

## 7 – THE THRONE & THE SCROLL (REVELATION 4:1-5:14)

### Review:

#### A. The key verse (1:19)

- The key to understanding the book is found in Revelation 1:19

#### B. A basic outline

1. What You Have Seen (Chapter 1)
2. What is Now (Chapters 2-3)
3. What will take place later (Chapters 4-22)

#### C. A Basic Mindset

1. Don't be dogmatic about your interpretations.
2. Biblical prophecy only gives us a partial picture.

The Jews of Jesus' day did not completely understand the prophecies of the Messiah. It was only after His death and resurrection did the prophecies make sense.
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### I. The Throne Room of Heaven (Revelation 4:1-11)

#### A. The Invitation (4:1)

- John is invited to come and see that which must take place in the future.

#### B. The Heavenly Throne (4:2-3)

##### 1. John state (4:2a)

- John was taken to heaven through an experience while still on the island.

##### 2. The Throne (4:2b)

- John saw a great throne in Heaven and the One who sits on the throne.

##### 3. The One on the Throne (4:3)

- The one on the throne had the appearance of a great diamond and ruby.
- The throne was surrounded by a rainbow that appeared like emerald.

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## C. The 24 Elders (4:4)

### 1. 24 thrones

- Around the great throne are 24 smaller thrones.

### 2. 24 elders

- On each throne was an elder clothed in white with a gold crown.

**Biblical Note:** The 24 Elders

The apostle John does not identify the 24 elders. Scholars have presented several possibilities concerning the identity of the elders. (1) Because there are twelve tribes of Israel in the Old Testament and 12 apostles in the New Testament, the 24 elders represent all the redeemed of God for all time. (2) The 24 elders are the heavenly counterpart of the 24 priestly ranks who served in the temple (see 1 Chronicles 23:6; 24:7-18). (3) The 24 elders are an angelic group that provides worship around the throne.

## D. The Seven Spirits of God (4:5)

### 1. Sounds

- From the throne came great lights and sounds.

### 2. The Seven Spirits of God

- John sees the presence of the Holy Spirit before the throne.

## E. The Four Living Creatures (4:6-8)

### 1. The location of the creatures (4:6)

- These creatures were dwelling around the great throne.

### 2. The description of the creatures (4:7-8a)

- These creatures are not human.
- These creatures have six wings.

Scripture: Isaiah 6:2

Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

**Biblical Note:** The Four Living Creatures (Seraphim)

The four living creatures are angelic beings of high order. They serve as part of the worship around the throne and the government of heaven. Isaiah refers to them as seraphim. They surround God's Throne. They lead others in worship. They proclaim the holiness of God.

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See: Isaiah 6:1-4; Ezekiel 1:5-25.

## 3. The service of the creatures (4:7b)

- The angelic beings continually praise and worship God.

## F. Worship in Heaven (4:9-11)

### 1. Casting of crowns by the Elders (4:9-10)

- The elders ascribe glory to God as Sovereign by casting down their crowns.

### 2. The praise (4:11)

- They attributed to God glory and honor and power.
  - They acknowledged that He is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe.

## II. The Seven Sealed Scroll (Revelation 5:1-14)

### A. The seven-sealed scroll introduced (5:1)

#### 1. The possessor

- God the Father possesses the scroll.

#### 2. The scroll

- The scroll contains the record of the events that will occur in the future.

#### **Biblical Note:** Seven-Sealed Scroll

In the apostle John's day, books were written on scrolls. Scrolls were pieces of papyrus up to 10 meters long that had been rolled up and sealed with wax. The seven seals indicate the importance of what had been written on the scroll. The number of seals indicated that the contents of the scroll are guaranteed to be secret. This scroll has writing on both sides of the scroll.

### B. The question "Who is worthy?" (5:2-5)

#### 1. A strong angel proclaims the question (5:2)

- An angel questions if one is worthy to open the scroll.

#### 2. No response (5:3)

- No one is found who is worthy to open the scroll.

#### 3. John's reaction (5:4)

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- John wept because there was no one to open the scroll.

## 4. Elder's response (5:5)

- The elder encourages John that Jesus Christ is worthy to open the scroll.

**Biblical Note:** Lion from Tribe of Judah

The phrase "Lion from the tribe of Judah" comes from the prophecy that Jacob gave to Judah in Genesis 49:9-10 where Judah is described as a young lion. The prophecy describes how the scepter will not depart from the tribe of Judah until the time when one will come to whom it belongs. This will be the one that all nations will obey. The "Lion from the tribe of Judah" is Jesus Christ.

**Biblical Note:** Root of David

The phrase "the Root of David" alludes to Isaiah 11:1-5. The prophet predicted that Judah would be like a tree that had been chopped down. From the stump, a new shoot would grow, which is the Messiah. The shoot will be greater than the original tree. Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of this prophecy.

## C. The Lamb (5:6-7)

### 1. The location of the Lamb (5:6a)

- Out of the midst of the throne comes the Lamb.

**Biblical Note:** The Lamb of God

Jesus Christ was called the "Lamb of God" by John the Baptist (John 1:29,36). The title expresses the redemptive character of Jesus and his work. In the Old Testament refers to the lamb as a sacrificial victim. The suffering Servant of Isaiah 53 is pictured as a lamb who died in the place of sinners (Isaiah 53:4-7)

See: John 1:29,36; Acts 8:32; 1 Peter 1:19; Revelation 5:6,8,12,13; 6:1,16; 7:9,10,14,17; 12:11; 13:8,11; 14:1,4,10; 15:3; 17:14, 19:7,9; 21:14,22,23; 22:1,3.

### 2. The description of the Lamb (5:6b)

#### a. Slain

- John sees a Lamb that appears to have been slain or sacrificed.

#### b. Seven Horns

- The "seven horns" represent the authority and strength of a ruler

#### c. Seven eyes

- The seven eyes reflect the unity between the Holy Spirit and the Son.

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### 3. The Lamb and the scroll (5:7)

- The Lamb is the only one who is worthy to take the scroll.

### D. The worship of the Lamb (5:8-14)

#### 1. The worship of the creatures and elders (5:8)

- When the Lamb takes the scroll, He is worshiped by the elders and creatures.

#### 2. The song of worship (5:9-10)

- He is worshiped with a song praising His redemptive work.

#### 3. The angelic host (5:11)

- The Lamb is worshiped by the entire angelic host.

#### 4. Their proclamation (5:12)

- They proclaim that the Lamb is worthy of praise, glory, honor and power.

#### 5. Creation (5:13a)

- All of creation joins in to bring glory to the Lamb.

#### 6. The proclamation of creation (5:13b)

- Creation proclaims honor praise on God the Father and the Lamb.

#### 7. The final proclamation (5:14)

- The creatures give one final praise with "Amen."