

27. The Book of Revelation—5:1-6

A message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier
(12-16-20)

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Last time we were in Revelation—we got as far as verse 1 of Chapter 5:

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.

As John was raptured to heaven at the beginning of chapter 4—he began to describe what he saw (as we studied in Chapter 4). Now in Chapter 5, as John looks at God the Father on His throne—he notices something in the Father's **right hand**.

As John looks more closely, he sees that the Father has in His right hand—a **scroll**. What is the scroll in the Father's right hand?—I believe that this scroll is the **“title deed”** to the earth.

Let me stop and review from last time with some background information that will help us to understand what is going on here.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth—the earth was the Lord's and the fullness thereof (it belonged to God by virtue of Divine creation—He made it and it belonged to Him). But God then gave the earth to *man* (Mr. and Mrs. 'man', *mankind*—Adam and Eve), when He created them and placed them in the Garden of Eden.

At that time, God told them they were to have *dominion* over the earth as its *caretakers* (Genesis 1:27-28). But then Satan took the form of a serpent, and tempted Eve to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil—the tree God had forbidden them to eat from lest they die.

Eve was fooled by Satan's deception (promising her 'godhood') and ate the fruit, and then she gave some to Adam and he also ate. And as God had said, as soon as they ate the forbidden fruit **they immediately died—but not physically** (although it did set in motion the process of physical death as well)—**they died spiritually**.

What they probably didn't understand was that, in eating the forbidden fruit, not only was their fellowship with God severed—they transferred ownership of the earth (and all that it contained) into the hands of Satan.

The planet God gave man was absolutely perfect—it was man that turned it over to Satan who then corrupted it.

This world is not the world God originally created for mankind to inhabit—it is a fallen, corrupted world. As such, it is manifestly wrong to blame God for all the evil and violence and injustice we see going on around us—it is not God's doing but man's.

As I just said, in that one act of rebellion against God and obedience to the devil—not only did the world fall under the dominion of Satan—so did man:

Romans 6:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness?

When Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, they were immediately *transferred* from the Kingdom of God (the Kingdom of light and life) to the kingdom of Satan (the kingdom of death and darkness).

But not only did Adam's sin (and Eve) cause *them* to become the slaves of Satan—this Fall affected all of their descendants after them—“*In Adam all die*” (1 Corinthians 15:22).

The entire family of Adam was now under the control of the wicked one.

Every man and woman born from that point on would be born into slavery to Satan and sin, doomed to spend eternity in darkness and separation from God—unless they could somehow be redeemed.

But that would be impossible from a human standpoint because no human being could pay the *price* of redemption—sinless perfection (the innocent dying for guilty sinners)—

Psalm 49:7-8 (NKJV)

⁷ None *of them* can by any means redeem *his* brother, Nor give to God a ransom for him-- ⁸ For the redemption of their souls *is* costly...

So, the earth, which God had given to mankind, they now turned over to Satan—and he became earth's new owner and man's new master. In 2 Corinthians 4:4 Paul called Satan “*the god of this world.*”

Let's review briefly from our last study together on the subject of redemption.

Land in Israel was never really *sold* because it belonged to the Lord in perpetuity—“*The earth is the Lord's and all its fullness.*” (Psalm 24:1)

If you couldn't pay off your debt you could “*sell*” your land to your creditor—but it was really only a *lease* agreement and it would by law contain a *redemption clause* so that if you came into some money you could redeem it back.

If you had a blood relative (a ‘kinsman’ Hebrew- *goel*) that had the resources—they could redeem it for you (pay off your debt) and the property would once again become yours to use.

A man according to Jewish law had to satisfy 3 requirements to redeem land in Israel:

1. He had to be a kinsman—a blood relative.
2. He had to be able to redeem the land—he could pay the price.
3. He had to be willing.

When Jesus came to the earth, His purpose in coming was to redeem the world back from the control of Satan—why, because the Lord needed another “rock” (world) spinning in the cosmos? **No!** Because He had to redeem the earth from Satan’s control so He could have the treasure hidden on the earth—

Matthew 13:44 (NKJV)

⁴⁴ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Satan has taken over the earth—the earth doesn’t really *belong* to the devil in the sense of ownership—he only controls it.

It is still the possession of God (“the earth is the Lord’s and all its fullness.”)—which is why the scroll is in the *Father’s* right hand (Revelation 5:1) and not Satan’s right hand.

But Adam transferred control of the earth to Satan in a legal transaction—and therefore, God had to uphold His own law and honor man’s choice.

Which means, if He wanted to deliver control of this world out of the hands of Satan—He would need to send a *goel*—a Redeemer!

Revelation 5:2 (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?"

In other words, “*Who is able to meet the requirements, to pay off the debt?*”

Notice he does not say, “**Who is willing?**”

One author comments—

“Alexander the Great was willing. Genghis Khan was willing. Napoleon was willing. Hitler was willing. There have been lots of people who have said, “*I want to be in power, I want to control the earth.*” But the angel doesn’t ask, “Who is *willing*?” The angel asks, “Who is worthy?”

And notice that when the question is asked—

- The powerful archangel Michael does not answer.
- The mighty angel Gabriel does not answer.
- None of the millions or billions of other angels make a sound.
- None of the righteous in the O.T. period including Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Job, Moses, David, Solomon, Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel says a word.
- None of the righteous in the N.T. period including Peter, Paul or any of the other apostles—nor anyone else from the Church age steps forward.

Revelation 5:3 (NKJV)

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.

A search of the entire universe, from heaven to hell and all points in-between, turns up no one worthy to open the scroll. No one in all the universe could be found worthy to break the seals—no angel (heaven); no man alive (earth); no one in the grave (under the earth)—no one was found worthy to open the scroll—or even to look upon it!

No wonder John wept for he realized that God’s glorious plan of redemption for mankind could never be completed until the scroll was opened.

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.

The Greek word translated “**wept much**” actually means “*sobbed convulsively.*”

John is overcome with uncontrollable grief when he realizes that—if no man is found worthy to take the scroll from the Father’s right hand and open it—the earth would forever remain under the control of Satan!

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."

A title deed can be opened only by the appointed heir—and only the appointed heir could redeem the world from the control of the devil. But according to Jewish law—that heir had to be a relative of the human race—a goel!

Of course, that Heir is Jesus Christ! Jesus became our Redeemer—our *Goel*.

1. He is a *kinsman*, a blood relative by coming down from heaven and being born of a woman;
2. He is *able* to redeem us—He alone could die for the guilty as the sinless, spotless Lamb of God;
3. And He was *willing*—“*No one takes My life from Me I give it freely for the sheep.*”

And so, at this supreme moment of despair and hopelessness when all seemed lost—one of the elders says to John, “**Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah...has prevailed...**”

The “**Lion of the tribe of Judah**” takes us back to Genesis 49, where Jacob calls his twelve sons together around his deathbed—and prophesied over each one (Genesis 49).

When he got to his fourth son Judah he prophesied—

Genesis 49:8, 10 (NKJV)

⁸ "Judah, you *are he* whom your brothers shall praise...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 word ‘**Shiloh**’ is a Messianic term and means,
“*Until he comes to whom it belongs.*”

It refers ultimately to Jesus' rightful rule and authority over the whole earth during the Millennial Kingdom—a right that was established at the cross when His blood redeemed this world back to man—as God (the Owner) had given it to man to rule over in the Garden of Eden.

The first man (Adam) turned the earth over to Satan—in an act of his own free will. The “last Adam”, Jesus Christ, purchased (redeemed) it back so that Man could take His rightful, God-given place as Ruler over the earth once again.

The ‘**scepter**’ is the symbol of a sovereign nation and is emblematic of the right to impose capital punishment on those whose crimes warrant it—as any sovereign nation has the right to do.

According to the historian Josephus—the right of capital punishment was taken away from the nation of Israel in 6 A.D. In the Spring of that year, the Romans issued a decree declaring that the Jewish people would no longer be allowed to carry out capital punishment in their land.

The rabbis’ response to the decree was immediate. They believed capital punishment was the cornerstone of sovereign government as defined in the Noahic Covenant.

They rightly understood that when Rome denied them this fundamental right of governance—it in essence deprived them of their sovereign nation status and officially rendered them a vassal state of Rome.

When that happened, the rabbis flooded into the streets, tore their clothes, put ashes on their heads and went through the streets of Jerusalem smiting their breasts, weeping and wailing.

In fact, we are told the whole nation was filled with the wailing of rabbis who understood that something terrible had happened—the Scriptures had been broken!

The promise of God had failed, the right of capital punishment (the right of any sovereign nation), had been taken from them—the scepter had departed from Judah and Shiloh (Messiah) had not come!

But what they didn’t know was that 70 miles to the north, in the town of Nazareth, there lived with His mother and stepfather a young Boy named Jesus.

The Word of God had not failed—the Messiah *had* come before the scepter had departed from Judah!

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."

Jesus was born of the “*house* (royal family thru Joseph); and *lineage* of David” (bloodline of David thru Mary). However, “**Root**” speaks of origin.

The question is—how is Jesus a ‘*descendant of David*’ and yet called the “**Root of David**”—in other words, someone that David himself descended from?

Matthew 22:41-46 (NKJV)

⁴¹ While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, ⁴² saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "*The Son of David.*" ⁴³ He said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him '*Lord,*' saying: ⁴⁴ '*The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make*

*Your enemies Your footstool" ' ?*⁴⁵ "If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?"⁴⁶ And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore. (Explain)

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."

At this point, John turns around expecting no doubt to see a lion—

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...

As we read the gospels and the post resurrection accounts, it seemed that none of the disciples of Jesus recognized Him after His resurrection—

1. *Mary didn't recognize Him at the tomb.*
2. *The disciples on the road to Emmaus didn't recognize Him until He broke the bread.*
3. *John 21:4 the apostles didn't recognize Him.*
4. *John 21:12 really indicates something wasn't right about His appearance—what was it?*

In the Gospels we read how the Roman soldiers, after they arrested Jesus—spit on Him (in the east a sign of total disdain), struck Him with closed fists after putting a bag over His head.

Isaiah tells us they pulled His beard out with their hands disfiguring the Lord—

Isaiah 52:13-15 (NKJV)

¹³ Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high.

¹⁴ Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men; ¹⁵ So shall He sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; For what had not been told them they shall see, And what they had not heard they shall consider.

Isaiah 53:2 (NKJV)

² ...He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, *There is* no beauty that we should desire Him.

We know that *after* His resurrection He bore the marks of His crucifixion. In the upper room the night of His resurrection, He showed His disciples the nail wounds in His hands and feet and the spear wound in His side.

When He returned to heaven, He still bore the marks of His crucifixion (Rev.5:6).

Isaiah says that when we finally see Him (the rapture), we will turn our faces away in shock and horror at the sight of Him—

Isaiah 53:3 (NKJV)

³ He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him...

When Jesus returns to the earth at His Second Coming—He will still bear the marks of His crucifixion—*“They will look upon Him whom they have pierced and mourn...”* (Zechariah 12:10)

How long will He bear these marks? I don’t know—maybe forever!

Could this be what Paul meant when he said—

Ephesians 2:7 (NKJV)

⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. [Comment]

I think it’s a good idea to prepare yourself—your first glimpse of Jesus might be a very shocking experience!

A shocking experience that will quickly give way to eternal love and gratitude at what He endured for us that we might be saved!

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower—please reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Want to know more? Click [here](#).

Reach out to us [here](#).



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