

Revelation Chapter 5 - The Lamb as Redeemer

Continuation of John's view of the throne of God

In chapter 4 the worship centered around God as Creator, in this chapter the worship is centered around the LAMB as REDEEMER.

Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?

Rev 5:1-14 NIV Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with **writing on both sides** and **sealed with seven seals**. 2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "**Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?**" 3 But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. 4 I wept and wept because **no one was found who was worthy** to open the scroll or look inside.

- The writing on both sides (outside could have been a summary) or it could be that there was so much information written on the scroll the reverse side was needed. Typically only one side of a parchment was written on because one side was smooth the other more coarse.
- Seven seals - a portion of the scroll would be written upon then sealed, then another portion written upon and sealed etc. When the scroll was unrolled, one seal would be broken and that portion read, then the next seal would be open and THAT portion read etc. Once a seal was open it remained open until the entire scroll is unrolled
- John wept, as no one was found who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll
- Scrolls written and sealed like this could be opened only by a qualified person - someone who had the authority or right to what was in the scroll (i.e. a will or inheritance)

What was in the scroll and why did John weep?

One possibility is the scroll is the Lamb's book of life -- I say this is a **possibility** because the scripture does not say for sure.

- **Look what else is described as being in or at God's right hand** - Mat 25:32-33 NIV All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 **He will put the sheep on his right** and the goats on his left.
- **He holds the seven stars in His right hand** - Rev 1:20 NIV The mystery of **the seven stars that you saw in my right hand** and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

The scroll could also describe our inheritance -- lost due to sin, but reclaimed by Christ on the cross.

MORE ON THE BOOK OF LIFE

There is a book of life with people's' names written therein

- Php 4:3 Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, **whose names are in the book of life.**

Those written in the book have been redeemed - the Lamb has rightful ownership

- Rev 21:27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but **only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.**
 - Note it it called the LAMB's book of life...the Lamb is the one who takes away the sin of the world...

Those not written in the book are thrown into the lake of fire and deceived by the beast

- Rev 20:15 Anyone whose name was **not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.**
- Rev 13:8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast--all **whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life**, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.
- Rev 17:8 The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction. The inhabitants of the earth **whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world** will be astonished when they see the beast, because it once was, now is not, and yet will come.

A person can be blotted OUT of the book

- Psa 69:28 **May they be blotted out of the book of life** and not be listed with the righteous.
- Exo 32:32-33 NIV But now, please forgive their sin--but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written." The LORD replied to Moses, "**Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book.**"
- Rev 3:5 ***The one who is victorious*** will, like them, be dressed in white. **I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life**, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels.

The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David is able to open the seals

5 Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the **Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David**, has triumphed. **He is able** to open the scroll and its seven seals."

Jesus, Lion of the Tribe of Judah, is a fulfilment of this prophecy -- Gen 49:8-10 NIV "Judah, your brothers will praise you; **your hand will be on the neck of your enemies**; your father's sons will bow down to you. 9 **You are a lion's cub**, Judah; you return from the prey, my son. **Like a lion he crouches and lies down, like a lioness--who dares to rouse him?** 10 The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, **until he to whom it belongs shall come** and the obedience of the nations shall be his.



Your brothers will praise you, your father's sons will bow down to you

- This prophecy speaks of Jesus and His divinity --
- The prophecy is that the kingly line would come through the tribe of Judah - This happened when David was ordained as king
 - Act 13:22-23 NIV After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.' 23 "From this man's [*i.e. David's*] descendants God has brought to Israel the Savior Jesus, as he promised.

"Your hand will be on the neck of your enemies"

The Lion of the tribe of Judah describes his fierceness against His enemies

- Pro 19:12 NIV A king's rage is like the roar of a lion, but his favor is like dew on the grass.
- Pro 20:2 NIV A king's wrath strikes terror like the roar of a lion; those who anger him forfeit their lives.
- Amo 3:8 NIV The lion has roared-- who will not fear? The Sovereign LORD has spoken-- who can but prophesy?
- Hos 11:10 NIV They will follow the LORD; he will roar like a lion. When he roars, his children will come trembling from the west.
- Jer 25:37-38 NIV The peaceful meadows will be laid waste because of the fierce anger of the LORD. 38 Like a lion he will leave his lair, and their land will become desolate because of the sword of the oppressor and because of the LORD's fierce anger.

The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet

- Heb 1:8 NIV But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; **a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.**
- Rev 19:15 NIV Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. **"He will rule them with an iron scepter."** He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.

Until he to whom it belongs shall come

Jesus, the rightful king, was a descendant of David after the flesh (from the tribe of Judah) -- He is the true king.

- Isa 11:1 NIV **A shoot** will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
- Mat 1:17 NIV Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

The obedience of the nations shall be his

- Rom 1:5 ESV through whom we have received grace and **apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith** for the sake of his name **among all the nations**,
- Rom 16:25-26 NIV Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, 26 but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, **so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith--**
- Mic 5:15 NIV I will take vengeance in **anger and wrath on the nations that have not obeyed me."**

Jesus is also the Root of David

Isa 11:10 NIV In that day **the Root of Jesse** will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

He is both God and Man

- Rev 22:16 NIV "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. **I am the Root** and the **Offspring of David**, and the bright Morning Star."
- How can He be both the Root (originator or creator) as well as the Offspring (descendant) of David? -- Only if He is both God and man
- Mat 22:41-45 NIV While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 42 "What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?" "The son of David," they replied. 43 He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'? For he says, 44 "'The Lord said to my Lord: 'Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.'" 45 **If then David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son?"**

The Lion of the Tribe of Judah - the Root of David (i.e. Creator) has triumphed

Jesus has triumphed over the enemy

Luk 11:21-22 NIV "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. 22 But when someone stronger attacks and **overpowers** him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up his plunder.

Col 2:13-15 NIV When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the charge of our legal

indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. 15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, **triumphing over them by the cross**.

He saw the Lion, and now He sees the Lamb

6 **Then I saw a Lamb**, looking as if it had been **slain**, **standing** at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 He went and **took the scroll** from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.

The Lamb that was slain

- Rev 5:12 NIV In a loud voice they were saying: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"
- Rev 13:8 NIV All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast--all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, **the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world**.

God's plan for redemption of man always required blood - was always by means of a substitute - and it was exemplified even after the first sin

- Gen 3:21 NIV The LORD God made **garments of skin** for Adam and his wife and clothed them.
- Heb 9:22 NIV In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and **without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness**.

Standing at the center of the throne

- Heb 1:3 NIV The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation 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.
- Heb 10:12-13 NIV But when this priest [*Jesus*] had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, **he sat down at the right hand of God** 13 and **since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool**.
- Psa 110:1-7 NIV Of David. A psalm. The LORD says to my lord: "**Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet**." 2 The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion, saying, "Rule in the midst of your enemies!" 3 Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. Arrayed in holy splendor, your young men will come to you like dew from the morning's womb. 4 The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." 5 The Lord is at your right hand; he will crush kings on the day of his wrath. 6 He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead and crushing the rulers of the whole earth. 7 He will drink from a brook along the way, and so he will lift his head high.

- 1Co 15:22-28 NIV For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. 24 Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. 25 **For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.** 27 For he "has put everything under his feet." Now when it says that "everything" has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. 28 When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

He sat down at the right hand of the father, but now (vs6) He is standing...perhaps He is readying Himself to take back what is rightfully His. He is ready to open the seals as part of that process. Future chapters will reveal that during the breaking of the seals of the scroll, the wrath of God is poured out upon the world, the Antichrist and Satan -- and when the seventh angel sounds his trumpet, which is the last event contained in the breaking of the seventh seal -- then Rev 11:15 NIV The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "**The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.**"

Another time Jesus is seen standing is when Stephen was being martyred

- Act 7:55-56 NIV But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and **the Son of Man *standing*** at the right hand of God."

The Story of Jeremiah's sealed scroll

There is an event in Jeremiah's life that shows how these sealed documents worked in those days. Perhaps it will shed some light on what is happening here. Jesus is about to open a sealed scroll in order to lay claim to what He has purchased. The process of redemption is to be completed.

Jeremiah had the right to redeem and possess and purchase a piece of land (actually it was a right and a duty)

- Jer 32:6-15 NIV Jeremiah said, "The word of the LORD came to me: 7 Hanamel son of Shallum your uncle is going to come to you and say, 'Buy my field at Anathoth, because as nearest relative **it is your right and duty to buy it.**' 8 "Then, just as the LORD had said, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the courtyard of the guard and said, 'Buy my field at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. Since **it is your right to redeem it and possess it, buy it for yourself.**' "I knew that this was the word of the LORD;

There was a signed and sealed deed - in all likelihood a sealed scroll - paid for in silver

- 9 so I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out for him seventeen shekels of silver. 10 **I signed and sealed the deed**, had it **witnessed**, and **weighed** out the silver on the scales. 11 I took the deed of purchase--the sealed copy containing the terms and conditions, as well as the unsealed copy-- 12 and I gave this deed to

Baruch son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and of the witnesses who had signed the deed and of all the Jews sitting in the courtyard of the guard.

The deeds were placed in clay jars so they will last a long time

- 13 "In their presence I gave Baruch these instructions: 14 'This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Take these documents, **both the sealed and unsealed copies of the deed of purchase, and put them in a clay jar so they will last a long time.** 15 For this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Houses, fields and vineyards will again be bought in this land.'

Jesus did a similar thing

As creator He is rightful owner of the world and those who live in it

- Psa 24:1 NIV Of David. A psalm. The **earth** is the LORD's, and **everything** in it, the world, and **all who live in it**;

Adam sold us out - and Jesus is redeeming us back -- His inheritance is people and the earth

- Psa 2:6-9 NIV "I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain." 7 I will proclaim the LORD's decree: He said to me, "You are my son; today I have become your father. 8 Ask me, and I will make **the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.** 9 You will break them with a rod of iron; you will dash them to pieces like pottery."

Signed

- Rev 3:11-12 NIV I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. 12 The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. **I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name.**

Sealed - The Holy Spirit is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance - a seal until redemption

- Eph 1:13-14 NIV And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. **When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal,** the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is **a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession**--to the praise of his glory.
- Eph 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were **sealed for the day of redemption.**

He paid the price of redemption

- 1Pe 1:18-20 NIV For you know that **it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed** from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, 19 **but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb** without blemish or defect. 20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

He put it in jars of clay

- 2Co 4:6-7 KJV For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 But **we have this treasure in earthen vessels**, [KJV **jars of clay**] that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

Creation also waits in eager expectation for the redemption of man - its future is linked to man's redemption...creation was cursed because of sin, it will be liberated from its bondage to decay as man's redemption comes to completion

- Rom 8:19-23 NIV For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.

Jeremiah (see Jer 32:6-15)	Jesus
(Vs 8) Had a right to redeem and possess the land - to buy it for himself	(Psa 24:1 & Psa 2:6-9) As creator has the right to possess the earth and all those dwell in it
(Vs 10) Signed	(Rev 3:11-12) Signed with His name
(Vs 10) Sealed	(Eph 1:13-14 & 30) Sealed with the Holy Spirit
(Vs 10) Paid the price for the deed	(1Pe 1:18-20) Paid with his blood
(Vs 14) Placed in Clay Jars	(2Co 4:7) Placed in Jars of Clay
(Vs 15) Even though left desolate by the Babylonians - Houses, fields and vineyards will again be bought in this land	(Eph 1:14) Will come to redeem at His 2nd coming

Only the Lamb is worthy to take back the inheritance - to open the scroll

9 And they sang a new song, saying: "***You are worthy*** to take the scroll and to open its seals, ***because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased*** for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

BECAUSE

- He ***redeemed mankind*** with His blood -- Let's talk about REDEMPTION

Redemption

There is FULL redemption

- Psalms 130:7 Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for **with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.**

There is ETERNAL redemption

- Heb 9:12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all **by his own blood**, thus obtaining **eternal redemption.**

The redemption is found in the person of Jesus

- Rom 3:24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the **redemption that came by Christ Jesus.**
- 1Cor 1:30 It is because of him that you are in **Christ Jesus, who has become for us** wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and **redemption.**

Redemption has to do with forgiveness of sins - in one sense we can say "I am redeemed NOW because the price for my redemption was paid for in His blood"

- Eph 1:7 In him we have **redemption** through his blood, **the forgiveness of sins**, in accordance with the riches of God's grace
- Col 1:13-14 NIV For he has **rescued us from the dominion of darkness** and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom **we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**

Redemption also has to do with our physical bodies in the resurrection - so in another sense we can "Our redemption is not yet complete - it is something we wait eagerly for"

- Rom 8:23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.

This future component to our redemption is linked to His coming

- Luk 21:27-28 NIV At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because **your redemption is drawing near.**"

Redemption is with power and judgement

- Exo 6:6 NIV "Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you **with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment.**'"
- These acts of judgement are what we see unfolding when the seals are opened

Worship of the Lamb who is worthy

The worship of the 4 living creatures and the 24 elders

And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders **fell down before the Lamb.** Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. 9 And they sang a new song, saying: "**You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God**

persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

- He is worthy because He was slain
- He has purchased (redeemed) people from every tribe and language and people and nation
 - **It has always been God's plan to redeem the nations** -- Gen 12:2-3 NIV "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."
- He didn't just set them free - He elevated them as kings and priests - to serve and reign

The worship of the angels

11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand [*this is over 100,000,000 angels*]. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. 12 In a loud voice they were saying: "**Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain**, to receive **power** and **wealth** and **wisdom** and **strength** and **honor** and **glory** and **praise!**"

- Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive **power** [*dunamis*] and **wealth** and **wisdom** and **strength** and **honor** and **glory** and **praise**

The worship of every creature in heaven and on the earth, under the earth and on the sea

13 Then I heard **every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea**, and all that is in them, saying: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be **praise** and **honor** and **glory** and **power**, for ever and ever!" 14 The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

- To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be **praise** and **honor** and **glory** and **power**, for ever and ever
- Different word for **power** [*kratos - dominion, power, force*]