

Revelation: The Time is Near

A Scroll Written & Sealed

(Who is worthy?)

Revelation 5

Previously:

- John on Patmos, revealed Jesus in glory
- 7 churches / lampstands / stars
- 7 Spirits of God
- 12 tribes of Israel
- Israel is God's people/nation - Jesus is their King
- the church is His Body - Jesus is our Head
- But grafted together

Messages to the churches:

- Loveless Church, Ephesus
- Persecuted Church, Smyrna
- Compromising Church, Pergamos
- Corrupt Church, Thyatira
- Dead Church, Sardis
- Faithful church, Philadelphia
- The Lukewarm church, Laodicea

We talked last time about:

Matthew 24, birth pangs, so many things happening right now aligning, getting more frequent and prevalent.

^ and how many more things have happened, exponentially.

I believe God's hand is off of this country now. We've fully rejected him.

The fabric of our very society is being ripped apart.

[Isa 5:20 NKJV] 20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

[Psa 11:3 NKJV] 3 If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?

[Mar 3:24 NKJV] 24 "If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.

We literally have a front row seat for the end of America and soon the end of time.

**But, if we'd repent, I still don't know that there's any time left.
There comes a point of no return for consequence, for captivity, and it is upon us.**

The world is setting the stage for one world leader to try to take over, unite and bring "sense" to the madness.

But he's an imposter. The real King is coming soon.

I like how the CJB translates Jesus' words in Mark 13 to "Stay alert!"

This is it, what could be the final crescendo of our time before the End.

I could go on and on, but that's now what we're here for today.

Let's look at Revelation chapter 5.

- **John is in heaven.**
- **He's before the throne of God, the 24 elders (apostles, tribes), the angels.**
- **Everyone is worshipping God.**
- **He's being shown the things which MUST take place.**
- **And they're kicking off for us now - and have been.**

Just a reminder - that heaven is the real reality.

Our reality is important and has eternal consequence, but remember, it is but a shadow.

It is not your destiny, pilgrim.

Talking about "daily application" - skipping books like these is a tragic mistake. They almost have more daily application and practical insight than the epistles...why? Because they offer the clearest picture of what is to come, what we've been saved from, and where we are headed.

Perspective.

We are going to get the heavenly perspective on what's happening now and it's only going to get far worse.

Mark 13:3-13, 37 CJB

As he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the Temple, Kefa, Ya`akov, Yochanan and Andrew asked him privately, 4 "Tell us, when will these things happen? And what sign will show when all these things are about to be accomplished?" 5 Yeshua began speaking to them: "Watch out! Don't let anyone fool you! 6 Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and they will fool many people. 7 When you hear the noise of wars nearby and the news of wars far off, don't become frightened. Such things must happen,

but the end is yet to come. 8 For peoples will fight each other, and nations will fight each other, there will be earthquakes in various places, there will be famines; this is but the beginning of the `birth pains.' 9 "But you, watch yourselves! They will hand you over to the local Sanhedrins, you will be beaten up in synagogues, and on my account you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. 10 Indeed, the Good News has to be proclaimed first to all the Goyim. 11 Now when they arrest you and bring you to trial, don't worry beforehand about what to say. Rather, say whatever is given you when the time comes; for it will not be just you speaking, but the Ruach HaKodesh. 12 Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will turn against their parents and have them put to death; 13 and everyone will hate you because of me. But whoever holds out till the end will be delivered.
37 And what I say to you, I say to everyone: stay alert!"

Revelation 5:1-7

Right hand, symbol of power, authority

Him who sat on the throne - the Father (look at ch 4 again on your own time)

Scroll written on front and back

Most scrolls written only on one side.

This one had everything written that needed to be written. It was not leaving anything out. Details. Consequence. Reasons.

Usually you'd seal a letter or scroll with one seal. But this one seven. Seven spirits of God. Seven churches. Number of perfection. Completion.

What is in this scroll is of utmost importance and not to be opened for any reason or by just any person until the very right moment by the only right person.

Scroll opened horizontally from both sides. As it's opened a little more another seal must be loosed to see what those pages contain. You couldn't just scroll to the end.

A strong angel proclaims

When you think of an angel, what do you think of?

A dainty person in a robe, singing?

A chubby little baby with wings and a bow and arrow?

Sorry to burst your bubble, but that second one is Greco-Roman mythology
Even the first is more of an artist's interpretation.

There's nothing dainty about the worship going on in heaven

Strong, mighty, body and mind, sustain the attacks of the enemy, violent

We're not told what class of angel this is, but my guess he's one of the warriors, like Michael.

Joe Rogan, Jocko Willink - Joe Rogan is a big dude, but I was watching a clip of his podcast with Jocko Willink, a Navy Seal, and when it cut back to Joe Rogan he looked puny. Jocko is a monster.

That's kind of what I'm thinking this angel looked like. Huge. Warrior. Intimidating.

Let's really picture this chapter! It's real. [God open our spiritual eyes that we may see]

This strong angel proclaims in a LOUD VOICE

Mega phone

That all of heaven, and earth, and under the earth might hear the call to open the scroll.

Who is worthy to open the scroll and loose its seals

This strong angel couldn't do it...

Not like opening a jar of pickles. My sister would put the soda bottle cap on so tight that only she was able to open it.

it wasn't about strength at all. It was about worth. Being worthy in their very being.

Out of all of creation, heavenly, fallen and condemned could even LOOK AT IT.

No one was even worthy to size it up. To try to estimate what it would take to open even one of the seals, let alone all seven (number of completion, perfection).

John weeps much!

Cries profusely, uncontrollably. Sobbing.

Such desire, heart, to see all that heaven had. To know all that could be known in the heavenlies.

Do we weep over what we don't or can't know yet spiritually?

Do we desire to be heavenly minded, educated, experienced?

Do we weep over family, friends, loved ones? Our enemies? The state of our country? Or are we content to go on, with our minds, hearts and spirits sealed when they should be loosed, opened for all the world to read?

But this was more than that. This was something that had to be spiritually completed. And John wept to see it done. To see God's will unfold.

But I also get the sense that maybe he had forgotten or hadn't yet realized just how all powerful Jesus was. He loved Jesus, he knew Jesus, he encouraged and led the church, but like you and I, he still wasn't perfect. He was still short sighted just a bit.

One of the elders gives John hope

Don't weep! Don't you remember the scriptures, the prophecies, who Jesus really is? The Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Strength, warrior), The Root of David (King, After God's own Heart, Eternal Throne),

JESUS HAS PREVAILED!

The victory of the cross and resurrection proves Jesus is worthy, able, and the only one to do so - to open the scroll, loose it's seals, read it, and execute it.

John looked - in the middle of the throne, the seraphim, the elders (think concentric circles of these beings perhaps) a lamb stood, slain - probably bloody - seven horns and seven eyes. This isn't a normal lamb, this is a spiritual manifestation of Jesus's role - perfect, slain, fully God and endowed with his spirit sent into all the earth throughout all history.

He came - the lamb - Jesus.

Took the scroll. No contest. No struggle. It was his for the taking.

The angel was proclaiming - yet all of heaven knew who was worthy. It was a call to worship. A call to see Jesus for who he really is. All powerful. All perfect. Innocent and slain.

This is the Life we are to proclaim strongly, Christian. Not our own. Not an earthly cause. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the eternal King. Who alone is worthy of all things. Who alone is worthy to be proclaimed by us. No one and nothing else is.

We are not to sit around weeping all the time, as if we have no hope.

:8-14

This kicks off a round of heavenly worship

The song changes immediately. The tone. The tempo. The beat. The lyrics all point to what is happening at this moment in eternity.

Elders and angels all.

Harps - musical instruments

Bowls of incense - prayers of believers

Isn't that something? To know that our prayers are saved in heaven. They are used in worship. They are a precious heavenly commodity. Sweet smelling. Used in the very worship of Jesus.

Not only does God hear them. But he loves their aroma.

Do your prayers smell sweet to God? Are they incense or incensing to the holy one?

What is their focus?

A new song

It's a new song, but they all knew the lyrics.

***“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,
And have made us[fn] kings[fn] and priests to our God;
And we[fn] shall reign on the earth.”***

I can't wait to hear what this one sounds like.

Sometimes we sing songs that are nice, they have worth/value for worship. And sometimes we sing songs with lyrics that are so laser focused on the truth, on Jesus that there is no mistake about what we are involved in, who we are looking at. There's no escaping. You're either spiritually in heaven, so to speak, or you're not. Sing the songs we sing with your heart towards God. Don't let the lyrics just be words. Let them be shouted from your heart, even if your mouth is just whispering.

It's here, we're here so we're going to talk about it

Racism - against any race, white, black, yellow, brown...I know it's faux pas, but I don't subscribe to races. We're all humanity. Tribes, tongues, cultures, overall looks...sure. But there are so many colors, variations, etc. How could you even come up with a stopping point? When does one stop being white and start being black? What percentage? Some politicians might take the very tiniest percentage and claim it!

My point is - we are all made in God's image. We are all equal at the cross. Men

[Gal 3:28-29 NKJV] 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you [are] Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

All colors, sizes, shapes and peoples from all of history will be in heaven. They all share one culture, one voice, one message, one proclamation - not their own tribe's, not their own nation's, not their own identity - but they ascribe all the worth to ... JESUS. And we should too.

Want to be unified? Spread the gospel. Want to be free of being racist in action or perception of others as being racist because of your racism (everyone is capable)? Focus on Jesus. Know the scriptures. Don't live for this world.

Kings and priests to our God

A king couldn't be a priest and a priest couldn't be king
Saul got in trouble for trying to do both

We as believers are both! When you read the scriptures what's right for a king or priest to do and what's not...it might change your perspective on what you should or shouldn't be doing in your own life.

The next time and every time you read the scriptures, come at it with that perspective...and when the scripture instruct a king or priest on how to live...you might see something you never saw before.

John looked again...millions of angels around the throne...
Saying with a loud voice (in unison)

Can you imagine the decibel level? When John got back to earth I bet his ears were ringing with these sounds for the rest of his life, as he wrote it... can you imagine?

***"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
To receive power and riches and wisdom,
And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"***

I love this part but every creature in all creation - high above to deep below:

***"Blessing and honor and glory and power
Be to Him who sits on the throne,
And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"[fn]***

Opening the scroll was a monumental occurrence even in heaven that elicited only one response - massive and complete worship from all creation.

The four living creations say AMEN

Let it be so

The elders continued to worship as the next chapter, breaking the seals and the events that unfold as the scroll is unsealed and unrolled. The heavenly scroll dictates things that are going to happen on earth in the final judgment.

Only one is worthy to open the scrolls, to read it, and to unleash judgment on the earth. The one who was judged for our sin. Jesus.

All of heaven offers the highest respect to God without question, wavering or prompting and we should too.