

12 - THE SEVEN SEALED SCROLL (REVELATION 5:1-14)

I. The Seven-Sealed Scroll Introduced (Revelation 5:1)

A. The Possessor

- God the Father possesses the scroll.

B. 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.

II. The Question "Who is Worthy?" (Revelation 5:2-5)

A. A Strong Angel Proclaims the Question (Revelation 5:2)

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

B. No Response (Revelation 5:3)

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

C. John's Reaction (Revelation 5:4)

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

D. Elder's Response (Revelation 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

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prophecy.

III. The Lamb (Revelation 5:6-7)

A. The Location of the Lamb (Revelation 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.

B. The Description of the Lamb (Revelation 5:6b)

1. Slain

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

2. Seven Horns

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

3. Seven Eyes

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

C. The Lamb and the Scroll (Revelation 5:7)

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

IV. The Worship of the Lamb (Revelation 5:8-14)

A. The Worship of the Creatures and Elders (Revelation 5:8)

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

B. The Song of Worship (Revelation 5:9-10)

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

C. The Angelic Host (Revelation 5:11)

- The Lamb is worshiped by the entire angelic host.

D. Their Proclamation (Revelation 5:12)

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

E. Creation (Revelation 5:13a)

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

F. The Proclamation of Creation (Revelation 5:13b)

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

G. The Final Proclamation (Revelation 5:14)

- The creatures give one final praise with “Amen.”