

Revelation 5:1-7

After Chapter 4 introduces us to the setting (heaven and the throne of God), Chapter 5 shows us what unfolds there at the beginning of the Tribulation period on earth. Daniel 9 gives valuable information about this 7 year period –

1. Daniel 9:24-27 presents a prophetic summary of God's plan for the Jewish people. It's about Israel, not the Church (Ephesians 3:1-13).
2. Daniel 9:24 says seventy weeks (of years – 490 years) are set on God's calendar for 6 important accomplishments.
3. Daniel 9:25 gives the beginning of this 490 year period as around 444 B.C.
4. Daniel 9:25-26 says after the clock starts in 444 B.C., it will be 69 weeks (of years – 483 years) until the Messiah comes and dies and the city of Jerusalem is destroyed.
5. Daniel 9:27 describes the 70th week (of years – 7 years). A prince will make a treaty with Israel that is supposed to run for 7 years, but the prince will violate the treaty after 3 ½ years and viciously persecute the Jews.

The age we live in – The Church – is between the 69th and 70th weeks. When this dispensation ends, the final week of years begins. That is what Revelation 4-5 is describing. In fact, most of Revelation is about this 70th Week of Daniel (Revelation 4-19).

Revelation 5:1-4

The unsealing and reading of the scroll coincide with the events described taking place. In other words, the events can't happen until the seals are broken. It is not a search for someone strong enough to break the seals or smart enough to read the contents. It is a search for someone worthy to do these things and begin the judgments described. What man doesn't deserve judgment himself, much less mete out judgment on others? John definitely doesn't think himself worthy. He cries a cry of despair.

Revelation 5:5-7

Only Jesus is worthy, not only to intercede on the behalf of humans, but also to be their judge. The titles Lion and the Lamb seem so polar opposite that it's hard to imagine they could describe the same person. Old Testament prophecies give a similar perplexing view of the Messiah –

1. Genesis 3:15 – Victory and Suffering
2. Deuteronomy 18:15 – The "two" lives of Moses.
3. Isaiah 11:1-10 and Isaiah 53.

Notice John is told Jesus is the Lion, and he sees a Lamb. He isn't told Jesus is the Lamb, and he sees a Lion.