

## Revelation Pastor Lou DeVizia

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Introduction: Chapter 5 continues the scene begun in Chapter 4. The church, represented by the 24 elders, is in Heaven. The perpetual, regular activity in the throne room (chronologically, seemingly post-Rapture, see previous study) was described in Chapter 4.

Now an unusual event takes place. John sees in the hand of God on His throne a scroll. This scroll, when opened, will trigger the terrible judgments of the Great Tribulation on Earth, ultimately leading to the Messiah's Second Coming, the redemption of Israel (who rejected Jesus the Messiah at His First Coming but will receive Him this time), and the Messiah's millennial reign on the Earth. However, no one is found worthy to open this scroll - that is, until the Lamb who had been slain and had prevailed enters the room. He alone is worthy. Only He is worthy to open the scroll, at the Father's command, to begin to bring about His ultimate victory and vindication. And what does the entrance of the Lamb bring about in the throne room? Exactly what you would expect: worship. And it would seem to be the largest-scale, most eloquent and elaborate time of praise Heaven or Earth will have known to this point.

Even as this Chapter continues the look ahead at what is coming before the throne of God, do not miss the opportunity to have your own heart quickened to elaborate praise now! He is worthy. He alone is worthy. He alone is our hope, our salvation, our eternal future. The Messiah, the Lord Jesus, the Lamb of God who was slain and has prevailed.

1. Verses 1-7 - The scroll, and He who alone is worthy to open it.

- v.1 - The idea probably is that each time the **scroll** is unrolled, little by little, another seal needs to be opened. We find out in Chapter 6 that each time another seal is opened, another judgment (or in the case of the seventh, another set of judgments) breaks forth on the Earth. John MacArthur calls this scroll the "title deed to the earth," for the Lamb who alone is worthy to open it will indeed rule the Earth.

- vv.2-3 - No one else is **worthy**. Everyone, even among all the redeemed and all the angels of Heaven, falls short.

- v.4 - Why would John weep? Though not stated, the magnificence of the moment - God the Father with a **scroll**, an implied desire for it to be opened to **look at it**, and no one able to do so - must have been overwhelming. Also, nothing that was contained therein could be brought about until someone opened it.

- v.5 - **the Lion of the tribe of Judah** - a glorious Messianic title, there is no doubt this refers to the Lord Jesus (compare to Genesis 49:8-10). **the Root of David** - another Messianic title. See Isaiah 11:10, which describes even the Gentiles of the world looking to Him. Jesus of Nazareth was a descendent of David. He was also David's Lord (see Acts 2:34-35). **has prevailed** - Jesus accomplished His prophesied mission through His death and resurrection. He was worthy.

- vv.6-7 - The Lion, the Root, and now also called the **Lamb**. Jesus is God's Lamb, slain for the sins of the world, as announced by John the Baptist (John 1:29). Here we see sevens again also. The **seven horns** represent the completeness of the Lamb's power, and the **seven eyes** are the **seven Spirits of God**, representing the fullness of the Holy Spirit. **sent out into all the earth** - the Holy Spirit had been sent into the earth to work in the hearts of those who would hear the Gospel and believe, and to teach, give gifts and empowerment to the church. Notice that the fullness of the Spirit is in Heaven at this point - another ramification of the Rapture.

2. Verses 8-14 - Astounding worship.

- v.8 - The **living creatures** and **elders** give praise to the **Lamb**. Notice the crystal clear affirmation of Christ's deity, receiving worship right in the throne room! The **harp** is an instrument of music to praise God, the **incense** represents all of the **prayers** - including yours and mine! - offered to God for this event to come about, the ultimate fulfillment of God's plan of redemption.

- vv.9-10 - Praise to the Lamb for his worthiness, for all He has accomplished: His sacrificial death, His redemption of God's elect from every **nation** under heaven (evidence that the elders represent the church), and His fitting of His children for eternal service and rule.

- vv.11-12 - All the **angels** of heaven, an innumerable number - join in praising the Lamb.

- vv.13-14 - Finally, with the living creatures, the raptured church (represented by the elders) and angels already in worship of the Lamb, every living thing joins in. Every knee will bow, every tongue will confess... Everyone WILL praise God's Son, God's Lamb, the Lion of Judah, the Root of David, the One and only Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The **living creatures** add a resounding **Amen**.