

28. The Book of Revelation—5:6-9

A message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier
(1-27-21)

Revelation 5:1-6 (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. 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. ⁴ So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. 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—but instead sees—"a Lamb"—

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 [Greek—'violently slain'], having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

The Greek word translated '**Lamb**' is a word that literally means a "*little lamb*" which speaks of its innocence, gentleness and submissiveness—in this context Jesus being submissive to His Father's will in dying for the sins of the world.

But please understand—Jesus was Himself a willing sacrifice—He said:

John 10:15, 17-18 (NKJV)

¹⁵ As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep... ¹⁷ Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

One author said

"The Lord Jesus Christ is a Lion and a Lamb.

The lion character refers to His second coming; the lamb character refers 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 a lion He is a Judge; as a lamb He was judged and crucified—although innocent.

The lion represents the government of God; the lamb represents the grace of God.

At His first coming He was the Lamb of God who takes away our sins—at His second coming He will come as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah to judge sinners and reign as King."

Jesus Christ will be to every person who has ever lived either their loving Savior or their righteous Judge—and what He becomes to you *then* will be determined by what you do with Him *now*. (we'll talk more about that later)

"**Seven horns**"—a '**horn**' in the Bible often speaks of power (see Daniel 7–8).

The number 7 speaks of completeness—so what’s in view here is “*complete power*”.

So, Jesus is the Lamb of God or in other words, He is God the Lamb having “**Seven horns**” which speaks of Him being the Almighty, Omnipotent God. He is not just a ‘mighty god’ but inferior in power to Almighty Jehovah God as the Jehovah Witnesses teach. (Finish)

“**Seven eyes**” denotes complete knowledge—

Hebrews 4:13 (NIV)

¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

And so Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God is the omnipotent and omniscient God.

“...having seven horns and seven eyes, **which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.**”—

Isaiah 11:2 (NKJV)

² The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

This could be a reference to what Jesus told His disciples when He said—

John 14:12 (NKJV)

¹² "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

What did Jesus mean when He said that when the Holy Spirit came His disciples would do greater works than Jesus did? I mean, Jesus raised the dead! He worked miracles! He feed thousands of people with a few scraps of food!

How would this be possible for Jesus’ disciples to do greater works than He did—how are we going to top what Jesus did?!

Well, we aren’t going to ‘top’ what Jesus did—He didn’t mean we would do greater works than He did in *magnitude*, but in scope.

When Jesus was on the earth physically, He was limited by that physical body to one place at a time—Galilee, Jerusalem etc.

But through the Holy Spirit inhabiting the Body of Christ all over the world He could be in many places at once and work more works than He could during His earthly ministry where He was limited by a physical body.

Revelation 5:7 (NKJV)

⁷ **Then He came and took the scroll** (title deed to the earth) **out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.**

Something very important is unfolding before our eyes (actually John’s eyes)—God the Father is now making good on the promise He made to His Son:

Psalms 2:8-9 (NKJV)

⁸ Ask of Me, and I will give *You* The nations *for* Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth *for* Your possession. ⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' "

Psalms 110:1 (NKJV)

¹ ...The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

Well, here in Revelation 5 Jesus is no longer *sitting*—He's standing!

He steps forward as a Lamb that was slain (the only One in heaven and earth who was able to pay the price to redeem the earth from the hands of Satan)—He now steps forward, for the time has come for Him to stand and take possession of what He has bought and paid for on Calvary's Cross.

Before He can take possession of what He has bought and paid for there is a little unfinished business that has to be taken care of first—He has got to dispossess the earth of the usurpers (Satan, the Antichrist and their followers)—that's what Chapters 6 through 18 are all about!

What has He bought and paid for, what has He redeemed primarily with His blood—us, or more specifically all who would receive Him and the price He paid on our behalf:

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.

Remember we talked last time about the parable Jesus told about the hidden treasure.

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.

Incense in Scripture is symbolic of prayer.

Our prayers, even though they are likened to incense in Scripture don't dissipate or disintegrate—they rise to the throne of God where He saves them in golden bowls the way you would a precious keepsake to remember the time you spent with someone special that you love. (Elaborate)

But not only that, these prayers that we pray, ascend to God's throne—and remain active.

They remain active until the timing of God determines that are to be acted upon—*"For everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven."* (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Galatians 4:4 (NKJV)

⁴ But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law...

An angel appeared to Zacharias, saying, *"Your prayer is heard. Your wife, Elisabeth, is going to conceive"* (see Luke 1:13). **(36:44-39:39)**

"What do you mean?" Zacharias must have thought. *"I haven't prayed that prayer in decades"*—which shows us even the prayers we forget about are still in God's "active box".

Therefore, I'm convinced that many of the blessings in our lives are answers to prayers we prayed years earlier.

(How the Lord answered my prayer to expand our ministry beyond the walls of our church—and He did it through the radio ministry **(Audio: 39:25-44:16)**)

Sometimes Christians pray for an unsaved spouse or a wayward child for years—and then they lose heart and stop praying (Luke 18:1).

Please understand, those prayers have not expired and gone out of existence—they remain in God's active box...so don't lose heart!

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.**

"...each having a harp..."—the **"each"** is masculine in the Greek and can only refer to the **"24 elders"** which is a phrase that is also masculine in the Greek.

This can't be referring to or even including the **"4 living creatures"** that John sees around the throne of God—because they are *neuter* in the Greek.

This is important because it means that only the 24 elders, who represent the Church in heaven, are singing the song of the redeemed in v.9—

Revelation 5:9 (NKJV)

⁹ **And they** (the 24 elders) **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..."**

I bring this all out because in most of the newer translations they have a footnote in the margin that says something to the effect—*"The best manuscripts say 'them'—"has redeemed them to God."*

Or *"The oldest manuscripts say 'them'"* making the 24 elders a group other than the redeemed (the Church) like a special group of angels—which, as we pointed out in Chapter 4, they cannot be. You see, those who hold to a mid-tribulation; post-tribulation; or a pre-wrath view of the Rapture of the Church—have pushed for this translation because you can't have the Church in heaven (chapter 5) before the Tribulation Period begins on earth (starting in chapter 6) if you believe the Church is going thru part or all of the Tribulation Period!

But that's flat out dishonest and untrue!

The reason that the disclaimer—*"The best manuscripts say 'them'"* or *"The oldest manuscripts say 'them'"* has been put in the margin of most of the newer translations of the N.T. is because— many scholars are more concerned about being accepted by their intellectual peers than in taking a stand for truth—a stand that may get them ostracized from certain scholarly circles that they move in.

Listen, of the 5500 plus Greek manuscripts (partial and complete) of the N.T. we only have 95 that contain the Book of Revelation.

Of the 95 only 24 of these manuscripts contain Rev.5:9-10—and of those 24—23 read—**"have redeemed us..."**

When we look at the other ancient manuscript translations of Revelation 5:9—the Latin Vulgate, Syriac, Coptic etc.—they all read “**us**”—in other words the Church is singing the song of the redeemed—not angels!

→ Shared the story Pastor Joe Focht told on this subject (**Audio: at 51:28**)

There is only one Greek manuscript on earth that contains “**them**” and its Codex Alexandrinus (from Alexandria Egypt)—and we don’t trust anything that comes out of Egypt!

Besides to further clear things up, the Book of Revelation was given to John by Jesus in its entirety—and really begins in Chapter 1 verse 9.

After John received this complete revelation from Jesus, before he copied and sent it out to the churches of Asia Minor—he wrote a prologue (introduction) for it which is contained in the first eight verses of chapter 1.

In verses 5-6 of that introduction in chapter 1, John quotes 5:9-10—

Revelation 1:5-6 (NKJV)

⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, ⁶ and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

When you compare this with Revelation 5:9-10—it’s the same thought incorporating the same language!

You see, John clarifies what the correct translation of chapter 5 verse 9 is—because he quotes it in his introduction to the Book and says “**us**”—not “them”.

Who is the only group of people who can say, “**For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation**” (Rev.5:9)?—only the Church!

This is another proof that the Church is in heaven in Chapter 5 (taken there in Chapter 4:1 in the Rapture) before the Tribulation begins in Chapter 6.