

Be Joyful - Jesus Is Worthy to Reclaim the World from Evil



"4 Then I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll and read it.

5 But one of the twenty-four elders said to me, 'Stop weeping! Look, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the heir to David's throne, has won the victory. He is worthy to open the scroll and its seven seals.'" Revelation 5:4-5 NLT

- Do you ever ask yourself - "When is God going to do something about the evil in this world"?

Chapters 4-5 give us the most detailed picture of heaven in the Bible. God gave this glimpse of heaven to **encourage His children** suffering from the evil of this world. It was a reminder that God is still on His throne and is in control.

Be Joyful

In Revelation 5:4-5, John was told to not weep when he saw that no one was able to open the scroll with seven seals in heaven. The reason? **Jesus was worthy to open the scroll. Jesus was the reason for joy rather than weeping.**

Jesus is the reason for our lives to be joyful today. The life of the Christian is a life of peace and joy. The apostle Paul tells us *"Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!"* (Philippians 4:4 NLT). Joy is one of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Are you living in joy?

Jesus Only - His Eternal Uniqueness

The eternal **uniqueness** of Jesus is portrayed in Revelation 5. Many today try to say that Jesus is one of many gods or religious leaders. But Jesus is unlike anyone who has ever lived. No one compares with him. He is one of a kind. He is unique.

- Only Jesus is **God** in human flesh (John 1:1-5, 14).
- Only Jesus **died for the sins of the world** and was **resurrected** from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).
- Only Jesus was **without sin** and qualified to be a sacrifice for the sins of the world (Hebrews 4:15).
- Only Jesus is **coming back** to take his followers to heaven (John 14:1-3).
- Only Jesus can **bring us to the Heavenly Father** (John 14:4-6).
- Only Jesus can **provide us salvation** (Acts 4:12).
- Only Jesus is **worthy to break the seals** of the scroll and reclaim the world (Revelation 5:4-5).

The Central Lesson:

Be **JOYFUL** - Jesus is worthy to reclaim the world from evil.

The Scroll and the Lamb - Revelation 5

1. The **SEALED** Scroll (5:1-5).

The scroll represents Christ's **title deed** to creation. In Roman culture, legal contracts, such as deeds, marriage contracts, business agreements, and wills,

recorded the details on the inside and a summary on the outside. It was sealed with seven seals to prevent unauthorized entry.

Bible teacher, Warren Wiersbe, explains that Jesus is the Kinsman-Redeemer mentioned in the O.T. book of Ruth. According to Jewish law, if a man became poor and had to sell his land or himself into slavery, a relative could purchase the property to satisfy the debt and set his relative free (see Jeremiah 32:6-15; Leviticus 25:23-25). The Bible teaches that this world is under the control of Satan (Eph. 2:2; 2 Cor. 4:4) and the curse of sin (Rom. 8:19-22). Wiersbe writes: **"All creation has been under bondage to sin, Satan, and death; but now Christ, our Kinsman-Redeemer, is going to set creation free."** (p.809).

As each seal is broken and God's judgment is poured out on the earth during the tribulation period (Rev. 6, 8.), **Jesus is re-claiming creation from sin and Satan.** This is clear from the sounding of the seventh trumpet judgment (11:15-17) where loud voices from heaven said: *"15 ...The world has now become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever." "17...you have assumed your great power and have begun to reign."*

In simple terms, Satan has had his grip on the title deed of the world, but Christ is the rightful owner. Christ is prying Satan's fingers loose with each seal, trumpet, and bowl judgement. Christ is reclaiming the world from sin and Satan. Christ is claiming the world as His possession and is setting up His righteous reign and kingdom. God reigns and redeems.

2. The **SLAIN** Lamb (5:6-10). Three unique titles are given to Jesus to describe who He is:

- a. **The Lion of the tribe of Judah** (5:5) refers to Genesis 49:8-10 where God made the tribe of Judah the tribe from which all Israel's kings were to be born. The **lion** refers to **kingship** and the power to reign.
- b. **The Root of David** (5:5) refers to Jesus being from **King David's family line**. This was a fulfillment of God's promise that the Messiah would be from David's lineage and would sit on David's throne (during the Millennium).
- c. **The Lamb** (5:6) refers to **Christ dying as a sacrifice** for the sins of the world (see 5:9).

Only Jesus is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll (5:5, 7, 12) because of His death and shed blood that redeems the world from sin (5:9).

3. The **SHOUTING** Angels (5:11-14).

As Jesus takes the scroll, all of heaven takes notice and celebrates. This is one of the most significant moments in history and in the universe. Jesus, the Messiah, is about to break the seals of the scroll. Jesus is about to **claim His property** - all creation. He is about to **bring redemption to completion and begin reigning** as Messiah and as Lord of the Universe. Over 100 million angels are gathered around the throne to witness this special moment (5:11). They join the elders and the living creatures in worship and singing (5:11-14).

Conclusion:

Be joyful - Jesus is worthy to reclaim the world from evil.

Action Steps: ► Receive Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ► Invite someone to next Sunday's Bible study. ► Attend a small group. ► Pray for friends that need Jesus. ► Read Revelation 5. *What do you learn about Jesus?*