



Revelation 5...“Jesus is Worthy”

Revelation 5:1, *“Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals.”*

The Roll (Scroll) in the hand of God

Taken from the vision in Ezekiel 2:9, 10.

Roll or scroll, not a book.

In the ancient world, down to the 2nd century, the roll or scroll was used instead of a book as a form of literary work.

Roll was made of papyrus; manufactured in single sheets about 10 inches by 8. The sheets were joined together when a great deal of writing had to be done. Narrow columns about 3” long, $\frac{3}{4}$ ” between columns. The roll had a wooden roller at each end.

Held in the left hand and unrolled with the right. As the reading went on, the part in the left hand was rolled up again.

Dimensions of a roll—2nd and 3rd John, Jude and Philemon would occupy about one sheet of papyrus. Romans would be 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ ’ long. Revelations, 15’ long.

2 Things about the Roll:

(1) It was written on both sides (recto side and verso side).
“What God had to say was lengthy”

(2) It was sealed with 7 seals

Symbol of completion, finality.

May indicate either or both of two (2) things:

1. The document was God’s will—The one ordinary document sealed with 7 seals was a will. Seven witnesses to a will sealed it with their seals. God’s will. His final settlement of the affairs of the universe.

2. Profound secrecy. So secret that it is sealed with 7 seals.
No unauthorized person could possibly open it.

God’s Book of Destiny

Revelation 5:2-4, *“And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?”³ But no one*

in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. ⁴ I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.”

A strong angel proclaims it...Appears again in 10:1 and 18:21. The voice had to be so strong that the challenge of his voice might reach throughout the universe... “Is there anyone worthy to open the book?”

The book was a record of that which is to happen in the last times.

John wept---The voice had made a promise to him. No one was coming forward.

The promise could not be fulfilled because:

- ***No one in the universe was good enough.***

A world so far from God that none was worthy.

- ***John sees his unworthiness.***

If only I could have stood up to the test... “Woe is me!”

- ***God cannot deliver a message to men unless there be a man fit to receive it.***

Wait! Wait!

Revelation 5:5, “Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

A promise to John...There is One who is worthy...Only One!

Two great titles of Jesus (Revelation 5:5)

- (1) **He is the Lion of Judah.**

Genesis 49:9, Judah was “a lion’s whelp”...The greatest member of the tribe of Judah...The lion of Judah.

The strength of a lion and his undoubted place as king of the beasts make him a fitting emblem of the all-powerful Messiah whom the Jews awaited.

- (2) **He is the Root of David.**

Isaiah 11:1, 10. Jesse was the father of David. Jesus Christ was the Son of David, the promised Messiah.

Jesus, the Lamb... Revelation 5:6, “Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.”

Jesus was called “the lamb” 29 times in Revelation.

Arnion used here, not Amnos.

Amnos used other places; but, not in Revelation. Arnion used only in Revelation—a new conception of Christ, The Messiah, which John is bringing.

Pictures Jesus as the Lamb who still has the marks of having been slain.

The sacrifice of Christ, still visible in the heavenly places.

A final, eternal remembrance of what Jesus did for the sinner.

Praise the Father for giving His Son.

Praise Jesus for suffering the penalty we deserve.

Praise the Holy Spirit for making it possible for the conviction and convincing that Jesus was “the real sacrifice....and that the Father and His Son loves us so much.”

7 Horns stands for two (2) things:

1. Power—The power of the Lamb is perfect.

**2. Honor—*In the favor of God our horn shall be exalted (Psalm 89:17)*
*The good man’s horn shall be exalted with honor (Psalm 112:9).***

Seven (7) stands for perfection.

7 Eyes stands for the omniscience of God.

Omniscience = having total knowledge (knows everything).

Zechariah 4:10, “...the seven eyes of the LORD that range throughout the earth will rejoice...”

Meaning: There is no place on earth that is not under the eye of God.

Revelation 5:7, “He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.”

The Lamb took the scroll...He is the only One worthy to open the Will of God.

The Will as to what is going to happen in the future. God has willed it...and the Lamb is the only One who took the authority from the hand of God...to open the 7 seals.

Hebrews 7:27, “Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.”

Revelation 5:8-14, “And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. ¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.” ¹¹ Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. ¹² In a loud voice they were saying: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” ¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, forever and ever!” ¹⁴ The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.”

The New Song: All singing and worshipping...giving glory to the One who is worthy.

He is worthy for three (3) specific reasons in this new song:

- 1. “Because you were slain.” The mediation for men on Calvary’s cross. Jesus did not have to do it. He willed it...He knew His mission and fulfilled it. He gave to get the benefit of having millions to gain entrance to the Father’s Kingdom by way of the cross.***
- 2. “Purchased for God (with His blood) persons from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation.” A promise to you and me that He will not give up on us no matter where we live or what language we speak or who we are (rich or poor). He has made Himself available to us...but, we are the ones who are to take the message to the world.***

Isn’t it something that he uses us to be the bearer of the “Good News” to a world so lost and undone?

Isn’t it ironic that we can be a BEARER of the “Good News” or a BARRIER for the Good News? Our choice!!

Bearer = a person or thing that carries something.

Barrier = a fence, wall, or other thing that blocks the way or keeps one from going on.

- 3. “...Made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.” We are members of God’s spiritual kingdom into which we are born when we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. We are His priests, doing the work of priests, conveying to people (our family, friends, and neighbors) the Gospel in this age.***

When Christ comes again in His glory, we believers will be with Him “to rule and to reign.”

Note: The four living creatures who worshipped God, the Father...have now turned their worship to the One who took the sealed book.

We have two who are worthy of being worshiped by the 24 elders and the 4 living creatures...and all of creation worships both of them.

All of creation = According to Revelation 5, It means:

24 elders

4 living creatures

10,000 X 10,000 angels plus thousands upon thousands = All angels in heaven

Every creature in heaven

Every creature on earth

Every creature under the earth

Every creature on the sea.

Every creature in them...All of the above!

All....Saying and Singing...

***“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!***

***To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honor and glory and power,
for ever and ever!”***

NOTE: THE 2ND STANZA PRAISES GOD THE FATHER AND GOD THE SON!

WHAT A STATEMENT! WHAT A GLORIOUS SIGHT!

