

# The book of Revelation

## 5:1-6

Welcome to the weekly verse-by-verse bible study in the book of Revelation. Make sure you pray before you start this, or any bible study.

This week we are starting the next chapter in the book of Revelation. The last couple of weeks we went through chapter 4, where we got to see a glimpse of the throne room of God. We also got to see a glimpse of God Himself in all His glory.

This week we start chapter 5, and we finally get to see our Lord and Savior, Jesus in all His glory. But what we see is not what we usually think of when we think of Jesus in heaven. So what will we see? Let's get started and find out.

✠ **Rev 5:1-4** *And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.*

So what was so important in this scroll that no one was found worthy to open it? It is the title deed to earth.

Vines dictionary says this about it:

*In Rev. 5:1-9 the "Book" represents the revelation of God's purposes and counsels concerning the world.*

But I, and most scholars believe it is the title deed to the earth.

Here in the bible, it shows us how a piece of property was purchased with a deed.

✠ **Jer 32:9-12** *So I bought the field from Hanamel, the son of my uncle who was in Anathoth, and weighed out to him the money--seventeen shekels of silver. And I signed the deed and sealed it, took witnesses, and weighed the money on the scales. So I took the purchase deed, both that which was sealed according to the law and custom, and that which was open; and I gave the purchase deed to Baruch the son of Neriah, son of Mahseiah, in the presence of Hanamel my uncle's son, and in the presence of the witnesses who signed the purchase deed, before all the Jews who sat in the court of the prison.*

Manners and Customs of Bible Lands say this about deeds and the verses we just read in Jeremiah:

*Several ancient customs are indicated here. The money was not in the form of coins. Coinage did not come into use until later than the prophet's day. Rather the money was silver that was weighed. The purchase was witnessed by certain Jews who "sat in the court." There were duplicate copies of the deed made out. It was doubtless customary to seal one of these and deposit it in a safe place, which usually meant it was buried on part of the land purchased. The other copy that was open, i.e., unsealed, was placed in the public place designated for recording deeds, where it could be referred to when necessary. However, in the case of Jeremiah's purchase, both copies of the deed were preserved in an earthen vessel because the city of Jerusalem was to be destroyed.*

**Specific Inclusions Noted In Transfer Of Property.**

*When purchasing property in the East, especially from the Arabs, it is important to indicate in detail just what is included in the purchase. If this is not done the new owner will discover he is not the owner of all he thought he purchased. In the Orient it sometimes happens that a man owns a well in the middle of a field belonging to another man. The reason for this is that the man in buying the field did not specify that he was buying the well located in the field. When Abraham purchased the cave of Machpelah as a burying place for Sarah, he was careful to make clear what was included. Scripture says: "The field, and the cave which was therein, and all the trees that were in the field, that were in the borders round about, were made sure unto Abraham" (Gen. 23:17).*

*The Old Testament law provided a way through which an inheritance that had been lost could be redeemed through a "go-el" or kinsman-redeemer. If a man through poverty was forced to mortgage his property, and then was unable to meet the payment on the date of maturity of the mortgage, then the man holding the mortgage could hold the land until the year of jubilee (which came every fifty years), at which time it reverted automatically to its former owner. But before this date a kinsman-redeemer (nearest male blood relation) could go into the civil court and by payment, recover the land for his relative. If the relation had died without an heir, then it became the duty of the kinsman-redeemer to marry his widow, and raise up the name of his brother.*

This last paragraph is important, because at this very moment, the earth belongs to satan.

*"Wait a minute,"* You may be thinking, *"I thought God made the earth, so how can it belong to satan?"*

You are right; God did create the earth, along with the heavens.

† **Gen 1:1** *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

God also gave the earth to man to tend and take care of for Him.

† **Gen 1:28-30** *Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

*And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so.*

God did this and gave Adam and Eve only one thing not to do.

† **Gen 2:15-17** *Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

Ok Adam and Eve, I have given you the entire earth to take care of. You are both perfect in body and form, I have given you everything you will ever need to survive, with the most awesome days and nights you could ever imagine. Even the temperature is perfect because you are both naked so you don't need clothes to keep you warm at night or to shield you from a burning sun during the day. I have given you paradise and there is only ONE thing you must not do, only one, not ten thousand rules to abide by, just one, which is: ***but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat*** and before you can even ask why, I will tell you why, it's because, ***for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.***

Sounds to simple doesn't it? Think of teenagers with the parents gone for the weekend. Before the parents leave they will stock the frig and cupboards so that there is plenty of food. They will clean the house so there are no messes to clean up. They will have all the bills paid so the kids won't have to worry about paying for anything. They will even leave some money for them to order a pizza or rent some movies or whatever. Also they will leave a few blank, signed checks, just in case of an emergency. These kids have it made, but there is only one rule they must abide by, and that's "No parties".

So what do they do as soon as mom and dad are gone? That's right, call their friends and have a big party.

Both of these sound too simple for people to blow it, yet they did. We shake our heads at them and wonder what were they ever thinking of? But there is something even simpler that hundreds of thousands break everyday. God asks one simple thing and that is to believe in His Son Jesus Christ, yet how many die each and every day refusing to listen to God and He only asked them to do one simple thing.

The results of all these things are tragic, just like the results of Adam and Eve disobeying God and listening to the serpent instead are tragic.

† **Gen 3:6** *So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.*

And their decision to do this, not only affected them, but the entire world.

† **Gen 3:16-19** *To the woman He said:  
"I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception;  
In pain you shall bring forth children;  
Your desire shall be for your husband,  
And he shall rule over you."*

*Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it':*

*"Cursed is the ground for your sake;  
In toil you shall eat of it  
All the days of your life.  
Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you,  
And you shall eat the herb of the field.  
In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread  
Till you return to the ground,  
For out of it you were taken;  
For dust you are,  
And to dust you shall return."*

And at this point, satan became the ruler of this world.

† **Matt 4:8-10** *Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"*

Notice that Jesus was tempted by satan, who offered Jesus the world if He would just bow down to him. Jesus did not say, "Hey, it's not yours, it belongs to God." Because Jesus knew what had happened that day in the Garden of Eden, and He knew who stole the earth from man. But Jesus came back to this earth to take what is rightfully God's! But Jesus did not come back offering gold or silver to buy back the earth. No, Jesus offered something that was more precious than all the gold, silver and diamonds of the world combined, Jesus offered His blood as payment.

† **1 Peter 1:18-19** *knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*

Jesus has purchased us with His precious blood 2000 years ago, now in the book of Revelation, we will see Jesus taking back possession of the earth and all the inhabitants of the earth.

But before we move on, there is one other thing that is very important right now. Remember we read about the go-el or kinsman redeemer? Well, under Jewish law, if you yourself couldn't redeem your property, a relative or near kin could step in and redeem it, this is known as the go-el or kinsman redeemer. If by the seventh year no one was able to redeem the property, then it would remain under the new ownership. What happened back in Genesis with Adam and Eve and the serpent was about 6000 years ago, with the 7000<sup>th</sup> year coming up at any moment.

You may have heard many say that the rapture could happen at any moment, and I believe that it is closer than we think. I believe that we are no longer in the final days, as a lot refer to it, but I believe that we are in the final seconds, that's how close to the rapture I believe that we are. Just read the study in 2 Timothy that we did a few weeks ago. Or simply watch the news along with reading your bible, and you will see that everything God said was going to happen right before the rapture, are taking place right before our eyes.

Now one more thing before we go on, and we need to go back to chapter 4 verse 4.

† **Rev 4:4** *Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.*

One more part about purchasing back the property. If you could redeem it, then you would call for the elders of the city to meet with you before the gates. You would bring out the scroll that had the requirements upon it and you would break the seal. You would then open the scroll and show your ability to pay the price, proving that you had the right to redeem it.

As we see here in heaven, there are 24 elders sitting on their thrones witnessing what is about to take place with the opening of the scroll. They are the witnesses of the transaction for Jesus to take back the earth and all its inhabitants for God.

So let's move ahead back to verse 1 in chapter 5 of Revelation.

✠ *And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.*

We will learn more about these seven seals as we go on in the book of Revelation, and read what happens on the earth when each seal is broken.

✠ *Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.*

I think it's interesting the John notes that this is not just any angel, but rather "***a strong angel***" Not just anyone could come and take this scroll, and God made sure that it was presented by ***a strong angel*** so that no one would even try to take it. But no one was found ***worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals or to look at it.*** It seemed that all hope was lost for the world, and John just could not contain himself, and in response.

✠ *So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.*

We see all sorts of bad things going on here on the earth. We see little kids starving and naked. We see women and children being abused. We see people so into themselves that they could care less about others. We see murder and hatred, robbery and thefts. We see the sinful ways of man being approved by man and the things of God being rejected. So much going on in this world and we wonder, when will it ever stop? Why doesn't God do something about it?

But He has!

✠ *Rev 5:5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."*

Who was this elder who spoke to John? I don't know, but we will find out when we get to heaven.

Jacob (Israel) prophesied thousands of years ago about what Jesus is called here in heaven, "***the Lion of the tribe of Judah***"

† *Gen 49:9-10 Judah is a lion's whelp;  
From the prey, my son, you have gone up.  
He bows down, he lies down as a lion;  
And as a lion, who shall rouse him?  
The scepter shall not depart from Judah,  
Nor a lawgiver from between his feet,  
Until Shiloh comes;  
And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.*

My favorite animal is the lion, and I always have pictures of them in my office and at home. Sometimes people will ask, "Are you a Leo" and I tell them no, because number

one, I don't believe in that junk (Horror-scopes) and second I was not born in the right months to be one. I have them because they remind me of Jesus, and in time of weakness, I can look to Him to be my strength. Just like a lion is.

The second name Jesus is referred that we read was, "*the Root of David*" and we can find proof of this in the book of Matthew.

† **Matt 1:17** *So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations.*

Jesus was from the lineage of king David.

Jesus *the Lion of the tribe of Judah, and the Root of David, has prevailed* (was victorious) *to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.*

How so? By His death on the cross, and resurrection from the dead.

† **Phil 2:8-11** *And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

I like this verse because it has one very key word "*every*" not just some, not just the rich or the poor, not just the famous or the nobodies, not just the good looking or not so good looking ones, not just those who rejected or accepted Jesus. But rather, "*that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*"

No exceptions, period!!!

It's now finally time to see our Lord and Savior in heaven. Are you excited? Are you ready? Here we go.

☩ **Rev 5:6** *And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.*

"Wait a minute, you mean Jesus looks like a beat-up little lamb?"

Yes!

We often associated Jesus in all His Majesty and Glory sitting up in heaven, and He is, but this verse reminds me of a saying that I once heard.

*“Jesus will be the only one in heaven with scars.”*

Imagine that, Jesus went through all of the whipping and beating here on this earth and all the scars from what He went through He will have to live with for all eternity. Why, possibly as a reminder to us of what Jesus really went through for us. And you thought that blood was not really enough to pay for us, well how about the blood and an eternity of scars!

So how bad was it?

If you saw the movie, “The Passion” then you got a glimpse of what Jesus went through and the scars that He will have. But I say a glimpse, because in the movie, when He was on the cross, you knew who it was. Yet the bible says:

† **Isaiah 52:14 (NLT)** *Many were amazed when they saw him--beaten and bloodied, so disfigured one would scarcely know he was a person.*

So tell me, what have you been going through lately? Will it pass? Things always do, but will you have to live with it for all eternity? Jesus does, and yet He chose to! If Jesus could endure, then why don't we?

You may be thinking, *“But you don't know how he or she has treated me or the things they said to me.”*

You are right, I don't know, but Jesus does, and He had even worse things said and done to Him, and He did it for you and me and that person who has been giving you problems. We don't realize what Jesus really went through on the cross, because we were not there. But as soon as we see Him in heaven, then it will all come to reality.

✠ *a Lamb as though it had been slain*

But do not despair, because even though Jesus will bear the scars of our sins for all eternity, He WILL reign in heaven for all Eternity!!!  
Even though Jesus will bear the scars, He will also be seen in all His glory in heaven, just as John saw Him.

† **Rev 1:12-17** *Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, **“Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.***



Yet John still refers to Jesus as *the Lamb* 25 times in the book of Revelation. The Lamb represents a sacrifice. Even John the Baptist referred to Jesus as *the Lamb of God*.

† **John 1:29** *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

Yes Jesus was our sacrificial Lamb, yet He was by no means a wimp, and in heaven Jesus is, and always will be reigning in all His power and Glory, forever and ever. AMEN!!!

If you believe it, then maybe it's time to stop living the life you have been living and start living your life as a servant to the King of kings and Lord of lords. As a servant, when the master would tell him or her to do something, there are no questions asked, no why or I don't feel like it. No, a servant is obedient to their master, no questions asked.

Our Master says not to divorce, yet how many broken Christian homes are there?  
Our Master says not to get drunk or do drugs, yet how many are under the control of such things and not the control of the real Master?  
Our Savior says to go into the world and share the gospel, yet we can't find the time because our TV's, or parties, or friends, or jobs, or even our families seem to be more important than what the Savior has told us to do.  
Here is something to think about. If we were really slaves to someone in this world and our master told us to do something and we had the attitude that we currently have, we would be either beaten or even killed for our disobedience to the master.

Now Jesus will not beat or kill us, but if we have such a good and loving Master in heaven, why don't we listen to Him?

Paul even said:

† **1 Cor 4:18-21** *Now some are puffed up, as though I were not coming to you. But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord wills, and I will know, not the word of those who are puffed up, but the power. For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power. What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?*

In a sense Paul was saying to the church in Corinth to either straighten up or run and hide when I show up. We all remember when we were kids and we messed up big time, our moms would say, "Wait until your father gets home." So we waited, sitting in our rooms. Then we would hear the car pull up, and fear would come over us, as we knew we were about to get it for our disobedience.

What will Jesus find when He returns for us?  
Obedient or disobedient servants?

I remember when my kids were very young, and when I would come home from work, my little kids were excited to see me and run up to me wanting me to pick them up

because they knew that their dad loves them, even if they did do something wrong during the day (And they usually do, because they were little kids). But for the most part, they were good little babies and they minded their mother and were excited to see me.

We all will mess up from time to time here on this earth, but are we messing up more than being obedient to the Lord? When Jesus comes back I want to be able to run to Him and have him hug me and hold me in His arms, just like my kids do to me, because I love Him and He loves me. I just pray that I won't be in sin when He returns, but rather I would be doing His will. If I am doing His will then I know I can run to Him, if not I will slowly walk to Him with my head hung low.

So am I basing my salvation on works? No, but I am basing how much I love the Lord by my obedience to His word. The more obedient I am, the more I love Him. The less obedient I am to Jesus, the more I show my love for the world.

† **Luke 6:46** *But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?*

Who is Lord of your life? The one you obey the most will tell you.

† **Romans 6:16** *Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?*

Well, that's it for this week's study. Next week we will continue on in chapter 5.

May the Lord richly bless you in His love, grace and mercy and may we all be slaves to righteousness and not the world!