

THE KEY THAT UNLOCKS REVELATION

Part 2 of THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN. Revelation 5.
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. February 19, 2023.

DECADES OF DISAPPOINTMENT

I've spent my adult life trying to understand Revelation and eschatology.

- Mostly without success.
- Until ... I found the key that unlocks it all. Found in Revelation 5.

REVELATION 5

A scroll: Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

A question: 2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, 4 and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.

An answer: 5 And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

A Lamb: 6 And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne.

A new song: 8 And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, 10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

In praise of the Lamb: 11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was

slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

In praise of God and the Lamb: 13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” 14 And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

THREE QUESTIONS

Q. 1: What is the scroll? Verse 1.

- The scroll may be modeled after the style of an ancient Romans will.
- When the testator died, a trustworthy executor was appointed to carry out the will’s instructions.
- There is a sealed scroll in Daniel 12.
- The scroll contains “God’s plans for history and humanity (Guthrie, Blessed, p. 96).

Daniel 12:1-4 (ESV) At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. ... 4 But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”

Q. 2: Who is worthy to open the scroll? Verses 2-7.

- The Lion and the Root in verse 5 refer to ancient prophecies that promise a ruler of the world.

Genesis 49:9-10 (ESV) Judah is a lion's cub; ... he crouched as a lion ... and as a lioness; ... 10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the

ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

Isaiah 11:10 (NLT) In that day the heir to David's throne (literally the Root of Jesse) will be a banner of salvation to all the world. The nations will rally to him, and the land where he lives will be a glorious place ...

- When John looked up, he did not see a Lion, he sees “a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain.” This is Jesus Christ, the new Passover Lamb who died to set his people free.

Q. 3: Why is the Lamb worthy? Verses 5-14.

- Verse 5: He is the Lion who has conquered.
- Verse 6: He conquered by death, the slain Lamb - Passover.
- Verses 9-10: He carried out God's plan, ransomed a people for God.
- Verses 6, 12-14: He is God.

THE KEY

Jesus Christ is the key to understanding Revelation and eschatology.

- He's the focus of chapter 5, which helps us interpret chapters 6-22 through the lens of Jesus - the ruler, the judge, the savior, the protector.
- Don't ask Revelation questions like ...
- Remember, Revelation is a letter to first-century Christians who were under pressure to quit on Christ. It tells us to stay focused on Jesus.
 - Fear his judgment and repent of unbelief.
 - Receive and keep hold of his freely offered salvation.
 - Share Christ and the Gospel.
 - Expect his keeping power.
- Long for Jesus: love, worship, treasure, trust, count on him.

CORNERSTONE GROUPS - TALK IT OVER

Pick one or more of these questions to discuss this week.

Review Sunday's teaching on Revelation 5.

- Review Sunday's study guide or watch Peter's teaching on YouTube.
- What part of the teaching most impacted your thinking?
- Summarize the main ideas in your own words.

Prayerfully apply the promises of Revelation 5.

- By identifying Jesus as the key that unlocks Revelation, was Peter being too simplistic? Explain your answer.
- In your opinion, how/when/why does Jesus get lost in discussions of eschatology and current events?
- What are some ways to keep Jesus front and center in discussion about and interpretations of what's going on in the world today?
- How do you feel about Peter's description of what Jesus is doing in the world right now - judging those who reject him and saving those who are faithful to him?

Pray together. Be bold.

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Lamb who is worthy to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing. Help us to keep you front and center as we work through the Book of Revelation. Give us more grace to love and long for you above all else. For your glory. Amen!

Preparation for Next Sunday.

- Blessed: Chapter 5.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9yHlqbSKBA>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0vnCtWWOrA>