

NOON BIBLE STUDY: REVELATION 5

THE LAST THING JOHN SAW WAS A GLORIOUS PICTURE OF THE HEAVENLY THRONE ROOM OF GOD. HE WAS INVITED TO SEE BY AN ANGELIC TOUR GUIDE WHO GAVE HIM ACCESS TO A PLACE ONLY FEW HAVE SEEN. COLORS, LIGHTS, SOUNDS, IMAGES AND CREATURES HAVE FLOODED JOHN'S SENSES AS HE TRIES TO MAKE SENSE OF AND COMMUNICATE TO THE CHURCHES WHAT HE IS SEEING.

REVELATION 5 TAKES PLACE RIGHT WHERE WE LEFT OFF IN REVELATION 4. CHAPTER 5'S VISION WAS CENTERED ON THE ONE SEATED ON THE THRONE AND DESCRIBED THE HAPPENINGS AROUND, BEFORE, AND FROM OUT OF THE THRONE AND NOW OUR EYES AND HEARTS WILL BE DRAWN TOWARDS A NEW CHARACTER WHO APPEARS IN FRONT OF THE GREAT THRONE.

REVELATION 5:1-4 - A BOOK/SCROLL THAT IS SEALED

THIS IS A PRETTY IMPORTANT BOOK. IT IS A BOOK THAT THE ANGEL IMPLIES NEEDS TO BE OPENED UP BUT NO ONE IS ABLE TO DO IT. WHEN HE ASKS "WHO IS WORTHY TO OPEN" HE IS ESSENTIALLY ASKING "WHO HAS WHAT IT TAKES TO OPEN THIS BOOK?" THIS COULD MEAN STRENGTH, IT COULD MEAN THE ACCESS CODE OR KEY.

YET AFTER THE GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENT FOR SOMEONE TO HELP, NO ONE WAS ABLE TO DO IT. AS A RESULT, JOHN WEEPS!

THE APPEARANCE OF THIS BOOK WITH THE SEALS RESEMBLES A DOCUMENT COMMON TO THE TIME THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A LEGAL DOCUMENT. A SCROLL OR BOOK SEALED UP WOULD HAVE BEEN A DOCUMENT OF SOMETHING THAT WAS GOING TO BE DONE OR SOMETHING THAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN, CONTINGENT UPON THE OPENING UP OF THE DEALS BY THE INVOLVED PARTIES. FOR EXAMPLE, UPON THE DEATH OF A RICH PERSON, THEIR HEIR WOULD BE ABLE TO OPEN THE SEAL TO ENACT THE WISHES OF THE DECEASED OR RECEIVE THE INHERITANCE.

THERE IS A DESIRE FOR THIS SCROLL TO BE OPENED, A LONG ALMOST - AND YET NO ONE CAN DO IT. SO JOHN WEEPS.

REVELATION 5:5 - "STOP WEEPING!"

LION THAT IS FROM THE TRIBE OF JUDAH. FROM JACOB'S BLESSING OF HIS 12 SONS:

GENESIS 49:9-10 (NLT) - JUDAH, MY SON, IS A YOUNG LION THAT HAS FINISHED EATING ITS PREY. LIKE A LION HE CROUCHES AND LIES DOWN; LIKE A LIONESS-- WHO DARES TO ROUSE HIM? TO THE SCEPTER WILL NOT DEPART FROM JUDAH, NOR THE RULER'S STAFF FROM HIS DESCENDANTS, UNTIL THE COMING OF THE ONE TO WHOM IT BELONGS, THE ONE WHOM ALL NATIONS WILL HONOR.

GENESIS 49:9-10 - "JUDAH IS A LION'S WHELP; FROM THE PREY, MY SON, YOU HAVE GONE UP. HE COUCHES, HE LIES DOWN AS A LION, AND AS A LION, WHO DARES ROUSE HIM UP? TO "THE SCEPTER SHALL NOT DEPART FROM JUDAH, NOR THE RULER'S STAFF FROM BETWEEN HIS FEET, UNTIL SHILOH COMES, AND TO HIM SHALL BE THE OBEDIENCE OF THE PEOPLES.

ROOT OF DAVID

ISAIAH 10 - LOOKS LIKE GOD'S PEOPLE ARE "CUT DOWN"

ISAIAH 11:1-10

HAS OVERCOME - ABLE TO OPEN THE SEALS

THE LIFE, DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS WAS THE OVERCOMING WORK THAT MAKES HIM "WORTHY"

THIS CHAPTER NEVER USES THE WORD "JESUS" BUT YET WE KNOW JUST WHO THIS IS

REVELATION 5:6 - LAMB APPEARS

"A LAMB...AS IF SLAIN, HAVING SEVEN HORNS AND SEVEN EYES WHICH ARE THE SEVEN SPIRITS OF GOD"

LAMB STANDING, AS IF SLAIN??

LAMB REPRESENT PURITY, INNOCENCE, SACRIFICE (SLAIN)

THIS LAMB WAS SLAIN (SLAUGHTERED), BUT ALIVE.

HORNS REPRESENT STRENGTH

EYES REPRESENT SEEING, AND THE SEVEN SPIRITS OF GOD (WE'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE)

HE IS STANDING BETWEEN THE THRONE AND THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES.

WE SEE A DOUBLE PICTURE OF JESUS

JESUS IS THE LION - OVERCOMING ONE

JESUS IS THE LAMB - SACRIFICIAL ONE

REVELATION 5:7-10 - NEW SONG

WHEN THE LAMB TAKES THE BOOK FROM THE ONE SEATED ON THE THRONE, THE HEAVENLY COURT ERUPTS IN PRAISE AGAIN. THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES AND THE 24 ELDERS FALL DOWN BEFORE THE LAMB. HERE IS THE CONTENT OF THEIR SONG:

WHAT & WHO?: WORTHY ARE YOU (LAMB) TO TAKE THE BOOK AND BREAK ITS SEALS

WHY?: YOU WERE SLAIN AND PURCHASED FOR GOD WITH YOUR BLOOD MEN (HUMANS) AND THESE PURCHASED PEOPLE WILL BE GOD'S PEOPLE, FULFILLING GOD'S PURPOSES ON THE EARTH

REVELATION 5:11-12 - MORE VOICES JOIN

THE SCENE EXPANDS AND REVEALS A CHOIR BEYOND THE CENTRAL FIGURES OF THE THRONE ROOM. "MANY ANGELS" ARE DESCRIBED AS "MYRIADS OF MYRIADS AND THOUSANDS OF THOUSANDS". A MYRIAD IS TEN THOUSAND BUT FOR THE ANCIENT WORLD REPRESENTS A NUMBER THAT IS EXTREMELY HIGH. A THOUSAND THOUSAND IS ONE MILLION AND A MYRIADS OF MYRIADS WOULD BE 100 MILLION - BOTH AMOUNTS REPRESENTING A MASSIVE NUMBER OF ANGELS JOINING THE HEAVENLY COURTS.

WHAT ARE THEY SAYING? *WORTHY IS THE LAMB TO RECEIVE POWER AND RICHES AND WISDOM AND MIGHT AND HONOR AND GLORY.*

THEY ARE PRAISING THE LAMB AND EXCLAIMING HIS WORTHINESS TO RECEIVE THESE PRECIOUS AND VALUABLE THINGS. THIS GIVES US AN UNDERSTANDING INTO THE PERSPECTIVE OF HEAVEN ON THE WORK OF CHRIST.

JESUS THE MESSIAH'S SACRIFICIAL DEATH ON THE CROSS WAS GOD'S POWERFUL PLAN TO TURN THE SPIRALING EVIL TRAJECTORY OF HUMANITY AND CREATION ITSELF ON IT'S HEAD. ALL OF HEAVEN IS REJOICING IN THIS. THE COSMIC BEINGS WE MET IN CHAPTER 4 ARE NOW TURNING THEIR ATTENTION TOWARDS THE MESSIAH IN PRAISE AND ADORATION.

BUT WAIT THERE'S MORE...

REVELATION 5:13-14 - EVERY CREATED THING

THE PRAISE WE READ BEFORE WAS CENTERED IN HEAVEN'S SPIRITUAL CENTER. NOW THE PRAISE EXTENDS OUTWARDS BEYOND NOW INCLUDING EVERY CREATED THING (HEAVEN, EARTH, BELOW EARTH).

ALL OF CREATION JOINS IN WITH THE SONG, GIVING PRAISE TO GOD (HE WHO SITS ON THE THRONE) AND TO HIS SON (THE LAMB).

BLESSING, HONOR, GLORY, DOMINION - FOREVER AND EVER.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THIS SCENE THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES KEPT ON SAYING "AMEN" AND THE ELDERS FELL DOWN AND WORSHIPED THE GREAT GOD AND HIS OVERCOMING SON.

JUST WHEN IT SEEMED LIKE ALL WAS LOST, THAT DEATH AND THE DEVIL HAD ONE, GOD'S PLAN AND PURPOSE BRINGS VICTORY AND SALVATION. LOOKING AT THE POSSIBILITY OF GOD'S PLAN NOT COMING TO FRUITION FOR THE WORLD, WE OUGHT TO WEEP. WHEN WE THINK ABOUT OUR CONDITION LEFT ON OUR OWN, WE OUGHT TO WEEP.

BUT THEN THE LAMB APPEARS. WHEN WE ARE LOST AND WITHOUT HOPE AND DEFEATED, THE LAMB APPEARS. WHEN IT SEEMS LIKE DEATH HAS THE LAST WORD, THE LION APPEARS. WHEN OUR FATE SEEMS IN THE HANDS OF DEATH, THE LION APPEARS, AND ROARS.

AND THROUGH THE WORK OF JESUS CHRIST, WE HAVE HOPE, GOD'S PLAN AND PURPOSES CAN AND WILL COME, THE REST OF THE STORY - AT ONE POINT SEEMINGLY TO BE LOCKED AND SHUT - WILL BE OPENED AND UNFOLDED BECAUSE OF THE OVERCOMING CHRIST.

WE OUGHT TO JOIN IN THE PRAISE OF HIS NAME.