

Revelation 5 Part 1

Hi, this is Richard Oliver, and we are looking at chapter five, the book of Revelation, part fourteen of our study there.

And we start with John being taken up into heaven and he's seen the throne, and God sitting on the throne, and we'll pick it up at verse one.

'And I saw in the right hand of Him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.'

This book is the Book of Life. Everyone who will make it is written in there. But the book is sealed, and until the book can be read the names can't be called out. And until that book is redeemed then no one can make it.

Verse two, *'And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?'*

'And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.'

'And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.'

John realised that until those seals were broken, until the book could be opened and read, all was lost. All his, I don't know, seventy-eighty years of ministry, all his time with Christ, what Christ had done, everything would be lost, all the people he brought to Christ would not make it to heaven after all. It seemed a terrible situation.

But one of the elders, in verse five, *'And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.'*

'And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.'

There are several things here. Remember I mentioned in chapter four that there was One sitting on the throne. Only One. And yet when the Lion of the tribe of Juda is called out, John of course turns expecting to see a lion, but no, there's not a lion. There's a Lamb. And that Lamb is in the centre of the throne. But there was only One in the centre of the throne. That's right. God became a Lamb to pay the price so that the book could be redeemed.

And it's worth pointing out here the message, or the understanding of the meaning of the word 'redeemed'. In the old days there used to be a lot of pawnbrokers. There still are some, of course, around now, like Cash Converters and people like that. You can go and you can take your goods in there and for a period they will hold those goods and you can redeem them, or take them back for a price if you want to, but you've only got a certain time.

And that's the key. 'Redeemed' is those goods were yours in the first place. When Christ redeems His people He is redeeming those who were with Him before the foundation of the world. They were a part of Him, they were a part of His thoughts. So redemption is far, far greater than saving. Saving

is wonderful, and people will be saved, people who were not part of Him, can be saved, but redemption is for those who were there at the beginning.

If you go to Job thirty-eight, he's been crying and saying 'oh I'm okay, I'm okay, I'm pure,' and then God comes down and asks him the question 'where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth and all the sons of God shouted for joy?' Now God doesn't ask silly questions. 'Where were you, Job?' Job had to be somewhere. When all the sons of God shouted for joy, when God created the foundations of the earth. I'm a son of God. Are you a son or daughter of God? If you are, you were there before the foundation of the world in God, rejoicing that the world was going to be created, was being created, and that you would have a life and a chance to be redeemed and come to your fullness through what God was doing.

But we're wandering. Let's get back to chapter five.

'And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts,' so the beasts are still there, 'and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain,'

Christ had died for that.

Verse seven, *'And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him that sat upon the throne.'*

So a difficult thing to imagine, but try and imagine God projecting Himself outside to turn around and then take that book from His right hand, because it is God that worketh all in all. It is Him that is making things happen.

'And when He had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.'

'And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

'And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.'

That's the promise for each one of us. If we are part of that, then we will be reigning on earth with Him.

'And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;'

This is all the Bride. This is all the God's creation that are in line with Him.

'Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.'

'And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.'

He was shouting so loud that everyone, every creature heard John shout. And, of course, John represents the Bride, and that's what we're going to be like, over the – literally over the moon.

'And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped Him that liveth for ever and ever.'

That's chapter five. We will look at chapter six in our next episode. Thank you for reading.

May God bless you, this is Richard Oliver signing off.