

## Revelation 5 - The Lamb Who is a Lion

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COURSE COMMENTARY



### 5:1 - a sealed scroll

- **a scroll**  
*Bibli'on* also rendered "book." The scroll reflects aspects of all of the following:
  - 1) *A Catalog of Judgments* - as seals are opened ([Eze. 2:9-10](#)).
  - 2) *Prophetic Revelation* - the fulfillment of prophetic themes ([Rev. 10:7](#)).
  - 3) *A Testament* - redemption and fulfillment of the New Covenant ([Jer. 31:31-37](#); [Heb. 9:15-17](#); [Rev. 5:9](#); [Rom. 11:26-27](#)).
  - 4) *A Deed of Purchase* - Christ's inheritance purchased at the cross ([Ps. 2:6-8](#); [Rev. 5:9](#); [11:15](#)).
- **sealed**  
 Various types of documents are said to be sealed:
  - 1) Prophetic pronouncements concerning the future are sealed until the time of fulfillment ([Dan. 8:26](#)).
  - 2) Deeds are sealed to protect their contents from tampering until the time in which the title is claimed ([Jer. 32:10-14](#)).
- **seven seals**  
 All seven seals enclose the scroll as a unit. It is the Lamb who opens *all seven seals* bringing about all seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments. See the lesson discussing the [Literary Structure](#) of Revelation.

### 5:2 - who is worthy?

- **who is worthy to open the scroll?**  
 No one had the authority and virtue for the task.
  - 1) Perfect Judgment
  - 2) Relationship to Mankind - a "kinsmen-redeemer" or *Goel*.
  - 3) Right of Possession - paid the price of redemption.
  - 4) Ability to Possess - both the *right* and the *might* to possess!

### 5:3 - no one

- **no one was able to open the scroll**  
 All men are fallen in sin. The angelic host are not **kinsmen-redeemers** nor have they paid the **redemption price** nor do they have the **requisite power**.

### 5:4 - I wept much

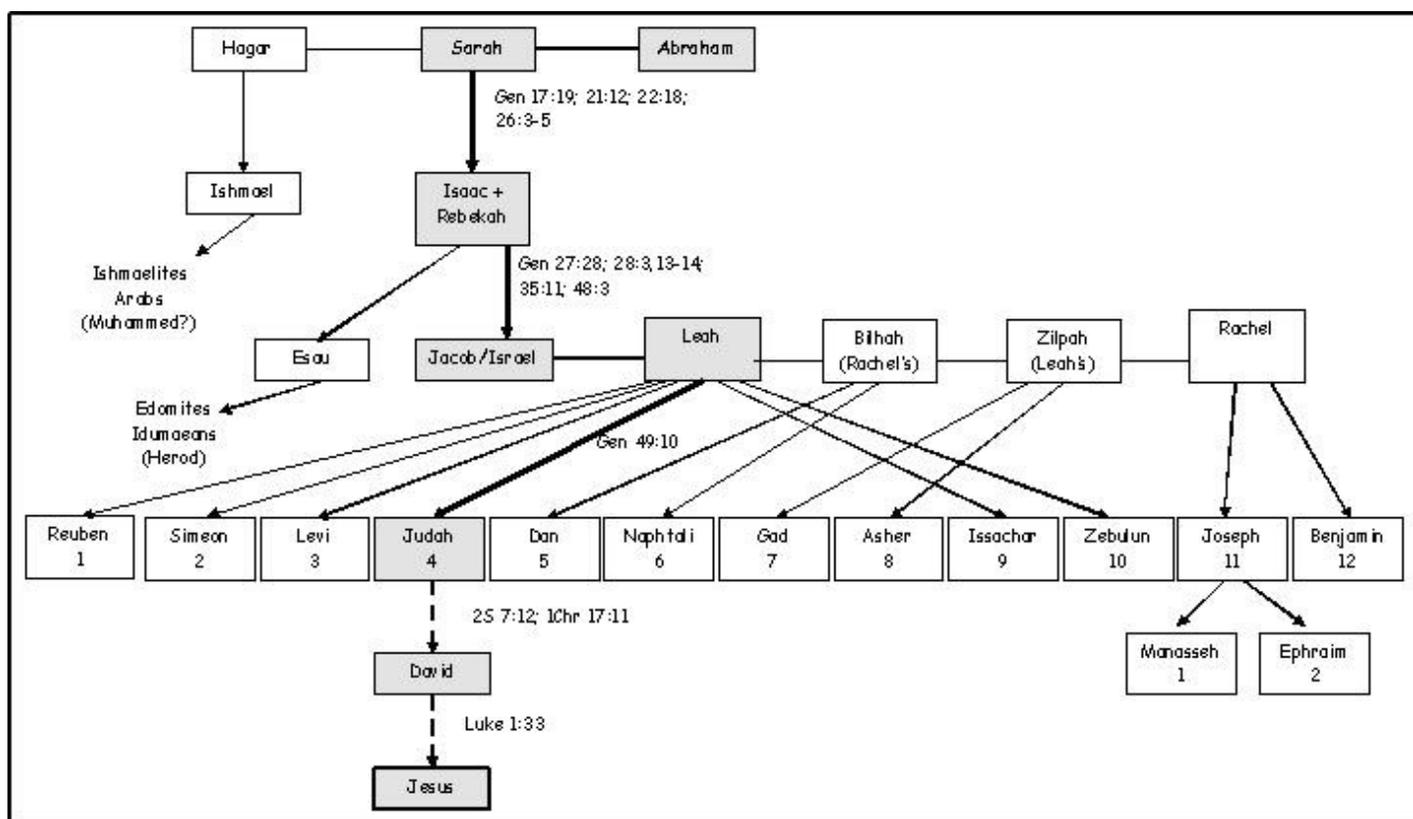
- **Why did John weep?**  
 Being *in the Spirit* ([Rev. 4:2](#)), John understood the significance of the scroll. If the scroll could not be opened, then the current pattern of sin, sickness, death, and destruction would continue and promises of Scripture would remain unfulfilled.

## 5:5 - Lion of Judah

- the Lion of the tribe of Judah**  
 God had revealed that the kingly ruler would be from Judah ([Gen. 49:9-10](#)). Jesus was born in the line of Judah ([Mat. 1:2-3](#); [Luke 3:33](#); [Heb. 7:14](#)). If, as Judaism believes, Messiah has not yet come, how could His tribal affiliation be verified if He came today? The tribal genealogical records were destroyed with the temple in A.D. 70.
- the root of David**  
 Jesus was born in the line of David ([Mat. 1:1](#); [Mat. 1:6](#); [Luke 3:31](#)). *Root* refers to a small growth which continually springs up from the stump of a felled tree ([Job 14:7-9](#); [Isa. 11:1, 6](#)).

## 5:5 - Messianic Line

From Abraham to Jesus



## 5:5 - prevailed

- has prevailed**  
 From *nika'o*, the same root as "overcomer" used in chapters 2 and 3. Jesus is the *overcomer* ([John 16:33](#)) and those who trust in Him share in his overcoming and inheritance.
- to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals**  
 The Father will not break any of the seals for all judgment has been ceded to Jesus ([John 5:22-27](#)). When all seven seals have been broken (and the seven trumpets in the seventh seal and the seven bowls in the seventh trumpet), Jesus will have claimed that which He purchased at the cross. The kingdom of God will have supplanted the kingdom of Satan (and of man) *on earth*.

## 5:6 - a Lamb slain

- **a Lamb**  
*Arni'on*, a young lamb, as used in passover (Ex. 12:3-6). Jesus is the passover lamb (Isa. 53:7 of Acts 8:32-35; John 1:29, 36; 1Cor. 5:7).
- **as though it had been slain**  
 Jesus *still bears* the marks of His crucifixion ((Isa. 52:14); (John 20:20, 27)). The crucifixion was not an afterthought in response to the Fall (Rev. 13:8; 1Pe. 1:20).
- **seven horns**  
 Horns are often used to symbolize power, strength, or government (1S. 2:10; Ps. 132:13-17; Dan. 7:7-8; Dan. 8:3-12).
- **seven eyes**  
 The Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. See lesson discussing Revelation 1:4.

## 5:7 - He took the scroll

- **He came and took the scroll**  
 A pivotal moment in history, second in import only to the crucifixion! Jesus' role shifts from *intercession* to *judgment*. Justice, which had slept since the cross because of mercy, now moves into action!

## 5:8 - golden bowls

- **golden bowls... which are the prayers**  
 All the prayers of all the saints throughout history rise before God as an offering of incense. They are stored up and contribute to the wrath of judgment and coming of the Kingdom (Mal. 1:11; Acts 10:4). Chief among them is "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth..." (Mat. 6:9-10)

## 5:9 - redemption

- **you redeemed us**  
 "Redeemed" is from *agora'zo* meaning "to purchase, do business in the marketplace." Redemption here is both **soteriological** (individual souls reconciled to God) and **eschatological** (the original creation finally restored). Jesus is the great *kinsman-redeemer* or *Goel*, like Boaz in the book of Ruth.
- **by your blood**  
 A "bloodless gospel" is *no gospel!* See lesson on Revelation 1:5.

## 5:10 - we shall reign

- **we shall reign on the earth**  
 This reign is *future tense* and involves the *earth*. This refers to the reign of believers with Christ in the Millennial Kingdom *after* the Second Coming.

## 5:11 - many angels

- **ten thousand times ten thousand**  
*Myria'des myria'don*, myriads of myriads. The number of angels is essentially "numberless." (Job

25:3; Ps. 68:17; Dan. 7:10; Heb. 12:22)

## 5:12 - worthy is the Lamb

- **to receive power... honor... glory**

The Lamb receives that which was just given to the Father ([Rev. 4:10-11](#)). Yet God will not give His glory to another ([Isa. 42:8](#); [48:11](#)). Jesus said "all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father" ([John 5:23](#)). What an *amazing statement!* It is either the height of blasphemy or **true!** Jesus is God!

## 5:13 - every creature worships

- **every creature**

A four-fold designation:

- 1) in heaven,
- 2) on the earth,
- 3) under the earth,
- 4) in the sea.

Four denotes *global, worldwide* scope.

- **to Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb**

All that is **creaturely** worships the **Creator**. Jesus receives **absolutely equal** worship with the Father. This is *critical to understand and endorse!*

For additional information on this topic, see the [commentary](#).