

*Morning Sermon August 1, 2021*  
*“Seven Seals...” – Revelation 5:1-7*

*We need to remember what we are seeing in chapter 5, is a continuation of what we have already started in chapter 4, God is on His throne, not a huge, literal chair, but a picture of His sovereign rule.*

*When we start chapter 5, we see a scroll or a book in God’s right hand. The Greek word here for scroll or book is βιβλίον, it is the word from which we get our English word Bible and it can be translated scroll or book. Here I don’t believe we have an actual physical book, but a picture of God’s plan for the advancement of His Kingdom. Here is the answer to the prayers: “Thy Kingdom come / Thy will be done.” Here is God’s battle plan for the defeat of sin and Satan! In the opening of the seven seals of this Book we have something akin to the six days of creation and God’s seventh day of Rest, yet here is not the beginning of all things but rather the end.*

*Let us consider the scroll -*

*I. The Scroll details –*

**5 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. Revelation 5:1 (NKJV)**

- 1. 5 And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll... Revelation 5:1 A** - *Coming from the throne and God’s right hand means it has God’s authority behind it.*
- 2. a scroll written inside and on the back ... Revelation 5:1 B** *Written inside and on the back means it tells a lot, it is FULL of information! I believe this scroll / book includes everything that happens / everyday from the time of Christ’s first coming (and probably before) until the end of time, of course we cannot process all THAT detail with our limited minds and so God has provided us a symbolic (shorthand) version. Yet,*

*Christ taking the scroll means He has authority over all – Psalm 2, He carries out God’s plan.*

- 3. ... sealed with seven seals. Revelation 5:1 C** - *Seven is the number of completion and perfection. In the seven seals and in this book / scroll we have the completion and perfection of God’s Kingdom – this is God plan for victory over sin and Satan.*
- 4. The Scroll here opens into 7 seals – Revelation 6 – 8:1, which open into 7 trumpets - Revelation 8:2 – 11:19 which open into 7 bowls, Revelation 15-16.** *I believe these three sevens provide structure to the entire book of Revelation. They are primarily concerned with two things: (1) The advancement of the Gospel and God’s Kingdom and (2) the judgment and ultimately final destruction of the kingdoms of man, sin and Satan –*  
**<sup>15</sup> Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!” Revelation 11:15 (NKJV)**
- 5. The Seals, Trumpets and Bowls, are all telling the same story, yet with an increasing emphasis on the end and judgment, in the seals ¼ are judged, in the trumpets 1/3 and in the bowls 100% or all are judged!**

*R. C. Sproul in his study Bibles and Robert Godfrey in his video series teach a seven-cycle-of-sevens structure to the Book of Revelation: the Seven Seals, Trumpets and Bowls are three parts of that seven-part structure. I believe the other four parts of this structure to be important as well, and yet we start with the seven seals; (1) Because these are first and the rest of the Book comes from these and (2) The Book is structured around the SEALS, TRUMPETS and BOWLS, the other FOUR parts are built around and on this obvious structure.*

- 6. Old Testament prophecy about a sealed book / scroll –**

<sup>9</sup> Now when I looked, there was a hand stretched out to me; and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. <sup>10</sup> Then He spread it before me; and *there* was writing on the inside and on the outside, and written on it were lamentations and mourning and woe. Ezekiel 2:9–10 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> The whole vision has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed, which *men* deliver to one who is literate, saying, “Read this, please.” And he says, “I cannot, for it is sealed.” Isaiah 29:11 (NKJV)

*Sealed to an ungodly world, and sealed to ALL apart from Christ as He alone is worthy to open the seals!*

## II. Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?

1. At first it seems no one is worthy of this honorable and important task -

<sup>2</sup> Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?” <sup>3</sup> And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. <sup>4</sup> So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.

*Presented almost like a contest –*

A. No one in heaven is worthy, not even sinless angels, because the scroll has to do with the redemption and judgment of men.

B. No human being is worthy, for all have sinned –

<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23 (NKJV)

C. Certainly no “under the earth” demonic creature would be worthy!

*John wept! Because right government, judgment and redemption of a lost world was all dependent upon someone being able to carry out God’s PLAN(S) concerning such things ---*

2. Behold the Lamb, is He Who is judged worthy, He is described:

A. As the Lion of the tribe of Judah –

- Judah was described himself as a lion, by Jacob as he spoke his death-bed blessings –

<sup>9</sup> 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? Genesis 49:9

- Yet, God, the preincarnate Christ claims the “lion” of Judah title in the Book of Hosea –

<sup>14</sup> For I will be like a lion to Ephraim, And like a young lion to the house of Judah. I, even I, will tear *them* and go away; I will take *them* away, and no one shall rescue. <sup>15</sup> I will return again to My place till they acknowledge their offense. Then they will seek My face; In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.” <sup>6</sup> Come, and let us return to the LORD; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. Hosea 5:14–6:1 (NKJV)

*It is as the God-Man Christ is worthy ...*

B. He is the Root of David -

... the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.” Revelation 5:5 B

C. He is the Lamb slain, and more ... -

<sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

(1) What a wonderful picture the lamb “stood” and yet it had been slain, this is NOT a literal lamb, this is the Lamb of God, -

<sup>29</sup> The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29 (NKJV)

(2) Seven horns, perfect and complete power to govern!

(3) Seven eyes, perfect and complete power of perception

(4) Seven Spirits – ultimately the Holy Spirit, pictured with all His powers / gifts to enable a church and judge an ungodly world!

*Arnold Brevick*