

**REVELATION 5**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Revelation chapter 5 as we continue our study through the Bible and this very timely book!

As we saw last time in our study, we have moved from earth to heaven as the church age has come to an end and John was raptured or caught up into heaven.

And, as I have said, John is a picture of the church and in heaven he sees the throne of God and God the Father seated upon the throne. John also saw all kinds of lights emanating from Him!

We saw that His appearance was like a jasper stone or a crystal-clear stone, maybe like a diamond.

Also, His appearance was like a sardius stone, which was ruby red.

Encircling the throne of God was an emerald green rainbow that shows us God's eternal covenant with us.

Also, seated upon thrones we saw twenty-four elders who represent the church. These elders wore white robes representing the righteousness of Christ that has been imputed to us by faith. Upon their heads were gold crowns or victor's crowns, given to us by Christ for our service to Him. And as we saw, we cast those crowns at His feet because He is the one who has enabled us to accomplish the work.

Also, around this throne were four living creatures, angelic beings, Cherubim, and they worship the Lord and as they do the twenty-four elders worship the Lord and all heaven breaks out in worship of God.

He is the focus in heaven, and He should be the focus on this earth!

Not only is God the Father seen upon the throne, but the Holy Spirit is there also, around the throne.

But there is One person of the Godhead that is missing and that is Jesus!

Why is that?

The reason is simple and you will find the answer as you read on ahead into Revelation chapter 5. You see, Revelation chapter 4 is a set-up for what is going to take place in Revelation chapter 5, the revelation of Jesus Christ.

That is what this book is all about folks.

And keep in mind that this is still the same scene as Revelation chapter 4, but now John sees something else taking place around the throne of God.

Before we get to our text, let me share these words from Ray Stedman. He wrote,

In the 1960s a member of the Beatles, the late John Lennon (who once claimed his band was more popular than Jesus Christ), wrote a song called “Imagine,” which describes a world made perfect by the elimination of war- and the elimination of religion.

This song was revived in the 1990s as an anthem for a new generation of New Age-influenced young people. They marched in the streets, singing “Imagine” or Lennon’s other peace anthem, “Give Peace a Chance,” while carrying signs demanding peace, demanding plenty, demanding Utopia.

There is nothing new about humanity’s longing for Utopia. This wistful desire for a place where there is no war, no poverty, no hunger, no hatred, and no sorrow is the most universal and enduring passion of mankind.

Utopian literature can be traced back as far as Plato (around 400 B. C.) and Euhemerus (around 300 B. C.).

Some utopian dreamers, such as Thomas More, have placed their hope in human reason as the cure for social evils. Edward Bellamy, in his book *Looking Backward*, suggested that the road to utopia lay in reforming our economy.

There is, however, only one hope for a utopian society: the Person whose birth was heralded some 2,000 years ago with words, “On earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

As we come to Revelation chapter 5, we find that we stand at the brink of the realization of mankind’s most elusive dream. As we will see, this dream is destined to be fulfilled – not by economic reforms, human reason, or protest marches, but by the sovereign authority and dominion of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

- Ray Stedman, *God’s Final Word – Understanding Revelation*, p. 133

Make no mistake about it, peace on earth, as hard as man may try, will not happen apart from the Prince of Peace. And the reason is simple, man’s heart is evil, desperately wicked and as new leaders come to power with all the promises of a utopia, they take that power and take advantage of the people, oppress them, and once again we missed the promise that was made.

But when God speaks of a Kingdom that is coming that is filled with righteousness, what He has promised He will bring to pass, without a doubt!

But here is the problem for some. Since there is so much evil in the world and God is a good God, why hasn’t God done anything about this evil? Why hasn’t He eliminated evil? And their conclusion is that there is no God and thus, evil runs wild.

Apologist and author Norman Geisler wrote these words, and his point is an interesting one. He wrote this,

The most powerful argument ever devised against the existence of God is this: “If an all-powerful God exists who created the universe, and if He is all-good who put morality into the heart of man to show us that He is a good and moral God - then why does evil exist in the world?

If God is all-good so that He would eliminate evil; and if He is all-powerful so that He could eliminate evil, yet evil is not eliminated therefore - an all-good, all-powerful God cannot exist.

He could be partly good and partly powerful, but He can't be both, because if He was all-good He would eliminate evil; if He was all-powerful He could eliminate evil and since evil has not been eliminated no such God exists.”

- Norman Geisler

Again, that is a powerful point. Not that Norman Geisler agrees with that, but he brings out that point and we do need to deal with that argument, but how?

Here is the problem with that argument. Just because evil exists doesn't mean that God is going to continue to allow this to go on indefinitely!

Think about what the world was like before the flood. In Genesis 6:5 we are told, **“Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”**

God was patient, He was longsuffering but there came a day when man would be judged, and God judged man with a flood.

And we see the same today with God. He is patient, He is longsuffering, but the wickedness of man is growing and growing and I don't believe it will be too long before judgment falls upon sinful man once again.

And once sinful man is judged, the Kingdom will be established!

As we will see in the Book of Revelation, one day God will settle all accounts and eliminate all evil!

And that is what we see here in Revelation chapter 5, the preparation for the wrath of God to be poured out upon a Christ rejecting world!

In his book, *The Great Divorce*, C. S. Lewis wrote, ***“In the end the world will be made up of two groups of people, those who have said to God ‘Your will be done.’ And those to whom God will say, ‘Your will be done.’”***

These are the only two options, surrender to Him now or you will get what you desire, eternity apart from Him.

Now, I want to put this case for God not existing because there is evil to rest. Listen carefully.

The university professor challenged his students with this question. ***“Did God create everything that exists?”***

A student replied, ***“Yes, He did!”***

***“God created everything?”*** the professor asked.

***“Yes sir,”*** the student replied.

The professor answered, ***“If God created everything, then God created evil since evil exists, and according to the principle that our works define who we are, then God is evil.”***

The professor was quite pleased with himself and boasted to the students that he had proven once more that the Christian faith was a myth.

Another student raised his hand and said, *“Can I ask you a question professor?”*

*“Of course,”* replied the professor.

The student stood up and asked, *“Professor does cold exist?”*

The professor replied, *“Of course it exists. Have you never been cold?”*

The students snickered at the young man’s question.

The young man replied, *“In fact sir, cold does not exist. According to the laws of physics, what we consider cold is in reality the absence of heat. Everybody or object is susceptible to study when it has or transmits energy, and heat is what makes a body or matter have or transmit energy. Absolute zero (-460 degrees F) is the total absence of heat. Cold does not exist. We have created this word to describe how we feel if we have not heat.”*

The student continued. *“Professor, does darkness exist?”*

The professor responded, *“Of course it does.”*

The student replied, *“Once again you are wrong sir. Darkness does not exist either. Darkness is in reality the absence of light. Light we can study, but not darkness. In fact, we can use Newton’s prism to break white light into many colors and study the various wavelengths of each color. You cannot measure darkness. A simple ray of light can break into a world of darkness and illuminate it. How can you know how dark a certain space is? You measure the amount of light present. Isn’t this correct? Darkness is a term used by man to describe what happens when there is no light present.”*

Finally, the young man asked the professor. *“Sir, does evil exist?”*

Now uncertain, the professor responded, *“Of course as I have already said. We see it every day. It is in the daily example of man’s inhumanity to man. It is in the multitude of crime and violence everywhere in the world. These manifestations are nothing else but evil.”*

To this the student replied, *“Evil does not exist sir, or at least it does not exist unto itself. Evil is simply the absence of God. It is just like darkness and cold, a word that man has created to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. Evil is the result of what happens when man does not have God’s love present in his heart. It’s like the cold that comes when there is no heat or the darkness that comes when there is no light.”*

The professor sat down!

- Source Unknown

So with that said, let’s begin reading in Revelation chapter 5, starting in verse 1 and let’s see what the Lord has for us this evening as we study His Word.

## REVELATION 5

### VERSE 1

Remember what we read in Revelation 4:2, as John tells us, **“Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.”**

As I have said, this is God the Father seated upon the throne and as John now looks at God the Father here in Revelation 5:1, he notices in the Father’s right hand this scroll.

First of all, the right hand was the place of strength, power, authority.

We see this illustrated for us in Isaiah 41:10 where we are told, **“Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”**

Now, what is this scroll that the Father had in His right hand?

Roman law required a will to be sealed seven times, and the wills of both Augustus and Vespasian were sealed in this manner.

As true as that is, I don't believe that is what this scroll was all about, I don't think it was a will, but I do believe it is a deed or contract.

Listen to what Dr. Robert L. Thomas has to say regarding this. He wrote,

This kind of contract was known all over the Middle East in ancient times and was used by the Romans from the time of Nero on. The full contract would be written on the inner pages and sealed with seven seals. Then the content of the contract would be described briefly on the outside. All kinds of transactions were consummated this way, including marriage-contracts, rental and lease agreements, release of slaves, contract-bills, and bonds.

Support also comes from Hebrew practices. The Hebrew document most closely resembling this scroll was a title-deed that was folded and signed, requiring at least three witnesses. A portion of the text would be written, folded over and sealed, with a different witness signing at each fold. A large number of witnesses meant that more importance was assigned to the document.

- Dr. Robert L. Thomas, Revelation 1-7: An Exegetical Commentary, p. 378

And, as we are going to see, this scroll, which contains this deed or contract, is vitally important to all of us! So, let's read on and see what this is all about.

VERSES 2-3

As we read here in Revelation 5:2, we see that there is this “**strong angel**” who made this proclamation. And there is much speculation about who this “**strong angel**” is.

Some say it is Gabriel, but we really don’t know, we are not told!

All we know is that this angel is powerful, and his cry is for someone to step forward and take this scroll from God the Father’s right hand.

Now isn’t this strange. We are told that there was “**no one**” who stepped forward!

How can that be?

The reason is simple, and I want you to pay attention to what is said and what is not said.

You see, many people throughout history were **WILLING** to step forward and try to rule the world. We have seen Satan who is still trying, and men like Nebuchadnezzar, Attila the Hun, Genghis Khan, Lenin, Stalin, Hitler, Mussolini and others.

Alexander the Great thought that he had conquered the world, and in a sense, he did but he did not create a utopia. And sadly, after all of his efforts, at the age of 32, he wept because there were no more worlds to conquer.

Because of that he drank himself to death and his empire disintegrated! It was never as powerful as it was under the leadership of Alexander the Great!

And when you think about it, you can go all the way into the future, the **NEAR** future I believe, and see that the Antichrist is willing to do this!

They, as well as many others were **WILLING!**

But that is not the question here.

The question was “**who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?**”

You see, none of those men were **WORTHY**, even though they were **WILLING!**

And the point being made is that no celestial being, no terrestrial being, not even a subterranean being was worthy to step forward and take the scroll out of God the Father's right hand!

All were impotent in this matter. None had the power or the authority to do so. In other words, they were not **WORTHY!**

Now, is this a big deal? You bet it is and you will see that in the next verse in the response that John has to this problem of no one being worthy of stepping forward to take the scroll out of God the Father's right hand!

#### VERSE 4

As John continues to observe all this and he sees the inability of anyone being worthy to do this, he begins to weep.

Now, please understand, this is not "**Boohoo!**" weeping.

The Greek word is KLAIO, (klah'-yo) and it means to weep aloud, to weep convulsively.

It is the same Greek word that is used in Luke 19:41 as Jesus wept over Jerusalem and in Luke 22:62 as Peter wept bitterly after his betrayal of the Lord.

You see, it is the utter despair, the utter hopelessness of the situation that John sees before him.

But why is he so broken over this?

Is this such a big deal that no one can take that scroll? I mean think about it. John is with God the Father, and he should be rejoicing and not wailing.

So why is he acting like a man who has lost everything?

And please understand, as far as I can tell, this is the only time we see tears shed in heaven, so this has to be big!

First of all, to understand why John is weeping we have to know what this scroll is all about and that will help us to clearly understand John's reaction to what is taking place before him.

I believe this scroll is the title deed to the earth that was given to Adam when God created the heavens and the earth, when He created Adam.

Remember what the Lord said to Adam, **“Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”**

Genesis 1:28.

I don't know how it is in your Bible, but in my Bible, the goodness that God created only lasted two pages.

You see, Adam sinned or rebelled against God and thus, he forfeited the right to be king over the earth.

And folks, this sin not only affected Adam and all of his descendants, you and me, but also the ground, the animals are all under this curse of sin. Paul put it this way in Romans 5:12, **“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.”**

What we see around us today is the result of Adam's sin, we are still suffering the consequences from it!

Now, as we have seen, the book of Revelation is going to restore this world back to the way it was in the beginning, like it was in the Garden of Eden.

Paul put it this way in Romans 8:19-23 as he shows us what we and all of creation are waiting for. He wrote, **“For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.”**

You see, God is not going to leave us in this condition because He loves us too much! Thus, one day He will restore what sin has distorted!

Now, if Adam forfeited the title deed to the earth, then who has it?

The Usurper, or Satan the one who deceived him!

The Bible calls Satan, **“the god of this age”** (II Corinthians 4:4); Jesus called him **“the ruler of this world”** (John 12:31). You see, Satan holds claim to the earth by reason of Adam’s sin!

And so as John sees what is happening he begins to weep uncontrollably and I like the way that W. A. Criswell explains this. He wrote,

[John’s tears] represent the tears of all God’s people through all the centuries. Those tears of the Apostle John are the tears of Adam and Eve, driven out of the Garden of Eden, as they bowed over the first grave, as they watered the dust of the ground with their tears over the silent, still form of their son, Abel.

Those are the tears of the children of Israel in bondage as they cried unto God in their affliction and slavery.

They are the tears of God's elect through the centuries as they cried unto heaven.

They are the sobs and tears that have been wrung from the heart and soul of God's people as they looked on their silent dead, as they stand beside their open graves, as they experience in the trials and sufferings of life, heartaches and disappointments indescribable.

Such is the curse that sin has laid upon God's beautiful creation; and this is the damnation of the hand of him who holds it, that usurper, that interloper, that intruder, that alien, that stranger, that dragon, that serpent, that Satan-devil.

"And I wept audibly," for the failure to find a Redeemer meant that this earth in its curse is consigned forever to death. It meant that death, sin, damnation and hell should reign forever and ever and the sovereignty of God's earth should remain forever in the hands of Satan.

- W. A. Criswell, Expository Sermons on Revelation, p. 3:69-70

In knowing that I think you can understand why John is weeping uncontrollably. He sees the earth and its inhabitants doomed, the title deed to the earth in the hands of Satan forever!

You see, according to Jewish law, the law of the forfeiture of property, if you lost your property, like Adam did, it would remain with the new owner for a period of six years.

Then, in the seventh year you could redeem it back or purchase it back as long as you could fulfill the requirements that were written on the scroll and sealed.

The problem of course, is that man could not purchase back this earth because he was not worthy to do so!

There is one more point I want to make in regard to John weeping.

How often do we prematurely come to a fatalistic ending of a situation?

Obviously, John knew the resurrected Lord, but the situation caused him to lose sight of the bigger picture and he came to a faulty conclusion of the situation.

I have to admit, been there, done that!

How about you? I do pray that I can learn that lesson quickly as John does or is going to do. And the solution is really simple.

Look at the next few verses because the solution will be seen!

### VERSES 5-7

Here we see one of the elders step forward and he tells John to stop weeping, or chill out, relax.

Why did he do that?

Because the tears that John was shedding were inappropriate or out of place for this situation.

You see, don't look at the situation but look at the Lion from the tribe of Judah who is not only worthy to take the scroll, but He is more than able to get the victory! He can redeem man back and not only man, but all of creation.

You see, what was impossible for man to do, what was impossible for all of creation to do, Jesus was able to prevail and conquer!

One quick point here. Make no mistake about it, we are so blessed to have brothers and sisters in the Lord that can help us get re-focused when we lose sight of things. Don't negate the fellowship of the brethren. They keep us strong; they keep us sharp, and they keep us focused on the Lord!

Now, let's go back to the Jewish law for a moment.

If you couldn't redeem your property back, you didn't have the resources to do that, then a relative or next of kin could step forward and do it and this person was known as the *GOEL* or the kinsman redeemer!

That is the whole story in the book of Ruth and if you want you can read that for extra credit! I know we finished that book up a few months back, but what a wonderful story of our Kinsman Redeemer, Jesus Christ!

Now to fulfill this role you had to meet three requirements or conditions.

First of all, you had to be a *near relative* of the one who had lost the inheritance – Jesus meets that requirement as God became flesh and dwelt among us, He became a man.

Secondly, he *must be willing to redeem* us back – Jesus was willing to lay down His life for us even when we were still in rebellion against Him.

And the third requirement is that he *must be able to pay the price of the redemption* – Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for our sins, He alone could pay the price for us for He was without spot or blemish, He did not have inherited sin or acquired sin in His life. In other words, He alone was worthy to do this.

It is as Peter tells us in I Peter 3:18, **“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.”**

And so, for some 6,000 years this earth has been in the hands of the Usurper, Satan.

But it is getting close for our *GOEL* or our Kinsman Redeemer to take back that which He has already purchased with His blood!

John's heart must have been pounding at this point - the Lion from the tribe of Judah is worthy to take the scroll and loose the seals!

But as John turns to look, he doesn't see a Lion from the tribe of Judah, but this little Lamb and not just a little Lamb, but **“a lamb as though it had been slain.”**

Think about it, the king of the jungle, a lion with all his majesty and power may be able to defeat a dragon, but this little, broken, wounded Lamb, how could He defeat this dragon?

Because this Lamb is also the Lion from the tribe of Judah, He is Almighty God.

Never lose sight of that fact. And don't forget that the dragon, Satan, was defeated at the cross and shortly Jesus is going to step forward and consummate or complete the victory!

And here is the thing that changed my love for the Lord in a powerful way. It gave me a perspective of His love that brings me to tears! In His glorified body it seems that Jesus still bears the marks of the crucifixion.

In other words, when we receive our glorified bodies, they will be perfect. All the disease and sickness of these bodies of flesh will be done away with.

Thus, Jesus is the only person in heaven who is handicapped or disfigured.

Do the Scriptures support this?

They seem to, and not only here in Revelation.

In John 20:26-28 we are told, **“And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, ‘Peace to you!’ Then He said to Thomas, ‘Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.’ And Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’”**

Thus, in His resurrection body, His glorified body, He still bears the marks of the crucifixion.

We also see this in John chapter 21 as the boys are out fishing after the death and resurrection of Jesus and they were out all night and caught nothing.

The Lord is on shore and as He sees what is happening, He yells out to them, ***“Boys, throw your nets on the right side of the boat!”***

Why did He say that?

Obviously, they were fishing on the wrong side of the boat! Sorry!

At this point they don't know it is the Lord but as soon as they toss their nets over the right side of the boat and pull in a boatload of fish, they knew it was the Lord.

As they get to shore, we are told in John 21:12, **“Jesus said to them, ‘Come and eat breakfast.’ Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, ‘Who are You?’ - knowing that it was the Lord. Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish.”**

Why didn't they recognize the Lord when they came on shore?

I believe it is because He still bore the marks of the crucifixion and His body was so badly disfigured that they did not recognize Him. And folks, they should have, they were with Him for three years, but now He did not look as He once did!

And lastly, when the two men were on the road to Emmaus and Jesus walks with these men who were discouraged, their Lord was just crucified, and they did not recognize it was Jesus.

In fact, as they are walking Jesus gives them a Bible study showing how Jesus is the Messiah spoken of in the Scriptures.

Then, in Luke 24:30-32 we are told, **“Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. And they said to one another, ‘Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?’”**

Could it be that as He broke the bread, they saw the nail prints in his wrists, and they then knew it was the Lord? I believe so!

To me, this is a very humbling portion of Scripture knowing that the Lord loves me so much that He not only was willing to die for me but to bear the marks of the crucifixion for eternity! Every time I will look upon Him, I will see His love for me, and I hope you do too!

Now what about these seven horns, these seven eyes, these seven Spirits, what is that all about? This is not speaking literally here, let me show you what I mean.

The seven horns speak of power, strength – ***HIS OMNIPOTENCE.***

We also see that He has seven eyes that speak of Him being all-knowing – ***HIS OMNISCIENCE.***

And lastly, the seven spirits of God that go out into all the earth – ***HIS OMNIPRESENCE.***

In other words, this Lion from the tribe of Judah, this Lamb as though it were slain, Jesus is Almighty God!

So as Jesus steps forward and takes the scroll out of the Father’s right hand what do you think is going to take place in heaven?

I will give you a hint – ***WORSHIP!***

Okay, that is not a hint, that is the answer, so let’s read on and see how this unfolds.

VERSES 8-10

Jesus is coming back to take possession of that which He has paid for with His shed blood but before He does, He has some unfinished business that He has to take care of.

He is going to dispossess the earth of the usurpers and these usurpers are Satan, the Antichrist and their followers. And as we read on, we will see that is what Revelation chapters 6 through 18 are all about!

And picture what is taken place here. Shortly before this heaven was still, John was weeping, but now as Jesus steps forward and takes the scroll all heaven breaks forth in worship.

Folks, isn't that true in our own lives? When we place Jesus in the center of the picture all our sorrows, all our problems melt away in the presence of His love and we worship Him!

No matter what we are going through in this life, we will be with the Lord for eternity! That is the perspective we need to have.

We see here a worship that is filled with song, filled with music and filled also with the prayers of the saints and these prayers are described as incense that is placed in golden bowls.

In Psalm 141:2 we are told, "**Let my prayer be set before You as incense, The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**"

What are these prayers?

I believe they are the petitions we have made for the Lord to come – "**Thy kingdom come**" and that is about to take place!

Now, don't make the mistake that the Roman Catholic Church makes thinking that they are praying to these saints and asking them to intercede for us.

That is contrary to the rest of the Scriptures.

Paul tells us in I Timothy 2:5, “**For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.**”

Jesus is our Mediator between God and man, the bridge builder and thus, we go through Him as we are told in John 14:6, “**. . . I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**”

And we see this new song, and this is the song of redemption. And please don't make the mistake that some have done and think that these four living creatures or any other angelic being are singing this song.

You see, angels can't be redeemed once they have fallen, but man can. Thus, the twenty-four elders who represent the church sing this song and they also are holding a harp and the golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints!

This is a song that speaks of the worthiness of God, of Jesus to take the scroll and open the seals of judgment. He is going to take back that which He purchased with His life, this earth!

And it is the Lord who has “**redeemed**” us or AGORAZO (ag-or-ad'-zo) in the Greek; He has brought us back to God by the shedding of His blood.

That word “**redeemed**” means to purchase or buy back and notice that it is in the past tense. You see, it has taken place in the past, on the cross of Calvary and all we must do is appropriate that free gift of God into our life by faith.

It is as Paul said in Romans 6:23, “**For the wages of sin is death, but the [free] gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**”

Now, where did God gather all these people?

He tells us, “**Out of every tribe [common ancestor] and tongue [common language] and people [common race] and nation [common government].**”

He has gathered people from all over the earth, from every social economic background, race, color, language and-so-on. It is as Jesus said in John 3:16, **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”**

And when the Lord comes back to set up His Kingdom on this earth, we shall reign with Him in this glorious land where righteousness will fill this earth!

Now I want to bring this up because in some of the newer Bibles, the new translations, they change one of the words here in Revelation 5:9 and it distorts what is being said.

It should read, **“And you have redeemed us to God by Your blood”** but in the new translations it says **“them”**, or they may have a footnote that says, **“The best manuscripts say ‘them’”** In other words, **“And you have redeemed them to God.”**

Others may say, **“The oldest manuscripts say ‘them’”** and the idea here is that they are trying to show that it is not the twenty-four elders who are singing this song but angels, which makes no sense.

Why is this so important?

Because 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 here in Revelation chapter 5 before the Tribulation Period begins on earth.

There is no support for that, none at all and they are being dishonest!

I know, that may seem harsh but let me show you why.

Out of the 5500 plus Greek manuscripts (partial and complete) of the New Testament 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 we see that 23 of them read, *“have redeemed us . . .”*

Also, when we look at the other ancient manuscript translations of Revelation 5:9, the Latin Vulgate, Syriac, Coptic etc., they all read *“us”*!

What does that mean?

It means that the Church is singing the song of the redeemed here in Revelation 5:9-10 and they are in heaven prior to the start of the Tribulation Period!

I hope that clears that up because even in my Bible there is a footnote that says *“them”*, and it changes what the text is saying.

Now the church is singing the song of the redeemed and when someone starts something, others are bound to join in and that is what we are going to see here.

As Jesus takes the scroll out of the right hand of God the Father, we see the church worship the Lord, but before long all of heaven is about to break forth in the worship of God.

Let's read on and see.

### VERSES 11-12

Here we see everyone worshipping the Lord; the church, the angelic beings, and their numbers are too great to count, they are innumerable!

You see, ten thousand was the largest Greek number they had a word for and thus, by multiplication it speaks of one hundred million plus millions more!

It is innumerable, you can't count them is the point that is being made nor do we need to.

But why?

Because that is not the focus of our worship, the Lord is!

And all of heaven recognizes that fact, that He alone is worthy to take the scroll and loosen the seals!

And notice there is nothing mentioned of the Lord redeeming here because angels can't be redeemed.

One writer put it like this, *“The spontaneous outburst of worship results from the realization that the long-anticipated defeat of sin, death, and Satan is about to be accomplished and the Lord Jesus Christ will return to earth in triumph and establish His glorious millennial kingdom. The curse will be reversed, the believing remnant of Israel will be saved, and the church will be honored, exalted, and granted the privilege of reigning with Christ. All of the pent-up anticipation of millennia finally bursts out at the prospect of what is about to take place.”*

And we praise the Lord for that day that is coming!

### VERSE 13

Make no mistake about it, we are waiting for the return of Jesus Christ to deal with wickedness and to fill this land with righteousness. But we alone are not waiting for this redemption, but all of creation groans and waits for this time because the curse has affected them.

We spoke of this earlier when we read what Paul said in Romans 8:19-23, but I think it bears repeating.

He tells us, **“For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.”**

You see, one day the land will be restored to the way it was in the Garden of Eden as we are told in Isaiah 35:1, **“The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.”**

Not only will the land be restored but so will the animals as Isaiah 11:6-9 tells us, **“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.”**

Also, in Isaiah 65:25 we are told, **“The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, The lion shall eat straw like the ox, And dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,’ Says the LORD.”**

This is speaking of the Kingdom Age where Jesus rules and reigns from the throne of David in Jerusalem and we are longing for that day when righteousness will fill this land!

The animals will live in harmony with each other, the land will be fruitful with no more thorns and thistles, it will return to its pre-fall state and what a glorious day that will be!

And here we see all of creation recognizing what is going to happen and they sing out their praises to God!

I want you to notice something else that I believe is very important here.

This worship is not only of the Lamb, but also of the Father.

Why is that important?

Because it is another strong testimony to the deity of Jesus Christ!

Let me share with you a couple of statements regarding this verse and how important it is.

Clarke wrote, *“Now if Jesus Christ were not properly GOD this would be idolatry, as it would be giving to the creature what belongs to the Creator.”*

Morris wrote, *“There cannot be the slightest doubt that the Lamb is to be reckoned with God and as God.”*

And Spurgeon wrote, *“Depend upon it, my hearer, you never will go to heaven unless you are prepared to worship Jesus Christ as God. They are all doing it there: you will have to come to it, and if you entertain the notion that he is a mere man, or that he is anything less than God, I am afraid you will have to begin at the beginning and learn what true religion means. You have a poor foundation to rest upon. I could not trust my soul with a mere man, or believe in an atonement made by a mere man: I must see God himself putting his hand to so gigantic a work.”*

We must keep the main thing the main thing and the main thing is Jesus.

The scroll of the book is written of Him and now in Revelation we are going to see the unveiling of Jesus in all of His glory!

Yes, He is God, and He deserves our worship!

#### VERSE 14

Those Cherubim or four living creatures basically say, ***“Bring it on!”***

They are ready to see these things come to pass and the churches response to ***“Bring it on!”*** is that we worship the Lord, what else can we do?

Look at all He has done for us, and we don’t deserve it! That is love and one day we will see Him face-to-face and we will see those wounds He endured for us because He loves us, and He desired to see us saved!

Now, you can either worship the Lord now, willingly, or one day you will worship Him by force, because He deserves everyone to worship Him because He is God!

Paul put it this way in Philippians 2:9-11, **“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”**

And folks, if you worship the Lord now it will lead to eternal life. If you wait to worship Him until you stand before Him, you will be left in eternal darkness, Hell. It is your choice!

And as I close this evening, God has given to us a picture of heaven that is filled with worship.

Now for those that have rejected Him and are alive during the Tribulation Period, they will face His judgment and we will see that begin to unfold next time we meet in Revelation chapter 6.

Let me leave you with this to think about. God has done all He can, He wants to be your **GOEL**, your Kinsman Redeemer, if you would only receive Him as your Lord and Savior and enter into everlasting life with Him! The choice is yours!