

Behold, The Lion of the Tribe of Judah; Revelation 5:1-14

- I. A Savior Revealed
 - A. Revelation gives us pictures of Jesus
 - 1. A divine drama (not a historical narrative)
 - 2. Figurative and symbolic
 - B. We must put on our 1st century glasses
 - 1. This book had an immediate sense of application for the Christians
 - 2. Like all other books, this one is God and Christ centered book
- II. A Savior Sought
 - A. Revelation 5:1–5 (ESV); ¹ Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴ and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”
 - B. A sealed book
 - 1. Seven seals, the number of completeness
 - 2. In God’s right hand; strong and capable
 - C. A mighty angel
 - 1. Not just any angel, but a mighty one!
 - 2. Still, he is not worthy to break the seals
 - 3. He calls for someone worthy to break the seals of the scroll
 - D. A sorrowful response
 - 1. John weeps at the thought of not having a savior (no one worthy)
 - 2. “Weep” - cry, bewail
 - 3. To express deep sorrow for usually by wailing and lamentation [*wringing her hands and bewailing her fate*] ¹
 - E. A conquering Lion
 - 1. BEHOLD!
 - 2. Weep no more
 - 3. The Lion of the Tribe of Judah has conquered!
 - 4. There is a Savior worthy to open the scroll!
- III. A Savior Slain
 - A. Revelation 5:6–7 (ESV); ⁶ And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne.
 - B. A Lamb
 - 1. Not the word for an adult lamb but for a young lamb
 - 2. This lamb bears all the marks of having lost its life as a sacrifice
 - 3. And the effects of death are still visible on the Lamb
 - 4. “Furthermore, the Lamb is not lying on the ground without life but is standing at the center of the throne, encircled by four living creatures and the 24 elders. Therefore,

¹ Inc Merriam-Webster, Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary. (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

apparently the elders' word to John that the Lion of Judah has "triumphed" is exactly the case."²

- a) Horns - strength and power (7)
- b) Eyes - vision and wisdom (7)
- c) The seven spirits of God - The Holy Spirit
- d) Colossians 1:18–19 (ESV);¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.¹⁹ **For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,**
- e) Revelation 3:1 (ESV);¹ "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: '**The words of him who has the seven spirits of God** and the seven stars. " "I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

IV. A Savior Worshiped

- A. Revelation 5:8–14 (ESV);⁸ And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands,¹² saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"¹³ And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.
- B. A new song
 - 1. What is given to God in chapter 4 is given to the Savior in chapter 5
 - 2. John sees God seated on His throne and the beings in the throne room
 - 3. Revelation 4:8–11 (ESV);⁸ And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"⁹ And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever,¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,¹¹ "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."
 - 4. We must see the equality of the One seated on the throne and the One who was slain yet is standing
- C. A heavenly host
 - 1. It started with the 24 elders and the four living creatures
 - 2. It ends with "every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them"
 - 3. Theology should always lead to doxology! The study of God should always lead to the praise of God

² Paige Patterson, *Revelation*, ed. E. Ray Clendenen, vol. 39, The New American Commentary (Nashville, TN: B&H, 2012), 166.

V. Behold! The Savior

- A. God gives the Christians of the 1st century (and also us) a beautiful picture of the conquering Savior
- B. A mighty Savior worthy to break the seal of the scroll
- C. A Savior who was slain, the perfect sacrifice for sin; yet living
- D. A heavenly host who can do nothing but worship the revealed Savior!
- E. What is your response to the revealed Savior?