

5. **Revelation 5:1 “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.”**
- In the right hand of God there is a book. We will come to see in chapters 6 and 7 the contents of this book. But that we might better understand chapter 5, let me just briefly say that this book represents God’s plan, his decree which is all comprehensive.
 - It symbolizes God’s purpose with respect to the ENTIRE universe THROUGHOUT history, and concerning ALL creatures in ALL ages and unto all eternity. We cannot learn this from chapter 5, we can only learn this from the opening of the seals that are on the book when we get to chapters 6 and 7.
 - Now, this book is here pictured as being entirely sealed with seven seals. If the book remains closed, then God’s plan will be left unexecuted. To open the book by breaking the seals means not merely to reveal, but to carry out God’s plan. The strong angel in heaven sknows that the book must be opened and proclaims, “who is worthy to open the book, an to loose the seals thereof?” (5:2).
 - No one, absolutely no one in existence, living or dead was able to open the book (5:3).
 - As a result, John is then found to be weeping, greatly. The book must be opened. We will understand the meaning of these tears if we constantly bear in mind that in this beautiful vision, the opening of the book by breaking the seals indicated the execution of God’s plan. When the seals are broken a nd the scroll is opened, then all creation is governed in the interest of the church. Then, God’s glorious, redemptive purpose is being realized: his plan is being carried out and the contents of the scroll come to pass in the history of all creation.
 - Hence, if the scroll is not opened, then no protection for God’s children in the hours of bitter trial; no judgments upon a persecuting world; no ultimate triumph for believers; no new heaven and earth; no future inheritance!
6. **Revelation 5:5 “And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof,” a very clear reference to Genesis 49:8-10.**
- Gen 49:8-10 (KJV) “Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee. 9 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? 10 The sceptre 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.”
 - This is Jesus! In conquering Satan and bearing the full burden of the wrath of God to the uttermost, he had proved himself to be, indeed, the lion.
 - On the cross this Lion of Juda, this Root of David, had conquered and thereby earned the right to open the book and to break the seals, that is, to rule all that exists in accordance with God’s plan.
7. **The elder said, “behold, the Lion,” but when John looks, he does not see a lion, on the contrary, he sees a Lamb as it had been slain. [Isaiah 53]**
- John 1:26,29 “John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not; 29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and

- saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”
- b. Acts 8:32 “The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:”
 - c. 1 Peter 1:19 “But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:”
- 8. Jesus has before said, “all authority has been given unto me in heaven and on earth” (Matthew 28:18), and now John sees that this is the case. Jesus has all authority to rule all creation according to God’s eternal purpose.**
- a. Philippians 2:6-11 “Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
 - b. Hebrews 2:5-18 “For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak . . . thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: 8 Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him . . . we see Jesus . . . crowned with glory and honour . . . that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”
- 9. No sooner has the Lamb taken the scroll, and thus accepted the office of king of all, than there is a great burst of triumph and exuberant joy.** This does not mean that God, the Father, leaves the throne. No, he remains seated upon the throne. But it does mean that Christ, the Mediator, is at the Throne together with the Father. From this moment on it is The Throne of God and of the Lamb, 22:1.
- a. First, those closest to the throne - (four living creatures, 24 elders). They sing 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 (tribe), and tongue (linguistic), and people (social), and nation (political); 10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth” (5:9-10).
 - i. The song is new likely because never before had such a great and glorious deliverance been accomplished and never before had the Lamb received this great honor.
 - ii. It is the song of redemption.
 - iii. Both the *particular* and the *universal* aspects of the atonement are beautifully combined.
 - (1) The Lamb did not purchase the salvation of every single individual.
 - (2) No, he paid the price for all, but all will not accept, hence, the redeemed are “out of” every tribe and tongue, etc. It is worldwide in scope embracing every

group.

- b. Second, the many angels. Revelation 5:11-12 “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; 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.”
- c. Third, every creature. Revelation 5:13 “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.”

10. We have in these verses the climax of what is found in chapters 4 and 5.

- a. Chapter 4 relates to *God and creation*; chapter 5:1-12, has reverence to *the Lamb and redemption*.
- b. Hence, these last two verses, 5:13,14, relate to the conjoined glory and adoration of *God and the Lamb* because of their work in *creation and redemption*.
- c. Rev 5:14 (NASB) “And the four living creatures kept saying, “Amen.” And the elders fell down and worshiped.”
 - i. Likely it is after every ascription of praise by the rest of creation, these four living ones say “Amen.”
 - ii. They call upon God’s approval.

11. Thus, the entire creation is governed by The Throne, that is, by God through the Lamb!

- a. When the Lamb ascended to heaven, scripture tells us, he sat down at the right hand of God. Heb 1:3-6 (KJV) “Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; 4 Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. 5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? 6 . . . And let all the angels of God worship him.”
- b. Eph 1:21-23 (KJV) “Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”
- c. 1 Pet 4:11 (KJV) “. . . that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”
- d. 1 Pet 5:11 (KJV) “To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”
- e. Jude 1:25 (KJV) “To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen.”
- f. All things ultimately must glorify God; his will is carried out in all creation. The Throne rules. The Lamb reigns. Hence, believers need not fear in times of tribulation, persecution, and anguish. Let the trials come!

..... *Death Is Swallowed Up In Victory*.....