

# CHAPTER 4 & 5 –

*setting the stage for the seven seals – interlude to the opening of the seals*

## CHAPTER 5

### The scroll with the seven seals

Vs.1-4 It was sealed so that no one could read what was on the scroll. This scroll contained information about the future.

- To whom is the future a closed/book? \_\_\_\_\_ all of us \_\_\_\_\_
  - Who alone has access to the future? \_\_\_\_\_ God \_\_\_\_\_
- Apply: This is proof that \_\_\_\_\_ He alone is God \_\_\_\_\_.
- Apply: This comforts believers because \_\_\_\_\_ He controls the future \_\_\_\_\_.

Can we see any significance in the fact that seven seals are used?

**NOTE:** Remember what the number 7 seems to signify in the book of Revelation.

3 + 4, with 3 standing for our Triune God, and 4 standing for all people of the world (from the 4 direction or 4 corners of the earth)

Does that mean Christians won't have any interest in what the future holds?

- Consider John's reaction when it seemed no one would be found to open the scroll. The church of John's day was experiencing bitter persecution. Why would it be beneficial for believers to see some broad strokes of what the future holds?
- Discuss the comfort God brings us through the same revelations about the future:

Vs.5 The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, who alone could open the scroll is: \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus \_\_\_\_\_

- Why was he able to open the scroll and its seven seals?

### The Lamb in the center of the throne

Vs.6 The Lamb, looking as if slain, is: \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus \_\_\_\_\_

- Here is a passage that displays the close connection between Revelation and the Gospel of John.
- Why would it have not surprised John to see a vision of Jesus as "a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain"?

Let  interpret 

Genesis 49:9-10 You are a lion's cub, O Judah; you return from the prey, my son... The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his.

Isaiah 11:1 & 10 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit... In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples, the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.

Let  interpret 

John 1:29,36 John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" ... he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

Also see: 1 Peter 1:18-19; Acts 8:32 → Is. 53:7

Consider how these few verses display the way in which figurative language is used in the book of Revelation.

Jesus in side-by-side verses is called both the Lion and a Lamb.

These titles are used to accurately picture and convey the literal work he has done.

- The "Lion" reminds us that he is our conquering \_\_\_\_\_ King \_\_\_\_\_.
- The "Lamb" reminds us that he is our suffering \_\_\_\_\_ Servant/substitute \_\_\_\_\_.

What do the seven horns symbolize? Horns = symbol of power. 7 = God using his power in behalf of humankind.

What are the Seven Eyes? Imagery to convey the Holy Spirit's presence (1:4, 4:5)

Vs.7 This verse reminds us of the words we confess in the Nicene Creed about the Holy Spirit: "who proceeds from the Father and the Son."

Let  interpret 

John 15:26, When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.

John 14:26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

### The New Song of Praise to the Lamb

Vs.8 The angels and the elders offer to Christ worship. This shows that he receives equal honor with the Father and the Spirit.

Let  interpret 

John 5:23 – that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

- Some churches use incense in worship. This pictures prayers rising heavenward.

Vs.9 This song of praise is called “new.” Compare this with the “old song” - the previously heard song within this vision (4:8, 11):

CW p.55 – “Let my prayer rise before you as incense...” (Psalm 141)



- The praise in 4:8 & 11 was primarily about God’s creative work and sustaining work
- The praise in 5:9 and following was primarily about God’s work to save us from sin

What was it that only Christ's blood, and nothing else, was able to accomplish?

How many words are used to describe the inhabitants of earth? 4

Let  interpret 

Seven times this occurs in Revelation, with different words and/or orders:

- 5:9 tribe, language, people, nation
- 7:9 nation, tribe, people, language
- 10:11 peoples, nations, languages, kings
- 11:9 people, tribe, language and nation
- 13:7 tribe, people, language and nation
- 14:6 nation, tribe, language, and people
- 17:15 peoples, multitudes, nations and languages

**Note:** this leads us to the conclusion that four is the symbolic number of the earth and its people.

For whom did the Savior come?

Vs.10 What comfort is there even in times of distress for those who are members of Christ's church?

Vs.11-12 Why is the number of angels a comfort for us?

Let  interpret 

Daniel 7:9 & 10 The Ancient of Days took his seat...Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.

How many words of glory are ascribed to Jesus? 7

- This can help remind us...

Vs.13 Who joined in the hymn of praise?

Vs.14 The word “Amen” means true / this is certain.

- Why is that an important end to the hymn of praise?

*Now the stage is set for the opening of the seven seals.*