims in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll? He is asking, "Who meets the requirements to redeem planet earth from Satan's dominion? John tells us that no one in heaven or on the earth, or under the earth, could open the scroll and look inside it. As a result he wept convulsely. As long as no one was found who could open the scroll and reclaim the title deed, earth would remain under the dominion of Satan. Someone had to be found who was worthy" (Bob Beltz p.113).

A lot of people would like to pick up the scroll. Alexander the Great, Napoleon, Hitler, the Antichrist. But the question is not (v.2) who is willing but who is worthy? No one--not Joseph Smith, not Abraham or Isaac, not Jacob or even his best son Joseph, not David, not even John the Baptist. Billions born and not one worthy king in the lot. The aged Apostle, weeps and sobs for Adam's children--ruined. Can you cry in heaven? John does.

3. " A title deed or will can only be opened by the appointed heir, and this is Jesus Christ. No one in all the universe could be found worthy enough to break the seals. No wonder John wept, for he realized that God's glorious redemption plan for mankind could never be completed until the scroll was opened. The redeemer had to be near of kin, willing to redeem, and able to redeem. Jesus Christ meets all the qualifications. He became flesh, so he is our kinsmen. He loves us and is willing to redeem; and He paid the price, so He is able to redeem." (Warren Wiersbe p.584)

In the hour of crises--God is not left without a man Jesus steps forward.

## **Meekness and Majesty**

**John provides a picture of why we are to worship the Lord Jesus Christ. He gives four compelling reasons;** (1) Because of who He is (vv.5-7); (2) Because of where He is (v.6); (3) Because of what He does (vv.8-10); **(4) Because of what He has (vv.11-14)**

### **WHO HE IS (Three Unique Titles) (v.6)**

**1. The Lion of the Tribe of Judah; (Gen. 49:8-10)** Jacob gave the scepter to Judah and made it the tribe of Kings. (Judah means praise) God never meant Saul to establish a dynasty since he was the tribe of Benjamin. Judah was a whelp and David was the son of Judah. Jesus is the Lion of the tribe. The lion speaks of dignity, sovereignty and courage. Jesus Christ is the only living Jew who can prove his kingship from the

genealogical records (Sorry Kenneth Copland or Rev. Moon you just don't qualify).

**2. The Root of David (Isa. 11:1, 10) He brought David and David's line into existence.** As far as Jesus' humanity is concerned, He has his roots in David, but as far as his deity is concerned--Jesus brought David into Existence. This speaks of Jesus the Messiah's eternity. Jesus is indeed the Ancient of Days. This is how Jesus could be both Davids Son and Davids Lord (Matt. 22:41-46). **But surprise surprise (as Gomer Pyle was fond of saying) the Lion is a lamb.**

**3. The Lamb:** Here the word is not the usual word for lamb, but John uses the word that describes a pet lamb. Jesus is called the lamb 28 times in the book of Revelation. God's wrath is the "wrath of the Lamb" (6:16); **Cleansing is by the blood of the lamb (7:14);** the church is the bride of the lamb (19:7; 21:9). The theme of the lamb in Scripture presents Jesus as the Redeemer. In Genesis 22:7 Isaac asks the question "Look the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering."

**The image of the lamb looks like a scene from the Twilight Zone. A grotesque image--yet it is symbolic.** Remember 7 is the number of perfection. The seven horns speak of the perfect power of the lamb. A horn represented power in the OT. The seven eyes speak of perfect wisdom. The eyes speak of intelligence or wisdom. They also speak of perfect presense (seven spirits). The theologians would call these qualities omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence; all are attributes of God. The Lamb is Son of God and truly God. We worship Jesus because of who He is.

#### **WHERE HE IS (Heaven-the ultimate property) (vv.6-7)**

**1.** Jesus is in heaven. Daniel 7:13-14 gives the identical vision. But here is something that was hidden from Daniel, that the kings and priests of the Church Age are to be associated with the Son of Man (See Scofield's note p. 1533).

**2.** Where is Jesus? He is not a myth or a legend that is held sacred in the hearts of mankind. Jesus is not an image hanging on a cross or a statue weeping in some dead church. Jesus is not a baby in a manger or a zeitgeist that permeates western culture. He is not a dead Jew. Jesus is the glorious Lord of the Universe who controls all things from His throne in heaven.

**Look at the expression "in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures" in verse 6.** In the middle of the throne, in the middle of heaven. THE lamb is in the middle of all that transpires in heaven. And He is on the throne. Yes Jesus was a man, yes he grew up as a peasant Jew in the first century. Yes Mary changed his diaper, and His brothers changed their minds. Yes Jesus changed the world. But now Jesus is on the throne. There are those who would seek to usurp his throne and deny his authority. They

refer to him as the man upstairs, the gentle carpenter. But we do not worship a babe in a manger, or a corpse on a cross--we worship a lamb--a redeemer on the only throne that really matters--God's throne.

**Look at verse 7: Suppose God asked the question, "By what right do you have to open the scroll? What is your claim to the deed? His reply could have been in these three things: "The world is mine by right of creation"; "The world is mine by right of redemption; The world is mine by right of conquest, the unregenerate will know that I have the power to judge." Once the lamb is introduced--John never takes his eyes off him again.**

### **WHAT HE DOES (Jesus is in charge of the judgment) vv.8-10**

Look what happens when the lamb takes the scroll! The weeping ends and the praises begin! The population of heaven begins to Worship the lamb. The angelic and human hosts unite in a chorus of praise. Please note that prayer and praise are united in heaven. Incense is a picture of prayer rising to the throne of God .  
Ps 141:2 "Let my prayer be set before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice".

The story goes that one time when Bill Moyers was a special assistant to President Lyndon B. Johnson, he was asked to say grace before a meal in the family quarters of the White House. As Moyers began praying softly, the President interrupted him with "Speak up, Bill! Speak up!"

The former minister from east Texas stopped in mid-sentence and without looking up replied steadily, "I wasn't addressing you, Mr. President."

-- The Anglican Digest, Early Pentecost A.D. 1989

### **What kind of songs do they sing in heaven?**

**1. A New Song:** There are two words for new in the Greek language. One means brand new like nothing ever seen before. The other is new as opposed to old. You may get a "new" car that is really used--but it is new to you! Here the new is brand new, fresh, never driven. The story is told that a young boy complained to his father that most of the church hymns were boring and old-fashioned, with tiresome tunes and words that meant little to his generation. His father challenged him with these words: "If you think you can write better hymns, why don't you?"

The boy accepted the challenge, went to his room and wrote his first hymn. The year was 1690, and the young man was Isaac Watts. Among his 350 hymns are When I survey the Wondrous Cross and Joy to the World.

Ever wonder what new hymns will be old hymns in 100 years?

If the 24 elders are not human beings--and the 4 living creatures are definitely not human creatures--it could very well be a new song of redemption never sung in heaven. Angels can worship God is Creator--but how can they as redeemer? Perhaps they see and understand and appreciate the redeeming sacrifice of Jesus.

**2. A Worship Song:** (v.9) "you are worthy to take the scroll". To worship means to ascribe worth. Jesus alone is worthy. Real worship focuses on Jesus. We should lift our minds and hearts to contemplate his worth--not our worth. When a worship song focuses on the singer, and the feeling it produces in the singer--we miss the point! We do not worship for the feeling it produces in the worshipper--but rather the honor that is due the object of our worship-Jesus Christ. Warren Wiersbe writes, "They so emphasize the believer's experience that they almost ignore the Lord's glory."

**3. A Gospel Song: "You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by your blood"**  
The word slain means "violently or viciously slain". Heaven sings about the cross and the blood! Some so called modern hymnals have elected to remove mention of blood or the emphasis of the blood in their songs. Such hymnals cannot be used in heaven, because they glorify the lamb for His sacrifice.

When Abraham obeyed God (Gen.22) and climbed Mount Moriah to offer his son Isaac, God provided a ram (a picture of giving a life for the individual). At Passover, the lamb was slain for each family (Ex. 12:3). Isaiah states that Messiah would die for the nation Israel (Isa. 53:8) John said the Lamb died for the whole world. When you begin to reflect on the death of Jesus, the power of his atonement to redeem lives, families, nations the world, you become humbled and thrilled.

**4. A Missionary Song:** "Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation" (v.9). The word "tribe" can be translated clan or kindred. This refers to a common ancestor. "Tongue" refers to a common language; and people a common race. Nation refers to a common government or rule. The Bible says that Jesus loves the whole world (John 3:16). God love the whole world and desires that the whole world be saved--we are to take the message of redemption to all people (Matt. 28:18-20). The story is told of a Christian who was against foreign missions but mistakenly wound up at a mission's emphasis night at his church. When they passed the offering plate he told the usher, "I don't believe in missions!" "Then take something out," said the usher. "It's for the heathen."

**5. A Devotional Song: "and have made us kings and priests to our God" (v.10)**  
It announces our unique position in Christ. Like Melchizedek of old- (OT priest-king). We are devoted in service-the temple veil having been torn in half by God.

**6. A Prophetic Song: "and we shall reign on the earth".** We sing this song in heaven and we return to the earth. When Jesus returns in power he shall establish his kingdom

for a thousand years. And we shall reign with him (see Rev. 20:1-6). We have been praying "thy kingdom come" for hundreds of years and now it will come to pass.

### **WHAT HE HAS (Jesus possess' all things) vv. 11-14**

1. Here the population of heaven are described.

2. **All honor and glory are due Jesus.** He was born in weakness and died a horrible death-but now he is possessor of heaven and earth. He became the poorest of the poor but now all riches belong to him. Jesus became a man and lived the life of a sinless man, experiencing all the frailties of humanity; hunger thirst pain, ridicule and became curse for us on the cross, we who deserved the curse. **Jesus conquers by submitting.**

3.

### **Conclusion**

**In heaven they fall down and shout, "Amen". In heaven you get to shout "amen".**