

Prayer:

The book of Revelation brings God’s great plan of redemption to consummation as seen in the kingdom. As we see, this involves a process involving a climactic time of judgment that gives way to the Second Coming and the kingdom.

An inspired outline of the book of Revelation is seen in 1:19.

Slide # 1

Revelation 1:19 – Inspired Outline

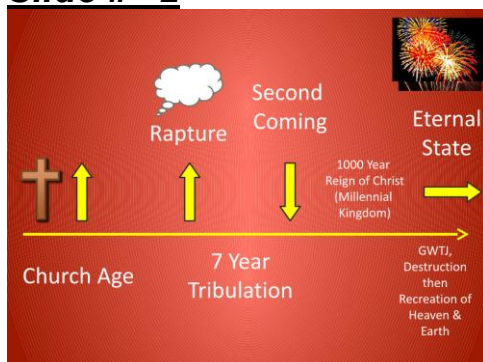
Revelation 1:19 (NKJV)

19 “Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

- “have seen” – Past (Vision of Christ) – **Ch. 1**
- “which are” – Present (Church Age) – Ch. 2-3
- **“after this” – Future (Post-Church Age)** – Ch. 4-22
 - - Scene in heaven – Ch. 4-5
 - - Tribulation – Ch. 6-18
 - - Second Coming – Ch. 19
 - - Kingdom – Ch. 20
 - - Eternal State – Ch. 21-22

Following the PRESENT Church Age, the scene is immediately in heaven as seen in Revelation 4-5. It is here in heaven that the church is found represented, and not on earth during the Tribulation Period as detailed in Rev. 6-18. The next great event on God’s prophetic calendar is what is called the Rapture (the snatching up) of the church out of the world as seen in 1 Thessalonians 4.

Slide # 2



The church consists of both Jew and Gentile in one body with an equal spiritual footing (Eph. 3:1-7). Nothing as described on earth in the Tribulation Period fits this description. Neither the word “church” nor any of the other metaphors related to the Church are mentioned at all in reference to what is happening on earth during the Tribulation Period, as seen in Rev. 6-18.

In my view, the “twenty-four” elders we are introduced to in Revelation 4 are representative of the church now seen in heaven. These “24 elders” are presented in the language of resurrected, already judged, and in heaven throughout the course of Revelation 4-18 (cf. 4:4 with 3:5, 11, 21).

Revelation 4-5 is a unit, and the scene is the THRONE ROOM in heaven. This is the command center of the universe where God the Father is on the throne. What happens on earth has everything to do with the directives of heaven. The activity of heaven determines what happens on earth. The activity of Revelation 4-5 issues in the judgments of Revelation 6-18. Note that connection.

Thus, Revelation 4-5 is both introductory and explanatory to the rest of the Apocalypse. Chapter 4 is introductory to the climactic point of Revelation 4-5, which is to introduce the SCROLL with its seven seals. This is a momentous event in redemptive history!

The importance of this chapter in the book of Revelation cannot be overemphasized. It contains the key to the right understanding of the rest of the book. If we err here, we will be wrong the rest of the way. The scroll in the right hand of Him that sat upon the throne is the official document which determines the great crisis and climax of human history. – **Lehman Strauss**

The great leaders of the world often make their predictions and plans, but they will all come to naught. It is Christ Himself who holds the destiny of the world in His hands as represented in the sacred scroll in view here in Revelation 5.

Slide # 3

Psalm 33:10–11 (NKJV)

10 The LORD brings the counsel of the nations **to nothing**; He makes the plans of the peoples of **no effect**.

11 The counsel of the LORD **stands forever**, The plans of His heart to all generations.

The emphasis in both chapter 4 and 5 is on WORSHIP. Worship is the major activity of heaven. In chapter 4 the emphasis is on worship in relation to God the Father being Creator, in chapter 5 the emphasis is on worship in relation to redemption through God the Son.

Revelation 5:1–7 (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.

Here, we are introduced to the “scroll,” which becomes dominant in relation to what follows. It is central in chapter five as seen in verses 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9.

As noted in chapter 4, it is the Father who is seated on the throne. His right hand represents absolute authority and power.

In His right hand, John saw a scroll, and it had writing on both the inside and on the outside and was sealed with seven seals.

The number 7 in the book of Revelation represents perfection or completion. It is used about 50 times in the book, as it shows how God is bringing all things to the consummation of completion.

Whatever the message is in this scroll, it is complete, and nothing can be added to it.

We are not actually told here in chapter 5 what the contents of the scroll were. However, many believe that this is the rest of the story that was sealed in the time of Daniel (cf. Dan. 8:26; 10:21).

Slide # 4

Daniel 12:4 (NKJV)

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.”

Daniel 12:9 (NKJV)

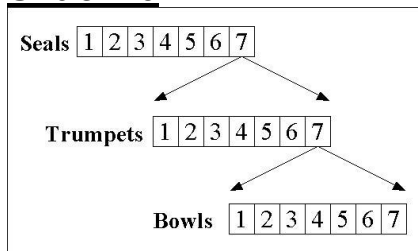
9 And he said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.”

Daniel was given the broad outline of end time realities but was not filled in on the details. But now with the unsealing of the scroll these details are brought forth as seen in the book of Revelation.

As we get into chapter 6 and on, we see that these seven seals are opened by Jesus. The opening of these seals represents judgment! Each one unleashes a series of judgments (cf. Ezek. 2:9-10). Really, all the judgments are related to these 7 seals. Out of the 7th seals come the trumpet judgments, and out of the trumpet judgments come the climactic bowl judgments.

It is like a combination package that is one, but at the same time involves the evolving of numerous distinct parts, as seen in the unfolding of it.

Slide # 5



This series of judgments come with increasing frequency and intensity. The climactic trumpet judgment introduces the final bowl judgments, which come at a furious climactic speed that will usher in the coming of Christ. So much so that at the sounding of the 7th trumpet, we have this statement.

Slide # 6

Revelation 11:15 (NKJV)

15 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!"

This is where all these judgments are building toward – the coming of Lord and His kingdom!

This scroll, which contains the judgments that will subdue and purge the world, is often referred to as "***the title deed to the earth***". God intended for mankind to rule the world for Him! We see this in the dominion mandate of Genesis 1 (cf. Ps. 8).

As Creator, God is ever sovereign over all, and He is still the rightful owner of the world (Ps. 24:1). However, in the fall, Satan became a usurper and wrested away from mankind “rulership” over the world. Jesus called Satan “the ruler of this world” in John 12:31.

Satan, in effect, under the sovereignty of God, assumed the title deed of the earth in some fashion at the fall of mankind. This is why he could offer the kingdoms of the world to Christ in his tempting of Him.

Slide # 7

Luke 4:5–6 (NKJV)

5 Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him **all the kingdoms of the world** in a moment of time.

6 And the devil said to Him, “**All this authority I will give You**, and their glory; **for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.**”

Prophetically, Psalm 2:8 has God the Father ultimately restoring the earth to mankind in the person of the Messiah.

Slide # 8

Psalm 2:8 (NKJV)

8 Ask of Me, and **I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.**

Thus, this scroll represents the title deed of the earth and a restoration of the earth for mankind. It represents both the power and authority to take it back. And it presents the process in which it will happen.

This scroll is not a detailed account of what Christ will inherit, but rather a detailed account of **HOW** He, as the representative of mankind, will take back for mankind what was lost in the fall.

While the scroll is a scroll of doom and judgment, it is also a scroll of redemption. It tells how Christ will redeem [release] the world from the usurper Satan, and those men and demons who have collaborated with him. – ***John MacArthur***

2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?”

We are not told who this strong angel was, but he proclaimed with a loud voice – so loud as to be heard throughout the universe. And his proclamation question was this: **“Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?”**

If you understand what is being said, this really is the ultimate question!

Who is worthy to take the title deed of the earth and put in motion its contents that will take back the possession of the earth for mankind? Who is able to restore the world for mankind? That is the issue!

In the Roman Empire, everyone understood that a SEALED title deed or a will could only be opened by the legitimate heir. To break a sealed document without having the right to do so under Roman law could be a capital offense. It was most serious!

Only one who is worthy could open this scroll and unleash its seals! Who is worthy to unleash the judgments that will determine the destiny of the world? That is what is at issue here!

Worthy is a matter of who a person inherently is. It is a matter of intrinsic worth and value. In the Bible, only God is ultimately WORTHY in this sense (cf. 2 Sam. 22:4; Ps. 18:3). We see this, for example, in chapter 4, where worthiness is a matter of worship, which is tied to God being Creator. Only God is worthy of worship as seen throughout the whole Bible.

Slide # 9

Revelation 4:10–11 (NKJV)

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.”

Often, the worth of God is contrasted with the unworthiness of man.

For example, in Isaiah 6, when Isaiah saw the Lord high and lifted up sitting on His throne, and the seraphim chanting “Holy, holy, holy,” he cried out, “Woe is me for I am undone!” (Isa.. 6:1-5). In Luke 5, when Peter saw the miracle of Jesus, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man.”

John the Baptist said he was not worthy to loose the sandals of Jesus (Mk. 1:7). In Matt. 8:8 the centurion said he was not worthy that Jesus should come under his roof.

Only God has ultimate worth – only He is ultimately worthy! Jesus, as the God-Man, is worthy because of Who He inherently is.

Worthy in the NT also is applied to one who is deserving and they are deserving because of God's enablement. Again, it ultimately redounds back to God. All the glory for worthiness goes back to God.

Jesus as the God-Man is shown to be worthy by virtue of meeting all the Messianic Qualifications laid down in the Scriptures.

All the way through the gospels, the emphasis on Jesus' humanity in His state of humility was His dependence upon God. As our great example, He depended upon God perfectly – without flaw – even to the point of the death of the cross (Jn. 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; 17:4; Heb. 12:1-2). Hence, He is shown to be worthy – deserving.

Slide # 10

Philippians 2:8–11 (NKJV)

8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became **obedient to the point of death**, even the death of the cross.

9 Therefore God also has **highly exalted Him** and given Him the name which is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Slide # 11

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,

Jesus is deserving by virtue of His impeccable character. He is worthy in that He fulfilled all the requirements to be the Savior of the world. He is worthy in that, as the God-Man, God the Father has given to Him all authority and power in heaven and on earth. No matter the angle one looks at, Jesus is found totally worthy! But no one else is worthy!

The question was one of being worthy – not willing! There have been many who acted like they were willing. Satan was more than willing, but unworthy. Many of the great leaders of history asserted themselves, indicating they were willing, but all are found lacking and not worthy!

The whole issue here is one of worthiness before God. God holds the scroll. Who is worthy to take it from Him? That is the great issue!

To be worthy, one had to have the right credentials – intrinsic credentials, Messianic credentials, prophetic credentials, moral credentials, genealogical credentials, and human credentials.

Matthew, writing to the Jews at great length, proves that Jesus is qualified to be the Messiah. In chapter 1 he proves his legal right to the throne by genealogy; in chapter 4 he proves His moral right to the throne by overcoming Satan's temptations; in chapters 5-7 he proves His judicial right to the throne through His proper interpretation of the Mosaic Law; and in Matthew 8-10 he proves Jesus prophetic right to the throne through His healing ministry in fulfillment of prophecy, etc.

The record of the gospels is one long record of showing Jesus is WORTHY!

In order to represent mankind, this person must be human (1 Tim. 2:5-6; Heb. 2:14). In order to be a worthy Savior, He had to be God. Jesus is both – He is both God and Man in ONE person. This is the constant emphasis of Scripture as seen, for example, in what I call “the ones” – that is, in Matthew 1, in John 1, in Romans 1, in Colossians 1, and in Hebrews 1.

To be worthy, He must be a person approved of by God and fulfill all the God ordained requirements.

Who is in a position to be the Savior of the world? Who is able to take back the world on behalf of mankind? Who is able to defeat Satan and all the hostile forces of evil and take back the title deed of the earth?

Who is worthy in the sense of being qualified before God to do it? Worthy implies not only willingness, but also the God-enabled qualifications and ability to do it. Only such a person would be deserving of this great honor? Only such a person would be worthy? Where can we find such a person?

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.

No one in the whole of the universe was found worthy (cf. Ex. 20:4; Ps. 146:6; Phil. 2:10)! No one anywhere could open the scroll or even look at it.

In response to the question “Who is worthy?” the whole of the universe was silent. No one raised their hand! No holy prophet was worthy? No apostle was worthy? No holy angel was worthy? There was no worthy representative for mankind to be found?

David Koresh was a cult leader of the Branch Davidians (an offshoot of the Seventh-day Adventists). He claimed to be a prophet who could interpret and “unseal” the **Seven Seals** from the Book of Revelation. He was working on this and refused to give himself up, which led to a 51-day siege with federal agents in 1993. In the end, David Koresh and about 80 cult members (including children) died when the compound burned down on April 19, 1993.

David Koresh is called “The Wacko from Waco.” He was a false prophet and certainly was totally unworthy of unsealing the Revelation Scroll, as is everyone else. When you start claiming you are WORTHY to do what the Bible plainly says no one is qualified to do (with one exception) you are completely full of yourself and under demonic influence.

Slide # 12

If only revelation were included in the opening of the scroll, others worthy of the task could have been found. The OT prophets, for example, revealed the future (cf. Amos 3:7), but they were unable to implement their predictions in history... . So *anoixai* [worthy] must include not only the telling of the prophecies contained in the scroll, but also the ability to make them come true... - **Robert Thomas**

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

This implies that John understood the issue involved – that no one was found worthy to take the scroll (the title deed of the world) and bring about restoration for mankind. If mankind has no representative to take back the earth for us, then all is lost – there will be no restoration, there will be no kingdom – there will be no glorious destiny for mankind or the world. All is lost! Forever, the title deed of the world is in the hands of Satan! There is no one to bring about restoration! This is unthinkably terrible!

And so John wept much! The emphasis is that he wept profusely! This is the sense of wailing uncontrollably! It expresses unrestrained emotion.

This signified that no one was able to bring to fulfillment the events contained within the scroll and thereby take the earth back for mankind.

No justice for the saints...

No future kingdom....

No fulfillment of the purposes of God in terms of His redemptive purposes for the earth.

Dr. Michael Vlach has written a book titled “**Premillennialism**” with the subtitle, “**Why There Must Be a Future Earthly Kingdom of Jesus**”. At the end of the book, in his conclusion, he writes these 4 points.

Slide # 13

1. There must be a successful reign of man and the Last Adam (Jesus) *from and over* the realm where God tasked the first Adam to rule.
2. Jesus must have a sustained and visible reign in the realm where He was rejected.
3. There must be a vindication and reign of the saints in the realm where they were persecuted.
4. There needs to be a time in history when all aspects of the biblical covenants and promises are fulfilled.

-Dr. Michael J. Vlach

If there is no one qualified to open the scroll, then all of this will remain unfulfilled! In that case let the uncontrolled weeping continue!

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 told John to stop weeping! There is no need for weeping because One called “the Lion of the tribe of Judah, The Root of David” has prevailed to open the scroll and loose its seals. There is one exception in all the universe. There is someone worthy/qualified to take the scroll and take control of the title deed of the earth for the sake of mankind.

“The Lion of the tribe of Judah” and “The Root of David” are both Messianic titles. The Messiah is the special chosen One prophesied in the OT Who would come as both a Deliverer and a Ruler. He is the hope of God’s people down through the ages.

The title “The Lion of the tribe of Judah” goes back to Genesis 49:9-10.

Slide # 14**Genesis 49:9–10 (NKJV)**

9 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?

10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

The lion is commonly called “The king of the beasts”. It is stately and powerful in appearance. It symbolizes royal strength! The tribe of Judah is identified as a LION! It is to this tribe that God gave the scepter and it would not depart from him. And it says this would be in place “Until Shiloh comes”.

The word “**Shiloh**” is a somewhat obscure word, but most think it means “**to whom it belongs.**” The sense then, is that the scepter – the right to rule, belongs to the tribe of Judah. It will remain there until the One comes to Whom it ultimately belongs; namely, the Lord Jesus Christ Who be of the tribe of Judah. Ezekiel 21:27 strengthens this view.

Slide # 15**Ezekiel 21:27 (NKJV)**

27 Overthrown, overthrown, I will make it overthrown! It shall be no longer, Until He comes whose right it is, And I will give it to Him.” ’

So, the sense is that (in Judah alone) royalty would reside until the coming of the Messiah, to whom the scepter ultimately belongs. And when He comes to rule, the people will obey Him. The phrase “**And to Him shall be the obedience of the people**” relates to the Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ, when Christ will rule universally (cf. Ps. 2:8-9, Dan. 7:13-14, Mt. 2:6, Lk. 1:30-33, Rev. 5:5, 19:11-16).

This “Lion of the tribe of Judah” is “Shiloh” – the One to whom the scepter, the right to rule, belongs!

He is also called “the Root of David”. This title comes from Isaiah 11:1 and 10 (cf. Rom. 15:12). In Rev. 22:16 Jesus says He is the “Root and the Offspring of David”. Here in 5:6 He is said to be the root, meaning the source. He is David’s Creator and yet at the same time He was the offspring (human descendant) of David.

These titles show that the one who has prevailed is the prophesied Messiah. He comes from the tribe of Judah. He is tied to the root of David in perfect accord with what was prophesied.

The genealogies in Matthew 1 and Luke 1 both link Jesus to David, one on His mother's side and the other on the side of Joseph. In Romans 1:3 Paul says that Jesus Christ our Lord "was born of the seed of David according to the flesh." The Messianic title "Son of David" is commonly used of Jesus in the gospels (cf. Mt. 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30-31; 21:9, 15; 22:42; Mk. 12:35).

The Messiah (Jesus) has prevailed, meaning He has conquered or overcome – He has emerged victoriously as seen in His death and resurrection – as seen in His defeat of sin, death, and the devil. He has prevailed as a man, the God-Man, to become Lord and Judge of all (cf. Acts 2:36; 10:36).

Slide # 16

John 5:22 (NKJV)

22 For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,

Acts 17:31 (NKJV)

31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained [Jesus]. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

After His resurrection Jesus announced that as the God-Man, all authority is now given to Him. As God He always shared in this, but now as the God-Man, His humanity has now been exalted to this status. There is now a man (a representative of humanity) in this position.

Slide # 17

Matthew 28:18–20 (NKJV)

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

In the accomplishment of His death and resurrection, Jesus has prevailed. What this means, as we will see later on in the chapter, is that He has provided redemption. In verse 9, heaven sings a new song proclaiming redemption through Christ's blood.

To redeem means to deliver by paying a price – to release.

There are three aspects to redemption. We have been delivered from the PENALTY of sin, we are being delivered from the POWER of sin, and in the future at Christ's return we will be delivered from the PRESENCE of sin.

What is in view here in opening the scroll and its seven seals is ultimately the completion of God's redemptive program – the final stage of releasing God's people and the world from the effects of sin. This is what Romans 8 is talking about.

Slide # 18

Romans 8:21–23 (NKJV)

21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

This looks forward to the coming of Christ when He will have brought to pass the final stage of redemption – the complete release from all the effects of sin.

Not only will believers be in a glorified body (the redemption of the body), but the whole of creation will also be freed from the bondage of corruption it entered into at the fall. The world will then enter into the glorious golden age of the kingdom.

This is what the loosing of the seals represents – it represents Christ in judgment subduing the rebel world, purging the world of sin and rebellion, and bringing in His kingdom. Christ as the Lion of Judah has thus prevailed!

He is empowered to bring this about! He is worthy to thus take the scroll and implement its contents – contents of judgment that bring all into conformity to His Lordship. It is called “***The Day of the Lord***” for a reason. In this day, Christ will irrevocably establish His Lordship over all the earth!

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.

As John looked to see “the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David” he, with amazement, saw “in the midst of the throne, and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders” a Lamb standing as though it had been slain. What a shocking reality! The Lion is also a Lamb!

This Lamb is the centerpiece! He is right in the midst of the throne, in the midst of the four living creatures (the worship leaders of heaven), and in the midst of the elders (the representatives of the church).

As He steps into the spotlight, His right is instantly owned. And notice this: From the moment the Lamb is put into the picture, John cannot take his eyes off of Him. He mentions Him again and again – four times within the space of the rest of this chapter alone (5:6, 8, 12, 13). – ***John Phillips***

As prevailing conqueror, Christ will judge and come in glory as a Lion, but this is all based on what He accomplished as His first coming as a LAMB! He was prophesied to come as a Lamb, John the Baptist introduced Him as a Lamb, and the NT shows what He fulfilled as the sacrificial Lamb.

Slide # 19

Isaiah 53:7 (NKJV)

7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led **as a lamb** to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

John 1:29 (NKJV)

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! **The Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world!

1 Peter 1:18–19 (NKJV)

18 knowing that you were not **redeemed** with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,

19 but **with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb** without blemish and without spot.

Jesus came to undo the damage of Satan – to destroy the works of the devil – which are death and destruction.

Slide # 20

Hebrews 2:14 (NKJV)

14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, **that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,**

1 John 3:8 (NKJV)

8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the **Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.**

Christ in His death has made the restoration of all things possible, in the sense of reconciling His blood-bought people who find refuge in Him through faith.

Slide # 21

Colossians 1:20 (NKJV)

20 and by Him to **reconcile all things to Himself**, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace **through the blood of His cross.**

This really messed with the devil's plans! His goal is death and damnation for all. His goal is misery and destruction on the earth forever. But Jesus has provided a remedy – a means of reconciliation and restoration.

Note this Lamb is STANDING! After His resurrection, Christ is pictured as seated at the right hand of God in His position of exaltation. This emphasizes His finished work on the cross. His work is completed so He has sat down (cf. Heb. 1:3). But when it comes time to judge the world He will get off the throne and move to judge the world. That is what we have here in Revelation 5:6.

Slide # 22**Hebrews 10:12–13 (NKJV)**

12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever,
sat down at the right hand of God,

13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.

In the narrative, we have now come to the “till”. Christ has now got off the throne, is standing, and about to approach the Father to receive the scroll of judgment by which He will subdue the world!

Standing indicates He is no longer dead. Yes, He was slain and He still bears the marks of His crucifixion – even in heaven. After His resurrection, Jesus invited Thomas to look at the nail prints in His hands and feel His pierced side (Jn. 20:27). When Christ comes at His second coming, Zechariah 12:10 says they will look on Him whom they pierced (cf. Zech. 13:6). For all eternity Christ will bear the marks of His crucifixion. We will never forget that we owe all to Him for all eternity!

There is a song called, “**Scars in Heaven**”...

“ The only scars in Heaven,
they won't belong to me and you
...the only scars in Heaven
are on the Hands that hold you now ”

-Excerpt from the song “Scars in Heaven” - Written by
Mark Hall / Matthew West (Casting Crowns)

As is often said, “The wounds of Christ are the only manmade things in heaven.”

Revelation 5:6 is the first mention of Lamb in Revelation, but then it is mentioned another 27 times for a total of 28 times in the Book (cf. Jn. 1:29, 36; Acts 8:32; 1 Pet. 1:19). This Lamb theme becomes prominent. Everything in terms of the completion of God’s plan of redemption is based on the LAMB!

As a Lamb, Jesus the Messiah has conquered and is now in the position of the LION! But the emphasis here is that all is based on what He has accomplished as the Lamb. And His resurrection PROVED it! At this point, He is the Lamb STANDING in heaven. He is the resurrected Lamb now in the position of a Lion, ready to take back control of the world!

This Lamb had “seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.” Again, the number SEVEN in Revelation represents completion or perfection.

Horns in the Bible are a symbol of strength (cf. 1 Sam. 2:1, 10; 2 Sam. 22:3; Ps. 18:2; 75:10; 89:17, 24; Jer. 48:25; Dan. 7:8, 20, 24; Mic. 4:13). Seven horns here represent perfect strength or what we call omnipotence. The Lamb is all-powerful.

Seven eyes represent perfect sight or all-knowing, what we call omniscience. This Lamb is all-powerful and all-knowing.

And this is implemented through the “seven Spirits” of God, which we believe figuratively represent the Holy Spirit in all His fullness (cf. 1:4; 4:5).

He is called “the Spirit of Christ” (Rom. 8:9; cf. Col. 1:27). Christ sent the Spirit (Jn. 14; 16:7). It is the Spirit that glorifies Christ (Jn. 16:14).

The Spirit is sent out into all the earth – representing omniscience in regard to the work of judgment – which is the context here.

Slide # 23

The LAMB- Revelation 5:6

Centerpiece of Heaven (in the midst)

Died and Resurrected (slain/stood)

Omnipotence (seven horns)

Omniscience (seven eyes)

Omnipresent (seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth)

The lion character refers to His second coming; the lamb character to His first coming. The lion is symbolic of His majesty; the lamb is symbolic of His meekness. As a lion He is a Sovereign; as a lamb He is a Savior. As lion He is a Judge; as a lamb He is judged. The lion represents the government of God; the lamb represents the grace of God. – ***J Vernon McGee***

What a glorious reality is the WHOLE PERSON of Christ – as the Lion and as the Lamb.

As Lion He is Lord, as Lamb He is Savior!

With all this background, we are now introduced to the climactic moment all of history has been waiting for...

Drum roll, please...

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

And as He does so, the rest of the chapter shows that the whole of the universe goes wild with worshipful enthusiasm! This is the moment that the whole of God's created order, the whole of God's people, the whole of God's holy angels, have been waiting for! Everything in the book has been building toward this moment! This climactic act signifies the regaining of all that was lost!

The Lion-Lamb is worthy, and He took the scroll out of the right hand of the Father who sits on the throne. He is now ready to unleash the seal judgments contained in the scroll. Everything from here on out is based on this action!

It sets in motion all that is to follow – the judgment of false religion, the purging of the earth of rebels, the final call for salvation, Satan being vanquished from the earth, death to be destroyed, the curse lifted, and the kingdom to come!

This action coincides with what Daniel prophetically saw in Daniel 7:13-14.

Slide # 24

Daniel 7:13–14 (NKJV)

13 “I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! **He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him.**

14 Then **to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,** That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.

Weeping is now over – celebratory praise and worship are about to ensue! The scene is in heaven, and judgment is about to begin on the earth! Jesus has now taken the position of Judge!

OLD MINA AND THE LAMB

Irena Wenholz left Moody Church in Chicago and went to Morocco, North Africa, to serve as a missionary among Muslims.

One morning Irena heard a tapping at her door. Opening it, she saw Mina standing there with her stick. She was blind! She invited her in.

“What are you doing?” was Mina’s blunt question. Here God gave Irena unusual wisdom. “I’m having my second breakfast,” she replied. “Two breakfasts! Our people hardly have enough for one breakfast,” responded Mina to this remarkable statement. “Well,” Irena went on, “I ate my first breakfast earlier. That was coffee and bread. That was for my body, but I am more than body. I’m spirit too. So now I’m having my spiritual breakfast; I’m reading my Holy Book.”

“Oh, you have a Holy Book? Is it as big as our Qu’ran?” “Oh, yes, it’s bigger.”

“Does it have a lot of parts?” “Yes, it has 66 parts.” “Which part are you reading?” “I’m reading the last part.” “What is it called?” “It’s called the Revelation of Jesus Christ.” “Well, I have nothing to do. I’ll sit here, and you read that part to me – from beginning to end.” Gulp! But she did. Irena read the whole book of Revelation to Mina in Arabic, of course, from right to left. Had Mina gone to sleep? Was she listening?

When Irena reached the final Amen, Mina asked a very astute question. It was not about the seals, bowls, trumpets, angels or voices. ***“Who is that lamb you read about in your book?”*** she asked. Here was a poor, blind, uneducated woman who had caught the essential message of the book of Revelation, for it is all about the Lamb. Some 28 times in the book, Jesus is referred to as the Lamb, and Mina sensed that this was the key to the Revelation. Irena explained to her that it is the Lamb of God who takes away sin.

Some time later, Mina came by again: “Read to me again about the lamb,” she requested. This time Irena wanted to read from the Gospel of John, but, no, Mina wanted the Revelation once more. Mina shared that an event called [Big Feast” a Muslim Festival] commemorating Abraham’s near sacrifice of his son.] was coming soon. Mina said, “My husband will bring a lamb from his flock and sacrifice it. I’ll put my hand in the blood, put it on my clothes and the walls of my room. The blood of my husband’s lamb will carry me over into the next world.” And she went away.

A few days before the feast, Mina came again to Irena. “I’ve told my husband not to bother bringing a lamb from his flock for me,” she said. “I’ve come to share your Lamb.” They knelt, and Mina herself became one of the Lamb’s flock. - **By John Barcus** in THE GOSPEL MESSAGE (2001 Issue 1) a publication of GMU – Edited by me.

It's all about the Lamb! But the Lamb is about to assume the role of Lion!

In His death, He is the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world,
in His resurrection, He assumes the role of Lion as Lord over all!

Who is He to you? Is He your Savior and Lord?

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved!