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**The Book Of Revelation**

**Chapter 5**

**Divine Outline: Revelation 1:19**

Chapter 5 of Revelation begins where Chapter 4 ended, at the throne of The Father. However, now the attention turns from the Father Himself to an object in the Father’s hand.

The key to Chapter 5 is in the question posed in verse 2. “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to lose its seals.” This question leads to the revelation of the only one who is worthy and with that revelation, there comes an eruption of praise and worship that builds to a crescendo in which the entire creation declares the greatness of The Father and The Son.

**Revelation 5:1(NKJV)**

*1 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.*

In the right hand of the Father an object is seen. Since John recognizes this object as a scroll, it seems logical to believe that it looked like a scroll John would be used to seeing. The scrolls in John’s day were made of sheets of Papyrus. These would be roughly 10 inches by 10 inches squares, connected to make large sheets which would be wound on wooden handles.

The scroll is sealed with seven seals. This speaks to the perfection and completeness of what is written.

Some believe the completeness and perfection is represented in the number seven. Four representing all creation added to the three representing the perfection of the triune God. Therefore, seven represents completeness and perfection.

There is some disagreement as to how these seven seals are affixed to the scroll. Some believe the seals are affixed in such a way that the scroll can’t be opened at all. Others view the seven seals as being attached in a way that each would need to be broken one by one to further unroll the scroll and read the contents. It is this writer’s opinion that the latter is the case.

The scroll is positioned in the right hand of the Father. The original language indicates “To lay upon the open hand.” The right hand of The Father indicates that it is sitting in the place of power and authority. The words of this scroll will be revealed and accomplished because of God’s divine authority and through his divine power. The fact that it is sitting in the open right hand of God indicates that He is willing and ready to see the scrolls opened. The problem does not lie in the Father’s willingness, but in creation’s unworthiness to come and take the scroll from The Father’s Hand. **(Revelation 5:3)**

The scroll that John sees does not represent the first time that we see a prophetic revelation come through the vision of a scroll. **(Ezekiel 2:9-10: Babylonian Judgment, Isaiah 29:11-12: Assyrian Judgment, Revelation 10)** These scrolls represent the prophetic destiny of nations. We also seem to have a glimpse into this concept of destiny written as a scroll in a more personal sense in the Psalms and in Revelation. **(Psalm 139, Revelation 20:15)** John’s scroll represents the same concept. As each seal is opened, we will begin to see a greater glimpse of the judgment that is about to come onto the nations of the world. We will also see God’s redemptive plan for the nations completed. This plan was alluded to in the Old Testament, but through Christ’s death and resurrection he set in motion the final fulfillment of God’s Word and will. **(Hebrews 2:5-10)** Although we have not yet seen the fullness of God’s plan revealed yet, we will see it when Jesus reveals himself as the worthy one who is able to open the seals and accomplish God’s final plan. **Prayer Focus**

What this scroll represents is what has been called the “Title deed to creation.” This scroll represents the authority that, as we will see, gives Jesus the power to take control over all he purchased when He “prevailed” through His death and resurrection.

Why does Jesus need to take control of this “title deed?” To answer this, we must go back to the Book of Genesis. **(Genesis 1:28-31)** We see in Genesis 1 that God created the Heavens and the Earth and all that is in them. He then created Adam and gave him dominion (The title deed) over the Earth. However, because sin entered the picture due to Adam and Eve’s Satan inspired rebellion, Adam lost dominion of the planet to Satan. **(Romans 5:12-14)** However, it has always been The Father’s intention to thoroughly defeat Satan, restore what sin has destroyed and reign in a kingdom as it was created to be. Revelation 5 is the beginning of the final battle against Satan and the final redemption.

This scroll, called an Opistograph, had writing on the inside and on the outside. This would also demonstrate this scroll as being a title deed in that deeds were often written in John’s day by putting a brief explanation of the contents on one side of the scroll while writing the details on the inside.

The fact that the writing was on both sides also indicates the completeness of what is written. There is no need or authority to add or to take away from these words. In fact, we are told that to add or subtract from the Words of God will bring a curse. **(Revelation 22:18-19)**

**Revelation 5:2–3 (NKJV)**

*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.*

This is one of three references to a strong (mighty) angel in Revelation. **(Rev 5:2, 10:1, 18:21)**

*Who is worthy to open the scroll and loose its seals?*

This angel cries out with a loud voice for all creation to hear. He is searching for one who would be deemed worthy to take the scroll from the Father and open the seals.

Who would it be that would be worthy to take the scroll?

Since, the scroll represents the Word and the will of the Father, only the Father Himself is worthy to open it and proceed with the judgments and decrees contained inside.

However, the Father decided that He would not be the one to exercise these judgments and the redemption contained in the scroll.

**John 5:22(NKJV)**

*For the Father judges no one….*

Add to that, as stated in our commentary on verse 1, this scroll is the “title deed” to creation. In this respect, the only one who is “worthy” to open and execute a title deed is an heir to all the deed encompasses. According to scripture the one who is going to redeem land or possessions must be one who is a “kinsman” to the one who owns or owned the land. **(Leviticus 25:23-28)** Additionally, the one who would redeem the land or property must not only be a relative, but they must be willing to redeem. **(Ruth 3:9-13, 4:1-12)**

If there is no one related to the one who lost his land, he may buy it back if he somehow gains the money to do so. Man lost control over the Earth in the garden, therefore there must be a “kinsman” to redeem that land back.

**Since the Father himself was not going to open the scroll, there must be someone equal to and worthy of the Father to take the scroll. The one who is to open this scroll must also be of worthy moral character, have the proper authority and must be an heir to the inheritance contained in the scroll and they must be willing to redeem.**

As John looks on He realizes there is no one in all of creation who is worthy to open the scroll.

**Revelation 5:4(NKJV)**

*4 So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.*

John begins to weep openly at the realization that there is no one who can open this scroll.

**Wept**

*Klaiō (Strong’s G2799)*

*to mourn, weep, lament*

**See Matthew 2:18, Matthew 26:75 for examples of wept.**

John’s weeping was an audible mourning that poured out with the realization that he would not have the ability to see “the things which must take place” **(Revelation 4:1)**

Not only would he not see, but the full redemption that was meant to take place decreed in the scroll would not be able to take place as long as the scroll was sealed up. There is no one worthy and there is no “kinsman redeemer.”

**Revelation 5:5(NKJV)**

*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.”*

*One of the elders*

There are some who think this elder may have been Matthew. The reason for this thought is contained in the fact that Matthew wrote his gospel solely to present Jesus as the Messiah King of the Jews. From Matthew’s genealogy which confirms Jesus as being from the tribe of Judah to his consistent description of Old Testament prophecy being fulfilled in Jesus, Matthew was concerned with revealing the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

While John is weeping, he is corrected by this elder who points out that his perception of the situation is not reality. Although it seems there is no one who is worthy to take the scroll, there is one!

*Behold the Lion of the tribe of Judah*

The elder tells John to behold the prophesied Lion of Judah. **(Genesis 49:8-10)** In the Book of Genesis, as Jacob is giving his final blessings over his children, he speaks over his son Judah. He prophesies that Judah will be a lion and that a kingly line and a scepter of kingship would never leave Judah until “Shiloh” comes. The symbolism of the lion represents that this kingly line would be marked by sovereignty, dignity, courage, and overwhelming victory.

**Spirit-filled Life Bible on Genesis 49:10**

**Shiloh**

 *shiloh (shee-loh); Strong’s #7886:*

 *Shiloh was a city where the tabernacle was set up (Josh. 18:1). Here in Genesis. it appears to be a proper name or title, which believers generally accept as a messianic designation of Jesus.*

In other words, Jacob prophesies that a Messiah King is ultimately going to come from the lineage of Judah. In Matthew’s genealogy he confirms that Jesus did indeed come from the line of Judah. **(Matthew 1:2)**

*The root of David*

Not only is Jesus the prophesied lion of the tribe of Judah, but he is also called “the root of David.”

In Second Samuel God promises David that his house and kingdom would be established forever. **(2 Samuel 7:16)** In other words there would always be someone from David’s lineage that would rule as king. Ultimately, the same Messiah King that would come through Judah would also come through David. Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Zechariah also prophesied that the Messiah king would come through a branch of King David. **(Isaiah 4:2, 11:1-2, Jeremiah 23:5-6, 33:15, Zechariah 3:8-10, 6:12-13)** So, The Messiah is going to come from the line of Judah and as a branch from the line of David.

However, there is also an interesting prophecy just a few verses later in Isaiah 11. **(Isaiah 11:10, 53:2)** Notice that this prophecy does not say that the Messiah king would come from the branch of Jesse, but that he would be the root of Jesse. The same Messiah king would be both from Jesse’s (David’s) lineage, but he would also be the root from which Jesse’s lineage comes from.

How can this King Messiah be both from the line of David and also the root of David? Jesus posed this question to the Pharisees. **(Matthew 22:41-46, Psalm 110:1)** The answer lies in the fact that Jesus the human was born into this Earth through the line of David, but Jesus as the Son of God is the source from which the line of David began. Jesus was fully God and fully man.

The fact that Jesus left Heaven and became flesh **(John 1:1-3, 14)** means that he became a “kinsman” to a people that needed to be redeemed. **(Hebrews 2:5-18)** As the Lion, Jesus is the man king from the tribe of Judah. As the root of David, He was God through whom the kingly line of David sprung up.

Not only did Jesus come down to become a kinsman authorized to redeem man and creation, but he was also the willing one. To redeem mankind is the reason Jesus came.

**1 John 3:7-9(NLT)**

*7 Dear children, don’t let anyone deceive you about this: When people do what is right, it shows that they are righteous, even as Christ is righteous. 8 But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil. 9 Those who have been born into God’s family do not make a practice of sinning, because God’s life is in them. So they can’t keep on sinning, because they are children of God.*

*has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”*

**Prevailed**

*Nikaō (Strong’s G3528)*

*I. To conquer*

 *A. To carry off the victory, Come off victorious.*

Notice that verse 5 does not say Jesus would prevail but that he “has prevailed.” How did Jesus the Lion and the Root “prevail” to take the scroll and loose the seals? He prevailed when he came to Earth in the flesh. In this way he identified himself as part of humanity, as our kinsman. As our kinsman he paid the only price that could be paid to redeem you and me from our sin, the price of his life. Jesus laid down his life on the cross, therefore paying the purchase price to free us from Satan. However, he did not prevail only by dying on the cross. Jesus prevailed when he rose from the dead on the third day and overcoming the power of death, hell, and the grave. Why? Why would Jesus do such a thing? He did it because, along with the Father, He loves us with an unending love. **(John 3:16-17)**

By prevailing through his death and resurrection, Jesus not only became worthy to open the scroll of Revelation 5 and unleash the judgments contained in them, but He also became the mediator between The Father and us. The mediator through which the judgments declared against us would be satisfied and redemption given. Between judgment and redemption stands the slain Lamb of God.

**Revelation 5:6(NKJV)**

*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.*

John’s attention now turns to see the one identified as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. Notice where the Lion is positioned and notice His posture. The lion is standing in “the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures. Some wish to place the Lion on the throne at this point. He is not on the throne yet. He is standing in the midst. **(Daniel 7:13-14)**

One would expect that as John turns to look his eyes would be greeted with the revelation of a conquering Lion. However, this is not the case. Instead, John is greeted with a lamb that appeared to have been slain. This is the lamb prophesied by the Prophet Isaiah. **(Isaiah 53)**

As John glimpses the lamb, it is apparent that he still bears the marks of crucifixion, making it obvious that this is Jesus himself. He is the one who was slain.

**Slain**

*Sphazō (Strong’s G 4969)*

*I. To slay, slaughter, butcher*

*II. To put to death by violence*

*III. Mortally wounded*

Yet, John seems surprised to see that the slain lamb isn’t slain anymore. He is standing in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures.

Beside the fact that this lamb has the appearance of a lamb that had been slain, it is apparent that this isn’t a normal looking lamb. This lamb had:

* **7 horns**

In the scripture horns are often representative of the power of political rulers or priestly rule. **(Daniel 7:7-8, 15-27, Daniel 8:3-25)** This lamb has seven horns which represents perfect and complete power and authority to rule over the Kingdom of God. The seven horns of the lamb show that Jesus is the omnipotent ruler and king. The complete perfection of the seven horned lamb whose kingdom will last forever is in contrast with the ten horned beast kingdom which will last for only a short time and then be destroyed by Jesus. **(Revelation 13:1)**

* **7 eyes**

In the book that bears his name, Zechariah had a vision of a lampstand with seven lamps and seven pipes feeding it fresh oil. **(Zechariah 4:1-10)** In the interpretation, Zechariah’s vision is interpreted as being the eyes of God that search all over the world. What is referenced as the all-seeing eyes of God in the Old Testament, John now sees as the eyes of the lamb. The seven eyes represent the omniscience of the Lamb. There is nothing happening that he does not see and is not aware of.

* **7 Spirits**

The seven-fold Spirit of God is also manifest in the lamb. **(Isaiah 11:1-2)** The Lamb of God carries the fullness of the Holy Spirit without measure.

In this picture of the one who is like a lamb that has been slain, we see the manifestation of perfect power, perfect wisdom, and the perfect presence of the Spirit of God. Who else could be worthy to take the scroll from the Father on the throne and loose the seals? Now God’s redemption, judgment and restoration can proceed. **(John 1:29-36)**

It was not the lion-like qualities of Jesus that qualified him to be the omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent ruler; it was his choice to be the lamb offered up for the sin of the world. **(Philippians 2:5-11)** In Christ’s servanthood and sacrifice we see the picture of the ones who will become lions in the Kingdom of God. Jesus taught that triumph and victory come from giving oneself up for God’s purpose.

It is interesting to note that Jesus is only referred to as the Lion of the tribe of Judah one time in the Book of Revelation. On the other hand, Jesus is referred to as a lamb twenty-seven times. As the Lion of the Tribe of Judah Jesus will ultimately return to complete His mission of destroying Satan’s kingdom. However, the only path to Jesus becoming the Lion of the Tribe of Judah was for him first to become the humble lamb sacrificed for the sin of the world. In this we learn that triumph only comes through giving oneself up. There are no lions until there are lambs. The first time Jesus came it was as the lamb of God. The next time He comes it will be as the conquering Lion of the Tribe of Judah. When we are going through trials, difficult times or periods of humbling we are to remember that we are walking into our greatest victories. **Victory through sacrifice brings us hope in the midst of tribulation.**

**Revelation 5:7(NKJV)**

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

The lamb that is the lion, having proven his worth, qualifications and authority, now steps forward and takes the scroll from the hand of The Father. He does not take the scroll through a violent coup or through fraudulent means. He takes the scroll because he has prevailed. The Father willingly hands the scroll to Jesus and Jesus takes it because of His desire and delight to fulfill the will of God.

**(John 4:34)**

When Jesus takes the scroll, it is the fulfillment of the vision of the Prophet Daniel. **(Daniel 7:9-14)** However, as we continue into verse nine and ten of Revelation five, John sees something Daniel did not see. What John sees is that the redeemed from every tribe and tongue and people and nation will rule with Christ as kings and priests. **(Revelation 5:9-10)**

This moment is the setting for the fulfillment of the words of Jesus in John five. **(John 5:22-27)** We also see the beginning of the completion of the prayer Jesus taught his disciples to pray, “your kingdom come, your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.” **(Matthew 6:9-10)**

From this point forward in Chapter five, we see an eruption of praise connected to what is seen in verse six.

In verses six and seven we begin to see the reason for the ever-increasing escalation of worship taking place around the throne room. Jesus is revealed as the one who is to be worshipped because:

* He is the slain Lamb of God.
* He is in Heaven. (Not on the cross or in the grave)
* He is in the midst of all things.
* He is exalted in the midst of the throne.
* As Jesus takes the scroll, the fullness of the will of The Father is about to become manifest.

**We will see a continuation of these reasons for worship when we get to verse twelve.**

**Revelation 5:8(NKJV)**

*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.*

When Jesus came and took the scroll out of the hand of The Father, John’s weeping ended as the praises of the living creatures and the elders began to be lifted. This begins an ever-increasing swell of worship that we will eventually see engulfs all of creation.

It is significant to see what the elders had in their hands. In one hand they had a harp signifying the worship going up before God. In their other hand they had a golden bowl full of incense, which represented the prayers of the saints.

This picture reminds us of the tabernacle worship of the Old Testament. In the Old Testament worship and prayer were always offered together. **(1 Chronicles 13:8, 15:16, 2 Chronicles 5:12, 29:25-31, Nehemiah 12:27-43, Psalm 33:2, Psalm 150:3)**

**Psalm 141:2(NKJV)**

*2 Let my prayer be set before You as incense, The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.*

**Lifting Up**

 *Mas'eth (Strong's H4864)*

*uprising, utterance, burden, portion, uplifting*

 *A. that which rises, uprising, uplifting, signal, rising*

 *B. utterance, oracle*

 *C. burden*

 *D. portion, present, largesse, gift, contribution, offering,*

 *tribute*

In Psalm 141:2 we see prayer as incense connected with the “lifting up of my hands” as the offering of worship.

In the Old Testament, the priests would offer incense on the incense altar twice a day. First, he would offer incense when he tended to the lamps. Secondly, he would offer incense when he lit the lamps in the evening. **(Exodus 30:7-8) The morning and evening prayers would be offered at same time.**

According to the Mishnah, (Jewish religious writings) The Jews were to face toward Jerusalem when they prayed. This was related to several Old Testament scriptures. **(1 Kings 8:28-30, 35-36, 44, 48, 2 Chronicles 6:20-21, 34, 38, Psalm 5:7, 28:1-2, 138:1-2)** We also see that when the Prophet Daniel prayed, he faced toward Jerusalem. **(Daniel 6:10)** It was believed that as they faced Jerusalem and the tabernacle and prayed, their prayers would gather over the altar of Incense and ascend to God in the smoke of the incense. The prayers would then be kept in Golden Vials.

Also, on the Day of Atonement, the High Priest would take fire from the Brazen Altar and bring it in to the Holy Place. He would place the coals on the Incense altar and allow the smoke of the Incense to fill the Most Holy place. This served a two-fold purpose. It kept the High priest from staring into the glory of God that was manifest at the Ark. Secondly, it represents the prayers of the priest and the people that God would not look upon their sin but accept the sacrifice of the blood that was to be placed on the Ark for the covering of their sins. **(Leviticus 16:12-14) Christ/Altar Incense/prayer must be together.**

In Revelation Chapter eight, we see that incense, which also represents the prayers of the saints, is offered on the Heavenly altar with fire, and then that fire is thrown to the Earth to introduce the seven trumpets. **(Revelation 8:3-6) Prayers from earth are me with response from Heaven.**

It was at the hour of Incense when Zacharias the priest was offering incense, that the angel appeared to him and prophesied the birth of his son John. It is interesting to note that at the same moment worship was taking place inside the holy place, the people had gathered for prayer outside. Again, worship, prayer and prophetic revelation always go together with each other. **(Luke 1:5-10)**

Often, we can see prayer and worship as two separate activities, but this should not be so. Prayer and worship combined create an atmosphere that will draw the presence of God and create an atmosphere for miracles and revelation from God.

Even the Apostle Paul understood this connection when he told us how we should bring our prayer before God. **(Philippians 4:6)** Paul states that our prayer should be mingled with our thanksgiving or worship to God. We are not just to ask Him for things, but to mix our requests with genuine worship and recognition of who He is.

Jesus also, in teaching his disciples to pray, taught them to start with showing honor to The Father first and then praying for our needs. **(Matthew 6:8-13)**

We should not anxiously pray as if we are telling God something He doesn't already know. He knows before we ask. Instead, we are told to mix prayer with thanksgiving and worship. This is recognition that as we lift our requests, we are not giving God information, but we are giving God adoration as the one who has an answer for every need. **(1 Corinthians 14:26-32)**

**Revelation 5:9(NKJV)**

*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,*

The creatures and the elders “sang a new song.” What is the song they are singing? The song itself is revealed in this same verse. The song is a song of redemption to God the Father that has been gained through the blood of The Lamb. Who is it that has been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb? Is it not the church? **(1 Peter 1:18-21)** Those who were redeemed by the blood of Christ are now, also, ruling and reigning with Christ. **(Revelation 5:10)**

A study of the “new song” in scripture brings us an interesting revelation. First, we find that the new song is a song that has been given by The Father. **(Psalm 40:1-3)** Secondly, it is a song that is sung by the people of God.In the Psalms, King David declares that he, himself, will sing a new song. **(Psalm 144:9)** Thirdly, we find that when the new song is being sung in scripture, it is always a song related to the same subjects. These subjects all correspond to the worship and the activities taking place in the throne room. In Chapter four we discovered that The Father is being worshipped as the creator. In Chapter five we are learning that Jesus is being worshipped as the Lamb of God who brings redemption and who will release the judgments contained in the scroll with seven seals. Notice the correspondence of the “new song” to these subjects in scripture.

* **Psalm 33:3**

Psalm 33 is a psalm extolling God as the creator, judge, and deliverer of His people.

* **Psalm 40:3**

In Psalm 40 we see in type and shadow the coming of the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world. Psalm 40:6-8 is quoted in the Book of Hebrews as pointing to the fact that the sacrifices and offerings were only good temporarily. **(Hebrews 10:1-10)** Each time atonement was made; the Israelites were reminded that there would need to be another atonement to cover the next years sins. When Jesus came his sacrifice on the cross became a new covenant that replaced the old one. His sacrifice was once and for all.

* **Psalm 96:1**

Psalm 96 is a song of praise to God as the one who brings salvation, the one who created all things and the one who will judge the Earth.

* **Psalm 98:1**

Psalm 98 is a song of praise to the God who brings salvation and redemption and the God who judges the world.

* **Psalm 144:9**

Psalm 144 is a song of praise to the God who delivers and brings salvation to his people.

* **Psalm 149:1**

Psalm 149 is a psalm of praise to the God who brings salvation and executes judgment through the praise of his people.

* **Isaiah 42:10**

Isaiah 42 speaks of Jesus as the one who prevails **(Verse 13)** to bring salvation to the Earth and to defeat his enemies.

* **Revelation 14:3**

Revelation 14:3 is a new song that is being sung by the 144,000 Jews who have been marked by God for salvation during the tribulation period.

The redeemed are said to have come from “every tribe and tongue and people and nation. The fact that the redeemed come from these four places speaks to the fact that they are drawn from all corners of the Earth. Four is the number of the fullness of creation.

*Every tribe and tongue and people and nation*

**Tribe and people**

In the New Testament the words tribe and people are often used as a designation for the Jewish people. **(Tribes: Matthew 24:30, James 1:1, Revelation 1:7 See also Zechariah 12:10, And People: Matthew 1:21, Matthew 2:6, Mark 7:6, Jude 5)**

**Tongue and Nation**

In the New Testament the words tongue and nation are often used as a designation for the Gentile people. **(Tongue: Acts 2:11, Romans 14:11, Philippians 2:11, Nation: Matthew 24:9, Matthew 25:32, Revelation 2:26, Revelation 19:15)**

The completeness of these four designations shows us that the redeemed church in Heaven at this time is coming from the redeemed, both Jews and Gentiles. **(Galatians 3:26-29)**

It is important to note that what some consider to be a problem in this text is present in verse 9. The KJV and NKJV translate verse 9 to indicate that those who are singing the song are the ones who have been redeemed. The phrase “redeemed US to God” points to a personal redemption. Other translations such as the N.I.V. and the N.L.T. translate it as “redeemed people” or “redeemed men” making it appear as if it could be some other group that is being redeemed. These different interpretations can be troubling for some in determining who the elders represent. If it is the personal “redeemed us” it points to the fact that the “redeemed” or the church is in Heaven extolling the Lamb. If the elders are some other group, they could be angels or some other creatures who are pointing that others have been redeemed. The actual word from the Strong’s concordance is:

**Us**

*hēmas (Strong’s G2248)*

*I. Us, We, Our*

**See Matthew 6:13, Luke 11:1, Acts 4:12 for examples of hēmas.**

I believe this discrepancy can be addressed by looking at who the elders are. They are the ones who are dressed in white robes and wearing crowns. A look at Revelation Chapter two and three allows us to see that those wearing white robes and crowns are those coming out of the churches who have been rewarded. **(Revelation 2:10, 3:5, 3:18)** The elders who are singing are the redeemed of the church who are worshipping The Lamb who brought them redemption.

**Along with the redemption purchased through the blood of Christ, the slain lamb, Jesus also showed himself to be the only one who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll.**

**Revelation 5:10(NKJV)**

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

Not only did the blood of the Lamb redeem from sin, but it also bestowed the privilege of jointly ruling and reigning with Christ in His Kingdom. **(Psalm 2:8-9, Isaiah 61:6, 1 Corinthians 6:3, 2 Timothy 2:11-13, Revelation 2:26-28, 20:4)**

We see that what Christ promised the children of Israel, **(Exodus 19:3-6)** is also a promise to the church **(1 Peter 2:9-10)** As believers, we have already been made kings and priests to our God. This priest-king rulership will fully manifest when Jesus comes back to set up His kingdom on this Earth. However, there are aspects of our priesthood and kingship that occur now and some which will only take place when Jesus takes his place as King.

**The Kingship of the believer**

**In the Present age:**

* We are to rule over self and sin **(Romans 6:5-14)**
* We are to rule over material things **(Matthew 6:19-21)**
* We are to rule over fear and the fear of man. **(Matthew 6:31-34, Matthew 10:28)**

**In The age to come:**

* We will rule and reign with Christ on Earth during the Millennium. **(Revelation 5:10, Revelation 20:4)**

**The Priesthood of The Believer**

**In the Present age:**

* We offer our bodies as living sacrifices.

**(Romans 12:1-2)**

**In Romans 12:1,**

**Present**

*paristemi (Strong’s G3936)*

*Yield, To place a person or a thing at one’s disposal*

* We offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving. **(Psalm 50:14, Psalm 50:23: Praise= Towdah (Strong’s H8426) Thanksgiving, Psalm 95:2, Psalm 100:4, Psalm 107:22, Psalm 116:17, Jonah 2:9, Philippians 4:6)**
* We offer worship and Praise. **(Hebrews 13:15, John 4:23)**
* We offer the sacrifice of humility and repentance. **(Psalm 51:17)**

**In The age to come:**

We offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and worship. **(Revelation 7:9-12, Revelation 11:16-17)**

When you consider that God did not leave us to die in our sin but washed us from our sins in the blood of Jesus and when you consider that He did not just wash us but has also set us apart as a kingdom of royalty and priesthood, the only response we can give is, “Worthy is the Lamb!” This would be an encouraging word to the seven churches that were enduring persecution and struggle. They may have been struggling and suffering now, but they will be ruling and reigning then.

**Revelation 5:11(NKJV)**

*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,*

Daniel also saw this vision of thousands ministering before the throne as Jesus approaches to take the scroll. **(Daniel 7:9-10, 12-14)**

In verse 8-10 we saw the elders and living creatures erupting in praise to the Lamb. Now we see the angels join in and begin to worship as well. The angels are not in need of redemption, but scripture tells us that they are interested in understanding salvation. **(1 Peter 1:10-12)**

**10,000**

*Myrias (Strong’s G3461)*

*I. ten thousand*

*II. An innumerable multitude, an unlimited number*

*III. Innumerable hosts*

From this word we get the English word Myriad, which means a countless or extremely great number. Thus, Daniel and John both see an innumerable number of angels who are surrounding the throne, the elders and the living creatures declaring worship to the Lamb of God.

**Revelation 5:12(NKJV)**

*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!”*

Some translations say, “they sang” as opposed to “they said” or “saying.” We should note that the angels spoke these words.

**Saying**

*Legō (Strong’s G3004)*

*To Say, To Speak*

This is in comparison to verse 9 which says, “they sang.”

**Sang**

*Ado (Strong’s G103)*

*To the praise of anyone, To sing*

In this we see that the worship of Heaven involves singing as well as declaring worship to The Father and The Lamb.

The angels speak a seven-fold declaration of the Lamb’s worth. Christ is perfectly worthy to receive power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and blessing.

In verse 6, we began to focus not only on the worship of Heaven, but the reasons for worship. Here we find another set of reasons for the Lamb to be worshipped. As the Lamb has prevailed through his humility, obedience, death, and resurrection he has taken on the perfection of those things he gave up in his earthly life.

* In His humanity Jesus was powerless. **(John 5:19)** Now he is worthy of all power.
* In his humanity, Jesus took on poverty, **(2 Corinthians 8:9)** Now he is worthy of all riches.
* In his humanity Jesus was believed to be crazy. **(Mark 3:21, John 10:20)** Now he is worthy of all wisdom.
* In his humanity Jesus became weak. **(Philippians 2:5-8)** Now he is worthy of all strength.
* In his humanity Jesus was dishonored, **(Matthew 27:27-31)** Now he is worthy of all honor.
* In his humanity Jesus kingship was mocked, **(Matthew 27:27-31)** Now he is worthy of all glory.
* In his humanity Jesus became a curse. **(Galatians 3:13)** Now he is worthy of all blessing.

All the worship of the creatures, elders and angels is focused on the worth of Christ the redeemer.

**Revelation 5:13(NKJV)**

*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!”*

In Verse 8, the elders and creatures began to worship. In verse 11 the innumerable number of angels begin to join in. Now in verse 13, every creature “in heaven and on earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea” join in. Notice the four designations: heaven, earth, under the earth, in the sea. Once again, we see four designations that speak to the totality of created life.

We see another four-fold declaration of worship now not only toward the Lamb, but also toward the one who sits on the throne. Blessing, honor glory and power

**Revelation 5:14(NKJV)**

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

Overwhelmed with the awesomeness of the declarations of creation, the four living creatures cry out “Amen!” or let it be, it is true!

The elders, once again, fall face down and worship.

It is noteworthy that the phrase “who lives forever and ever.” is not in most manuscripts but is inserted here because of its use in **Revelation 4:9.**

As we finish with Chapter five, it is imperative that we do not lose sight of the fact that what we have studied is real. Along with Chapter four of Revelation, we see in Chapter five the reality that awaits the believer in Christ. We study and learn of this place now, but one day we will experience it for ourselves.