

## **A Vision of the Lamb, Part 1**

### **Revelation 5:1–4**

#### **A Vision of the Lamb. A Vision of the Lamb.”**

All the glorious action and all the glorious praise as Almighty God stirs from the posture of patience to ready Himself to end man’s day and Satan’s day in an ultimate holocaust of ignited judgment, really set by the tribulation is about to break loose.

God begins to move. He is about to unleash His wrath, about to ignite the tribulation which sets as sort of like the pilot light to set on fire the conflagration of the end, the time when the Lord takes back the universe, and paradise is regained.

And the center of this aspect of the scene in heaven in chapter 5 is the one who leads the redemption. This is the moment that we’ve been waiting for. This is the moment that I believe every Christian anticipates.

This is the moment when the redemption, as Paul calls it in Ephesians 1:14, of God’s own possession takes place. This is the moment that all creation, according to Romans 8, has been groaning for. This is the moment of the glorious manifestation of the children of God.

**Chapter 5 “And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book” – or a scroll, literally – “written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals.”**

**And John says, “I saw it.” “and I saw”**

He says, “I saw” – *epi* in the Greek – “upon the right hand of Him who sat on the throne,” Almighty God with the outstretched hand. And what did he see? A scroll, *biblion*, a scroll.

**“It was written inside and on the back, and it was sealed up with seven seals.”**

The only thing initially that culturally looks familiar to us there at first might be that the Romans sealed a will seven times. When somebody wrote their will they sealed it seven times.

The seal would be on the edge. That prevented people from looking at it without the authorization.

The fact is, this was typical of a contract in the ancient world, very typical.

In other words, it was very important once it was sealed multiple times and couldn't be opened by any unauthorized person to write on the outside of the scroll something that would describe what was in it.

Support comes also from Hebrew practices. The Hebrew document most closely resembling this scroll was a title deed, which was folded and signed, requiring at least three witnesses.

We can safely say that this scroll is some kind of a contract or a deed. It is some kind of a statement about ownership in this case.

**Jeremiah 32 Verse 8, “Then Hanamel my uncle’s son came to me in the court of the guard according to the word of the Lord and said to me, ‘Buy my field, please, that is at Anathoth, which is in the land of Benjamin; for you have the right of possession and the redemption is yours; buy it for yourself.’”**

**verse 8: “Then I knew that this was the word of the Lord.” “I knew indeed it was the word of the Lord. And I bought the field which was at Anathoth from Hanamel my uncle’s son, and I weighed out the silver for him, seventeen shekels of silver. And I signed and sealed the deed, and called in witnesses, and weighed out the silver on the scales.”**

**Verse 11 says, “I took the deeds of purchase, both the sealed copy containing the terms and conditions and the open copy.”**

**What you have here is very similar to the double writing in the sealed document in Revelation 5. Here there’s a second document.**

**The sealed document is kept in the file, never to be opened, and it is written on the outside as to a summary of what’s in it.**

**“And I gave the deeds of purchase to Baruch the son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah, in the sight of Hanamel my uncle’s son and in the sight of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, before all the Jews who were sitting in the court of the guard.”**

**“And I commanded Baruch in their presence saying, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, ‘Take these deeds, this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, put them in an earthenware jar, that they may last a long time.’”**

**“For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, ‘Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.’”**

**The promise of God that there would be a return. And so, there would be a restoration. There would be a time coming back into the land.**

**And, in fact, Jeremiah 29:10 says the land would be more valuable then than it was at this time. Such deeds typically were written and sealed, and then put in some kind of an earthen jar, and even buried in the ground.**

**Similarly, here in Revelation 5 is a title deed. It is a title deed to the earth. The earth and the universe came under captivity in the fall. But the document that displays who really owns it, God has had all the time in His possession.**

The scroll contains not descriptions of the earth and the universe, nor descriptions of God Himself, but detailed descriptions of His judgments, of His attacks, of His wrath, of His vengeance, and of His repossession of what is rightfully His. The scroll contains, in fact, the full account of how the Lord Jesus Christ, the rightful heir, will take back what is His by an acting, severe wrath. It is a scroll then of doom, a scroll of doom.

We can say the consequences of this scroll's contents are immeasurable and eternal. What you have then is the official document that determines the climax of human history as God takes back His universe.

The vision of chapter 1 parallels the vision of Revelation 4, and the sealed scroll of chapter 5 parallels the sealed scroll of Ezekiel 2.

**Verse 9 of Ezekiel 2, "I looked, behold, a hand was extended to me; and lo, a scroll was in it. When He spread it out before me, it was written on the front and on the back, and written on it were lamentations, mourning and woe."**

**Daniel 12: 4, "But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the scroll until the end of time; Many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase."**

The vision of the future time of tribulation, the career of Antichrist and his operation is done. And so, the Lord says to Daniel, "Roll up the scroll. Roll it up and seal it until the end of time. Seal it up."

**Verse 4 “Seal up the book” – or the scroll – “until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase.”**

Every Old Testament use of this verb form “going back and forth,” every time it is used in the Old Testament in the form that it is in here, it refers to the movement of a person in search of something. Someone searching and searching and searching, most frequently searching for information, for understanding, for truth.

You find such uses in 2 Chronicles 16:9, Jeremiah 5:1, Jeremiah 49:3, Amos 8:12, Zechariah 4:10, and elsewhere.

**Verse 4, “and knowledge will increase.” And I believe what the Spirit of God is saying through the glorious angel to Daniel is, they’re going to find some answers.**

Revelation chapter 7, verses 1 to 9, it says there will be an innumerable number of Gentiles converted from every tongue and tribe and people and nation, along with 144,000 Jews who are God’s evangelists.

And I believe that there will be the greatest harvest of souls for the kingdom of any period of time in history. Millions may turn to the Scripture for answers to what is happening in the world, and the knowledge will increase. They will find the answers.

When will this book be unsealed?

Look at verse 5, Daniel 12: “Then I, Daniel, looked and behold, two others were standing, one on this bank of the river and the other on that bank of the river. And one said to the man dressed in linen who was above the waters of the river, ‘How long will it be until the end of these wonders?’”

Two angels ask the question, the question Daniel wanted to ask, “How long will it be until the end of these wonders? When does this happen? When is the scroll opened up and completed?”

Chapter 10 of Daniel and verse 5. “I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, there was a certain man dressed in linen,”– “whose waist was girded with a belt of pure gold of Uphaz. His body also was like beryl,”“His face has the appearance of lightning, His eyes were like flaming torches, His arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of His words like the sound of a tumult.”

I think there’s little question but that this One in fine linen is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ in a preincarnate appearance.

Chapter 12, Verse 8, couldn’t understand so I said, ‘My Lord, what will the outcome of these events be?’

Verse 7: “I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, as He raised His right hand and His left toward heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever” “that it would be for a time, times, and half a time.”

**A time is one, times are two, a half a time is a half; that's one plus two plus a half. It's going to come in a three-and-a-half-year period. We call that period the great tribulation.**

**It's going to come after the shattering of the power of the holy people. What does that mean? The breaking of Israel. It's going to come after Israel is broken through suffering and persecution and devastation. Who is it that brings that upon them? Antichrist.**

**You have a tribulation time of seven years. For the first half of the tribulation, Antichrist makes a pact with Israel.**

**In the middle of the seven years, according to Matthew 24, according to Daniel in his prophecy also, and according to the book of Revelation, there is going to be a tremendous movement against Israel. It's called the abomination of desolations by Daniel and by our Lord in Matthew 24.**

**During the middle of that week the Antichrist has had a peace pact with Israel, he violates it, he starts to persecute them; and that's what begins the three-and-a-half years – the time, times, and half a time. And that's when the full contents of that scroll are unleashed. Seven seals are broken, seven trumpets blow, and seven bowls of wrath are poured out in furious judgment.**



**But it is after the breaking or the shattering of the power of the holy people. What does that mean? It's after Satan and Antichrist have been used to devastate Israel. What does that mean? That devastation becomes their point of salvation, because they lose their self-confidence, they lose their self-sufficiency, they are persecuted, they are devastated.**

**Zechariah Chapter 12 and 13 “They will look on Him whom they've pierced. They'll mourn for Him as an only son. And a fountain for cleansing and salvation will be opened to Israel.”**

**Daniel Verse 8 “As for me, I heard but couldn't understand; so I said, ‘What's going to be the outcome of this? How does it end?’ And the man dressed in linen said, ‘Go your way, Daniel, I can't tell you. These words are concealed and sealed up until the end time.**

**And from the time of the regular sacrifice being abolished, the abomination of desolation being set up, there will be twelve-hundred-and-ninety days' – and he adds another forty-five days in the next verse – ‘until the final setting up of the kingdom.’”**

**Twelve-hundred-and-ninety days is three-and-a-half years. “I can't tell you anymore. I can only tell you that the fury of it is going to unfold in three-and-a-half years. I can't tell you how it's going to end, it's sealed up.”**

**Luke 21:28, “Straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”**

To understand the chapter, we have to divide it into three parts: the search for the Worthy One, the selection of the Worthy One, and the song of the Worthy One.

**Verse 2: “And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?’”**

**Verse 3 “Who is able? “And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth” “was able to open the book or to look into it.”**

**Verse 4 “I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or look into it.”**

When it says, “I began to weep greatly,” he uses the same verb that’s used in Luke 19:41 of Jesus weeping over Jerusalem; unrestrained emotion.

This is the only time there are tears in heaven, except for those shed by God Himself, as they are described in Jeremiah 13; and they were shed, as it were, by God through the eyes of Jeremiah.

