

Revelation 4-5

Christ's Sovereign Authority Over The World

Introduction

- We begin the 2nd Vision of the Book (4:1-16:21).
- Chapter 1 gave a description of the resurrected and empowered Christ.
- Chapters 2-3 gave us personal messages from Christ to each of the seven churches selected for messages.
- Chapters 4-5 give us a vision viewed from the perspective of heaven.

Introduction

- In Chapter 4 we see the majesty and authority of God the Father.
- In Chapter 5 we see the conferral of God's authority upon Jesus, the God-man who is the Lamb.

Rev. 4: God the Father

Revelation 4:1-2a: "After these things I looked, and behold, a door *standing* open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard *was* like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this." ² Immediately I was in the Spirit;"

- The word "church" does not appear again in this book until the last chapter (22:16).
- This "heaven" is the 3rd heaven, where the heavenly city, the New Jerusalem, is presently located.

Rev. 4: God the Father

- **The Majesty of God's glory and reign 2b-3**
"and behold, a throne set in heaven, and *One* sat on the throne. ³ And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and *there was* a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald."
- God is portrayed as the brilliance of light reflected from precious stones.

Rev. 4: God the Father

- **Sardius** (or carnelian) is a blood-red stone,
- **Jasper** refers to some form of translucent rock crystal or perhaps even a diamond. (*Rev. 21:11 – "it is clear as crystal"*).
- The **rainbow** reminds us of God's covenant with Noah (Gen 9:16–17)

Rev. 4: God the Father

• The Persons around God’s Throne 4-7

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. ⁵ And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire *were* burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Rev. 4: God the Father

• The Persons around God’s Throne 4-7

⁶ Before the throne *there was* a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, *were* four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. ⁷ The first living creature *was* like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature *was* like a flying eagle.

Rev. 4: God the Father

• The Worthiness of His Worship 8-11

⁸ *The* four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" ⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,

Rev. 4: God the Father

• The Worthiness of His Worship 8-11

¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: ¹¹ "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

Comparison Chart of the Cherubim

Category	Ezekiel's Cherubim (1:4-25; 10:1-20)**	John's Living Beings (Rev 4:6)
Basic description	"four living creatures" (Ezek 1:5)	"four living creatures" (vs. 6, 8)
Wings	four (1:6; 10:21)	six (v. 8)
Faces*	lion ox* man eagle (2-10; 10:14)	lion ox man eagle (v. 7)
Eyes	multiple (1:18; 10:13)	multiple (vs. 6, 8)

Torso	like a man (1:5)	
Feet	like a calf (1:7)	
Hands	like a man (1:8; 10:8, 21)	
Movement	rapid, like a flash of lightning (1:14)	
Sound	like the rushing of many waters (1:24)	
Transportation	wheels within wheels for each (1:15-21; 10:9-13)	

Rev. 5: Jesus, the God-man who is the Lamb

Revelation 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.² Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"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.⁴ So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.

Rev. 5: Jesus, the God-man who is the Lamb

- The One sitting upon the throne, God the Father, holds a sealed scroll that no creature can open.
- As we will see in chapters 6-16, this scroll is a title-deed that grants its executor authority over the earth.
- The Father has determined the characteristics necessary to open the scroll.

Rev. 5: Jesus, the God-man who is the Lamb

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."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.⁷ Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

Rev. 5: Jesus, the God-man who is the Lamb

- As the God-man, Christ steps forward as the only one worthy to take and open the scroll.
- He moves with the assured air of One Who knows His own majesty and kingship.
- As we will see in chapter 6, His breaking of the seals produces directly the events of chapters 6 through 8 and indirectly the events of the other two enumerated series.

Rev. 5: Jesus, the God-man who is the Lamb

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.⁹ 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,¹⁰ And have made us a kingdom and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

Rev. 5: Jesus, the God-man who is the Lamb

- We see the list of the qualifications for opening the scroll in the praise song of the elders and living creatures.
- the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David. (5:5)
- For You were slain. (5:9a)
- You have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation. (5:9b)

Rev. 5: Jesus, the God-man who is the Lamb

¹¹ 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, ¹² 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!"

Rev. 5: Jesus, the God-man who is the Lamb

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

Rev. 5: Jesus, the God-man who is the Lamb

- The same heavenly creatures who worship the Father also worship Christ and equate Him with God
 … "Blessing and honor and glory and power *Be* to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"
- The scroll represents the title-deed to earth and it reflects the authority granted by God to Adam in the garden of Eden that Adam forfeited by sin.

Rev. 5: Jesus, the God-man who is the Lamb

- Adam, a holy and sinless man was given this peculiar position of authority over the creation and he lost it to Satan through willful sin.
- Jesus, the 2d Adam, a holy and sinless man, through His full obedience to the Father's has regained this position of authority over the creation, taking it away from Satan.
- Revelation reveals the rightful kingship of Christ.

Rev. 5: Jesus, the God-man who is the Lamb

- **Kingship** is a broad concept that involves domain (effective ownership of property and a populace), authority or the right to rule the thing owned, and the active exercise of that authority in direction of a people.
- **Kingship** also involves the right to judge, make war, supply needs, grant rewards, and command one's people.

Rev. 5: Jesus, the God-man who is the Lamb

- The **conflict** and **war** that we see in Revelation is a picture of the future conflict that will happen when King Jesus begins seizing His rightful property and expelling the wicked from their positions of control.

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