

The book of Revelation

5:7-14

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.

Last week we finally saw our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ in heaven, and even though the image of what we saw was not what we thought it would be, still Jesus IS the Victor and King of kings and Lord of lords. We will see evidence of that this week as Jesus takes the scroll from the right hand of God.
So let's get into it.

✠ **Rev 5:7** *Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.*

It's important that John mentions that this scroll, which we learned was the title deed to the earth and all it's inhabitants, was taken from God's right hand. So why is that so important?

The right hand represents power and strength.

✠ **Psalms 60:5** *That Your beloved may be delivered,
Save with Your right hand, and hear me.*

And as we learned last week that:

✠ **Rev 5:3** *And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.*

If anyone was holding this scroll other than God, then anyone could have tried to take it from that person, yet it is so important to God that He holds onto it with **His** mighty right hand, and who can take it from Him? Only One, and that One is Jesus, we know that He is the only One, because God allowed Jesus to take it from His right hand. **Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.**

So get the picture here, Jesus walks up, scars and all (**Rev 5:6b** *stood a Lamb as though it had been slain,*) signifying that He had paid the price and was worthy to take the scroll from God. He now takes the scroll from God's right hand, and what happens?

✠ **Rev 5:8** *Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.*

This reminds me of what the devil offered Jesus if He would had just bowed down to him.

† **Matt 4:9-10** *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.'"*

Jesus could have taken the devil up on his offer, and Jesus would have had the world bowing down to Him right then and there. But Jesus also knew that even though the world would bow, it would also die in it's sins, and Jesus would not get to spend eternity with them in heaven.

So Jesus waits until God says it's time for Him to be worshipped in heaven. And the worship Jesus received, and will receive for all eternity is better then any quick fix that the devil had in mind.

You know, the devil knows about quick fixes and he makes them seem like the right and good thing to do; yet he doesn't tell you the consequences that you will pay if you take that quick fix.

Some think that alcohol and drugs are a quick fix to a problem, yet they don't realize at the time that when the high is over, their problems are still there and even worse as they also now pay the consequences of their actions to get drunk or high.

You may want a quick fix with that guy or girl you are dating and you want is to have sex with him or her before marriage. Yet the consequences could be a sexual disease like AIDS, or getting pregnant, with another quick fix to that is just to kill the unborn child. I know women who have had an abortion many years ago and are now married and can't have children, and most of them are not married to the one that got them pregnant in the first place. Was he worth it? Will your few hours or even minutes of pleasure be worth the life of a little baby?

Credit cards are another quick fix and we all know what happens with those things as people go deeper and deeper into debt because of them.

Divorce is another quick fix, and one I have taken many years ago in the past, yet I have paid for it and not just financially, because my children have suffered, my family suffers, our friends suffer, the church suffers, even those we work with suffer. Was it worth it? No way, but I can't go back and change things, but I can move forward, and so can you if you are divorced, not allowing our past to ruin our future walk with the Lord.

Maybe you have taken the quick fix in life and have been paying for it. Don't let your past destroy God's future for you. I personally know that it's tough sometimes, but I can't encourage you enough to hang in there.

Remember what Jesus said to the church in Philadelphia?

† **Rev 3:10** *Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.*

Things may be tough right now, but thanks be to Jesus Christ, we won't have to go through what the rest of the world will during the Great Tribulation, because we will be enjoying eternity in heaven!

So as we continue reading what happened after Jesus took the scroll from God's right hand, we find that.

✠ **Rev 5:8** *Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.*

We learned about *the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders* in past studies, but there are two things here that we did not see before. First is that they “*each having a harp.*”

When people think of angels, their first impression is a guy sitting on a cloud with wings and playing a harp, this may be where we get this impression from.

A few problems with this is that, yes *the four living creatures* did have wings, but they had not just two wings like we think of, but rather six wings. **Rev 4:8a** *The four living creatures, each having six wings,*

Second is that not only were *the four living creatures* playing harps, but so were *the twenty-four elders, each having a harp*

The harp is an instrument noted for praise towards God, and do you know when the first mention of the harp is in the bible? Well, if you went through our study in Genesis you would know that it is way back in chapter 4 of Genesis.

† **Gen 4:21** *His brother's name was Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the harp and flute.*

But not only were *the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders* playing harps and worshipping the Lord, but also they each had *golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.*

You know what is ultra cool about that, the prayer you prayed today or last night or last week or next year (Lord willing) is included in that bowl of incense offered to the Lord. To me, this is ultra cool, because when we read that, we read that we are mentioned in the bible as taking part in the worship of God.

You may be thinking, “*Yea, but it says the saints, I’m no saint, those titles are for the real religious people who have died.*”

But the bible does not teach that, rather it says:

✠ **1 Cor 6:2** *Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?*

We often confuse the word saint with what the Catholic Church has labeled as a saint. They teach that in order to be a saint you have to do a bunch of things to earn this title, and you are usually not given it until after you die and have been dead a long time. But the bible does not say that at all. If you are a part of the church, as a believer in Jesus Christ, then you, yes YOU are a Saint.

✧ **Phil 1:1** *Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:*

Notice Paul does not call just the bishops and deacons saints, but rather he includes the entire church as saints. These people were not dead but were alive. Therefore, these prayers offered to God include yours as well as all other believers in Jesus Christ.

Ok, so we have the picture of Jesus as *a Lamb as though it had been slain*, coming up to God and taking the scroll, which He purchased with His blood. Now we have *the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints*. Which include your and my prayers.

So they are playing and worshipping the Lord with harps and our prayers, but then they throw in some more praise with their voices while playing their harps.

✧ **Rev 5:9-10** *And they sang a new song, saying:
"You are worthy to take the scroll,
And to open its seals;
For You were slain,
And have redeemed us to God by Your blood
Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
And have made us kings and priests to our God;
And we shall reign on the earth."*

If you have read the “About Me” page here at the website, then you know that I am a musician, and go by the name “Praise Warrior”. I love playing to the Lord as well as writing music. So, when I read this, I always wonder when it talks about songs being sung in heaven, what they sound like?

One of the cool things about sitting up front in church is that you get to hear everyone singing to the Lord. If you are in a big church then you know that sometimes it can be overwhelming as the voices are in unison praising our God and Savior Jesus Christ. That is just a small sample of what it will be like in heaven.

But also as you think about it, everyone's voices in heaven will be perfect and in perfect pitch, and everyone's focus will truly be on the Lord. No one will be wondering what they will eat for lunch, or what time the football game is on, or how they are going to pay all those bills, or how can that person treat me like that. No, everyone will be fully focused on God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit and not himself/herself. Also no one will have a cell phone to go off to draw attention away from the worship.

So what is this song they sing?

It's truth, to the fullest, when they proclaim about Jesus that:

***"You are worthy to take the scroll,
And to open its seals;
And why?
Because **For You were slain,
And have redeemed us to God by Your blood*****

Is this just Israel? No, but as the song says, ***Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation***, which is everyone who chooses to follow Jesus regardless of their nationality or color or what church they go to.

Also they remember what Jesus told them here on this earth.

***"And have made us kings and priests to our God;
And we shall reign on the earth."***

Where did Jesus say this?

† ***Matt 19:28 So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."***

Paul also wrote to Timothy:

† ***2 Tim 2:12 If we endure,
We shall also reign with Him.
If we deny Him,
He also will deny us.***

So ***the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders*** play their harps, worshipping the Lord and they pour out their bowls of incenses, which are our prayers. So there are 28 guys singing unto the Lord. But once it starts, the worship just begins, because now all of heaven joins in.

† **Rev 5:11-12** *Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice:*

*"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
To receive power and riches and wisdom,
And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"*

Jesus endured so much for us on the cross, and because He was obedient even unto death He received His reward for His obedience.

Have you ever been in a football stadium with the crowd going wild as their team scored a touchdown in a big game? The noise seemed to be earth shattering as the bleachers would shake and rumble because of the noise. But this is not noise, but rather it's singing, once again in perfect pitch and in unison.

The devil knows that this will happen, and he wants as little of us to be there, trying to keep us out of heaven. The question is, will you be a part of this singing in heaven, or will you miss out in the most awesome concert, and it's free, because Jesus already paid the price on the cross so that we can be there.

✠ **Rev 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, I heard saying:
"Blessing and honor and glory and power
Be to Him who sits on the throne,
And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"*

Have you ever read the Narnia books, you know "The Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe" by C. S. Lewis? In these books there are talking animals, but here on the earth we don't consider animals to talk, but it seems that they do, and God understands them all, just like He understands us.

So why are just the animal or creatures praising God and not man? *"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, I heard saying:"* Well, I believe that this happens right after the rapture of the church, therefore there will be no believers here on the earth at this time. Sure people will be saved during the tribulation period, but at this point it seems that no one is saved here on the earth.

I also noticed a little difference in the song sung in heaven and the one sung by the creatures here on the earth.

In heaven they will sing:

*"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
To receive power and riches and wisdom,*

And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

And on the earth the creatures will sing:

***"Blessing and honor and glory and power
Be to Him who sits on the throne,
And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"***

In heaven, we will acknowledge that we are there because of what Jesus did on the cross by shedding His blood for us. But here in the earth the creatures realize that Jesus did not die for them, yet they still acknowledge Jesus as the Lamb of God and that He reigns on His throne.

I don't think that animals go to heaven when they die because the bible says.

† ***Eccl 3:21 Who knows the spirit of the sons of men, which goes upward, and the spirit of the animal, which goes down to the earth?***

But I do know that there are animals in heaven, and as you read throughout the bible, you will read of animals in heaven.

† ***Rev 19:11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.***

Also when we come back with Jesus Christ, Who will reign on this earth for a thousand years, we will get to play with the animals because they will all be tamed just like they were in the beginning of creation.

† ***Isaiah 11:6-7 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,
The leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
The calf and the young lion and the fatling together;
And a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze;
Their young ones shall lie down together;
And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.***

† ***Gen 2:19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them.
And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.***

So heaven and earth are now praising God, what an awesome thing to be a part of.

✠ ***Rev 5:14 Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.***

I say AMEN to this. How about you?

Will you bow your knee to Jesus now while you are still on this earth, or will you wait until it's too late and do it in heaven? If you wait, it will be the last time you will get to see Jesus for all eternity. But if you do it now, and proclaim now that Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords of your life, then you will get to spend eternity with Jesus in heaven.

He has done all He can to make sure that you are there. But the final decision is yours and yours alone. You will have no one else to blame if you reject Jesus now. Your friend, your family, your co-workers will not be there to testify what a great guy or girl they think you are. Even if they did, would they be able to explain why you rejected God's only Son Jesus? You will not be able to blame them either, because the Lord is asking you right now to believe and give your life to Jesus, just as He gave His life for you on the cross. Does this mean you have to die on a cross before Jesus will accept you? No, it just means that you live for Jesus, because He died for you! Don't wait any longer because the bible says that:

† **2 Cor 6:2 For He says:**
***"In an acceptable time I have heard you,
And in the day of salvation I have helped you."
Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.***

Call out to God right now, ***"In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you."***

Why now, because ***Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.***

Also because, tomorrow may be too late!

Well, we made it through another chapter in the book of Revelation. Next week's study we will be starting in chapter 6, with the opening of the seven seals on the scroll.

May the Lord richly bless you in His love, grace and mercy, and may you bow your knee to Him now and forever more. AMEN!