## THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 3/14-15/2022 Revelation Chapter 5

## PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

<u>MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study</u> - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada) THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN <u>CLASSROOM HS107</u>, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

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#### **<u>TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study</u>** - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada). THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

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### **OPENING PRAYER**

Revelation Chapter 5 – Redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb!! It's about our redemption! The Lamb (Where is the Lamb?) Takes the Scroll (The greatest escrow close of all!) - (vs. 1-7); Worthy is the Lamb – (vs. 8-14).

### Worthy is the Lamb! The Scroll and the Lamb

- Jesus Christ is again the central figure of this chapter. He appears suddenly and dramatically at the center stage of heaven, coming to claim His rightful inheritance from His Father's hand. He is the heir of the line of Jewish royalty, the Root of David. He comes with divine authority to receive the title deed to the world and to enact the eternal purposes of God Almighty.
- John is in heaven, between the time of the rapture of the church and the beginning of the seals being opened in chapter 6, and God's wrath being poured out in the Great Tribulation.
- As we go through this remember, we're going to be there! We are going to stand there. We are going to see this! John is somewhere between the Rapture of the church and the opening of the seven

## Rev 5:1 And I saw in the right hand (hand of authority) of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

- The scroll was upon paper made of the papyrus, and it was rolled in a scroll. The scroll of Revelation would have been about, probably twenty feet long. You would roll from the right to the left and as you would read the Greek scroll of the book of Revelation. So, in heaven there is this scroll. It has seven seals.
- Written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. The writing on the inside likely described the inheritance. And on the back, the outside, it would describe the requirements to open it! We don't know exactly how the seals were placed, but this vision is what John saw. It doesn't have to fit our intellect to be true and correct. (Jer 32:10-11) And I signed the deed and sealed it, took witnesses, and weighed the money on the scales. [11] So I took the purchase deed, both that which was sealed according to the law and custom, and that which was open. We have another example of redemption by Boaz in the Book of Ruth.

Rev 5:2 Then I saw a strong (mighty) angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"

*Rev 5:3* And <u>no one</u> (masculine, no not even one!)*in heaven or on the earth or under the earth* (in any realm!) <u>was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.</u>

*Rev 5:4 So <u>I wept much</u>* (sobbed, loudly, convulsively, continuing to sob!), *because no one was found worthy to open* (break the seals) *and read the scroll, or to look at it.* 

- Why did John sob convulsively? Here is this interesting scroll. The angel is asking, *Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals*? No one was found worthy. John begins to sob convulsively, possibly the first time in heaven, realizing that none of the things promised in that scroll and its seals, the plan of the ages, the redemption of man, worked out in human history and on into eternity, could be realized, if there was no one to open the scroll! What is the scroll? Many commentators, believe that the scroll is the title deed to the earth, in which are written the terms of the redemption of the earth.
- In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was the Lord's and its fullness. It belonged to God by virtue of divine creation. But God then gave the earth to man. When He created Adam and placed him on the earth, He told Adam that he was to have dominion over the earth. He was to take care of it and treasure it, as a beautiful gift of God.
- But when Satan came and tempted Eve to eat of the tree in the midst of the garden, of which God had told them specifically they were not to eat of that tree, and if they did, they would surely die. When Eve ate and gave to Adam, he ate in disobedience to the command of God, but it was also obedience to Satan. A double action. In so doing, Adam and Eve left the kingdom of God, the kingdom of light and life and they entered into the kingdom of Satan, the kingdom of death and darkness!
- In so doing, the earth, which was theirs, was given over to Satan. They forfeited this beautiful earth into Satan's control. Satan has control over the world today. Paul calls him the god of this world. Jesus referred to him as the prince of this world.
- When Jesus came to the earth, His purpose in coming to the earth was to redeem the world back to God. It once belonged to God. God gave it to man. Man in a sense, gave it to Satan, but Jesus came to redeem the world back to God, to pay the price of redemption. That was His death upon the cross, the shedding of His blood. The giving of His life for man's sin--the price of redemption. Peter said, (*IPe 1:18-19*) *knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, [19] but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.* He paid the price to redeem us from sin!
- When Jesus began His public ministry, after He was baptized, and the Holy Spirit had come upon Him, Satan took Him to a high mountain. He showed Jesus all of the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them. Satan said to Jesus, All of these, I will give to You if You bow down and worship me. For they are mine and I can give them to whomever I will. Jesus did not dispute the claim of Satan. But acknowledged that he was the possessor of the earth at that time. Jesus came to redeem the world back to God, not by bowing down to Satan, but by going to the cross and giving His life as a ransom for all. Jesus in answer to Satan said, (*Mat 4:10*) *Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For*

*it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND HIM ONLY YOU SHALL SERVE.*" Satan is the god of this world and is in control to the present time.

- When we get to chapter thirteen, we're going to find that there's going to arise a world ruler. Satan is going to empower this man. He is going to give to him, his throne and his authority. This man will be known as the antiChrist. Satan will seek to be worshipped through this man. Of course, Satan has desired worship. His fall was perpetrated by his desire of being exalted above the other angels, above the stars of God. His endeavor to elevate himself to the position of worship that belongs only to God. So, Satan still possesses. He hasn't yet turned the world over to this anti-Christ. In chapter thirteen, Satan turns over the power and authority of the earth to him. He offered it to Jesus. He will give it to his emissary in chapter thirteen.
- Now Jesus paid the price to redeem the world back to God. However, He has not yet laid claim to that which He purchased. In the book of Hebrews, (*Heb 2:7-8*) YOU HAVE MADE HIM A LITTLE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND SET HIM OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS. [8] YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET." For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. We have this period of time, since the price of redemption was paid, until the Lord redeems His purchased possession.
- In (*Eph 1:13-14*) In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, [14] who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. God has given to us the gift of the Holy Spirit. It's sort of a down payment. It's sort of God's indication of His intent. He is earnest in His intention of redeeming you.
- In (*Rom 8:23*) 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. That is yet future, the redeeming of the world.
- As a child, you may have read the story of the gingerbread man. How that this little girl had baked the gingerbread man. After she had put the icing on it and the raisin buttons and so forth, this little gingerbread man jumped out of the pan and began to run down the street. She began to chase after him. He called back, Run, run, as fast as you can, you'll never catch me, I'm a gingerbread man. He was right. She couldn't catch him. She went home weeping and sorrowful.
- The next day as she was walking down the street, as she passed the bakery, she looked into the window. There, in the case was her gingerbread man, smiling at her. She went into the bakery, saying to the proprietor, I want my gingerbread man. He's there in the window. The baker said, he will cost you ten cents. She said, No, you don't understand. He's mine! The baker said, I'm sorry, if you want him, it will cost you ten cents. So, she went home, emptying out her piggy bank, got the ten coins. She went back to the baker and said, now I want my gingerbread man, as she placed the ten cents down on the counter. He pulled it out of the case and handed it to her. She clasped it tightly onto her chest as she said, Now you are really mine! First of all, I made you and now I have bought you! You're really mine!
- As Jesus clutches you closely, He says, Now you are really Mine. I made you and I bought you. You're really Mine! He has redeemed us by His blood. Thus, here is the title deed to the earth. The angel proclaims, Who is worthy to take this scroll, break the seals? No man is found worthy in heaven, in earth, under the earth. No man can redeem the world. No government can redeem the world!
- There have been a number of men who have attempted to redeem the world, who were willing, <u>but not worthy!</u> They however, made a bigger mess. Alexander the Great was willing. Pharoah, Genghis Khan, Charlemagne, Napoleon were all willing. It was Hitler's goal to redeem the world, to create the super race to inhabit the world. But oh, what a mess he made in his endeavor to redeem!
- Only Jesus Christ, our kinsman Redeemer, is worthy! No man can redeem the world. No man is worthy. No man can save himself, much less others! Surely, no ordinary man can redeem the world. So, John begins to sob. Why? Because under the law of redemption, found back in Leviticus chapter fourteen, a person who sold his property had the right to redeem it if it was within a walled city, he had the right to redeem it within a year. If it wasn't redeemed within the year, the transfer of the property became complete, and it remained in the new ownership perpetually!
- If the earth is not redeemed in the specified time, the consequence is that it stays under Satan's control forever! This is more than John could take. The thought of the world going on, perpetually,

under Satan's power. The thought of the powers of darkness ruling and continuing to rule over the world! Satan's name means a destroyer. Just look at how many lives are being destroyed by Satan! Anyone under Satan's power, is in the process of having his life destroyed! So, the thought of the world staying under Satan's control and power is more than John can handle. He begins to sob with the thought that the world is going to be under Satan's control forever.

*Rev 5:5* <u>But</u> one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold (imperative, you need to consider this, someone has prevailed!), the <u>Lion of the tribe of Judah</u>, the <u>Root of David</u>, has prevailed (nikao, the word translated overcomer in each of Jesus' seven letters) to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

- The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the symbol of Israel's messianic tribe, as Jacob is prophesying over his son, (Gen 49:9-10) Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him? [10] The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people. In the springtime of A.D. 12, the Romans issue a decree declaring that the Jewish people would no longer be able to carry out capital punishment.
- The scepter had departed! The rabbis' response to the decree was immediate because they believed capital punishment was the cornerstone of government as defined in the Noahic Covenant. When they were denied this fundamental right of government, and thereby rendered powerless as a nation, the rabbis rushed into the streets of Jerusalem, rending their clothes and smiting their breasts. We are told the whole city was filled with the wailing of rabbis who understood that something terrible was happening. The scepter had departed. The authority was gone. Yet Messiah had not come—or so they thought. For on that very day, sitting in the temple in Jerusalem as a twelve-year-old, was confounding the scribes and thinkers of the day! It was *The Lion of the Tribe of Judah*—Jesus Christ!
- The Root of David. We are reminded that Jesus is both the descendant of David's royal line and the source of it, as we read in (Isa 11:1) There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch (netzer, descendant, offspring) shall grow out of his roots. Thus, Jesus, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals. Jesus was born of the house and lineage of David, but because He preceded David by all eternity, He's the Root (source) of David, as well as a Branch (offspring) from David. "I understand why you're weeping, John," said the angel. "There is no need to weep, this won't go on forever! The Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David has prevailed, has overcome!" In the last chapter in the Bible, Jesus says, (Rev 22:16) "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."

Rev 5:6 And I looked, and <u>behold</u> (woe), in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood (standing) a <u>Lamb (Rev 5:6,8,12,13)</u>—meaning a pet lamb, a little lamb, – Jesus uses this term 29 times to describe Himself in Revelation!), as though it had been slain (slaughtered), having <u>seven horns</u> (omnipotence – all power) and <u>seven eyes</u> (omniscience – all seeing), which are the <u>seven Spirits</u> (omnipresence) of God sent out into all the earth. The seven horns, the omnipotence; the seven eyes, the omniscience, of Jesus!

- How do we "miss the *Lamb*?" There in the center of the heavenly scene, *there stood a Lamb as though it had been slain.* How did John miss the *Lamb*? Here John is standing in the midst of the throne! How often do I, "miss the *Lamb*?" In the midst of Covid, Russian-Ukraine war, lawlessness, perversion of every sexual thing, movement of the Left and of the Globalists, am I continuously keeping my eyes and heart "on the *Lamb*?"
- **His death is our triumph!** Jesus alone has overcome every obstacle by His death on the cross. Thus, He alone Has the unchallenged right to approach God's throne on our behalf, to take the scroll from the hand of the Almighty, and bring about the counsels of God. Indeed, the whole scope of the Revelation tells us that the Lamb that was slain shall become King of kings and Lord of lords!
- In Jesus alone the majesty and might of the lion and the meekness and sacrifice of the Lamb are combined one glorious person. He is at the center of the universe, and all of heaven waits breathlessly as He approaches before His accusers, now marches boldly through the throngs of heaven. He who was rejected shall rule and reign in righteousness. He who was spit upon shall sit upon the throne of David. He who was crowned with thorns shall be crowned with the diadem of the Almighty.
- We likely will not be attracted by His beauty! There is an interesting passage, concerning the Messiah in (Isa 53:2-5) For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry

ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, **There is no beauty that we should** desire Him. [3] He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. That is, we'll not be attracted by His beauty. [4] Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. [5] But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. There are scriptures that would seem to indicate that Jesus even after His resurrection bore the mark of the cross in His body.

- It is interesting that the disciples on the road to Emmaus did not recognize Him until He broke the bread and they probably saw the nail prints in His hands. When He appeared to His disciples, when Thomas was present who had expressed his doubt of the resurrection and said that he would not believe until he could see the prints in His hand and the wound in His side, when Jesus appeared, He said, Look, Thomas, see the prints. Feel My side! See, if it isn't Me. You remember Thomas cried out, My Lord and my God!
- It says that when Jesus comes, that they shall look upon Him whom they have pierced. Zechariah says, (Zec 13:6) And one will say to him, 'What are these wounds between your arms?' Then he will answer, 'Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.'
- It could be that your first view of Jesus will be a very shocking thing because it is possible that He is still bearing the marks of the beating and of the cross. His face beaten until it was so swollen, you could not recognize Him as a human being as Isaiah prophesied, (*Isa 52:14*) *Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men;* Thus, when we first see Him, it is possible that we might still see the marks of His suffering and death, which if so, will break all of our hearts to realize what He endured in order to redeem us from our sins. It will surely evoke our thanksgiving and praise spontaneously, if we indeed see Him with the marks of His suffering and death still there.
- Ultimately, when He sets up the kingdom, we will see Him in the glorified form. (Joh 17:5) And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. John describes Him in the glorified form back in chapter one. That will be ultimate. But, even then, is it possible that He will still bear the marks of the price of redemption, that we might see what He was willing to endure, because He loves you so much, that words cannot describe it! Jesus said to His disciples, (Joh 15:13) Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. When we see the marks of the cross, we'll realize the depths of His love, tugging at each of our hearts!
- Notice when John sees Him, he sees Him not as the Lion of the tribe of Judah, but he sees Him as *a Lamb as though it had been slain*, slaughtered! *Having seven horns*. In the scriptures the horn is a symbol of power. The number seven is the number of completeness. Thus, the complete power or the omnipotence of Jesus!
- Seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. The eyes, of course, the symbol of seeing or the number seven again, all seeing or the omniscience of Jesus. Seeing all things. (Heb 4:13) And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. The seven horns, the omnipotence; the seven eyes, the omniscience of Jesus—the characteristics and attributes of deity!

# *Rev 5:7* Then He came and <u>took the scroll out of the right hand of Him</u> who sat on the throne.

- What a dramatic moment! Here we see the scroll in the right hand of Him who sits upon the throne, the strong angel with a loud voice asking who is worthy to take the scroll and loose the seals. No one is found worthy, until Jesus steps forth there in the midst of the throne, with His nail pierced hand, taking the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sits upon the throne. With the taking of the scroll, action is about to begin. Once more we notice the importance of Christ's position in the scene. He is walking in Heaven. He came to the throne. He is not sitting there as Mediator. He stands as Judge. When the great moment of praise shall have ceased, He will tear the seals from the scroll, precipitating that tribulation which He Himself said, was greater than any since the beginning of the world!
- Jesus Christ *our kinsman Redeemer*! The Father would not just give, in redeeming the earth, the scroll, the title deed of the earth to just anyone, but only to the one who was able to fulfill the necessary requirements of a kinsman Redeemer! The four requirements were: He must be a blood relative! hence the incarnation as a God-man; Be free Himself, able to pay the price! only Jesus

led a sinless life; **Be willing to pay** the price! **Had to marry** the wife! **The One and only One, was our Lord, our Redeemer, our Savior and High Priest, Jesus Christ!** 

*Rev 5:8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and <u>the twenty-four</u> <u>elders fell down before the Lamb</u>, each (of the elders -agreement of pronoun, in number and gender, which they modify; <i>living creatures* are neuter, not masculine as is *elders.*) having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers (petitions, not worship) of the saints (during the entire church age).

- Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Here they were worshipping Him who sat upon the throne and now they worship the Lamb, falling down before the Lamb!
- *Each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.* Prayer is often likened unto incense, a sweet-smelling savor unto God. It talks about the altar of incense in the Old Testament. How that the priest would go in before the altar of incense, with the sweet smell of the incense rising, which was a symbol of the prayers of God's people, rising up to the Lord. How God loves to have you commune with Him! How God loves to just have you sit down and open up your heart to Him and express to Him your love and your worship and our prayers, which ascend as incense before the throne of God. So, they bring these little *golden bowls full of incense*, which are the prayers of the saints at the time that Jesus takes the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sits upon the throne! What a dramatic scene!
- These likely are the prayers that we have offered to the Lord when we pray. *Thy kingdom come! Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven!* For the time has now come for the kingdom of God to come and for the Lord to establish His righteous reign over the earth. Throughout the centuries, the church has followed the model that Jesus gave when He said to pray. *Thy kingdom come! Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven!* As we have longed and we've prayed, Even *so, come quickly, Lord Jesus!* All of these prayers of the coming kingdom will be offered at that time for the time of their fulfillment has come!

**Rev 5:9** (SONG OF THE REDEEMED CHURCH) And they sang a new song (It's new in the sense of its quality, not sung before!), saying: "You are worthy (in His redemptive acts!) to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain (slaughtered), And have redeemed (buy someone out of the slave market, setting them free) <u>us</u> to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

(*Rev 1:5b-6*) To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, [6] and has made <u>us</u> kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- And have made us kings and priests to our God! It is "us" and "we", not "them and "they? Some of the modern Bible translations change this passage. They would have <u>them</u> singing, For You were slain and has redeemed <u>them</u> to God by You blood, as though they are singing about us. This is the song we, the church, are singing! The vast majority of the ancient manuscripts read the "us," there in chapter ten. You have made us unto our God kings and priests. Many do not like the modern translations for this reason. Barnes, Adam Clark and most of the great commentators agree, 23 of 24 known Greek manuscripts containing Rev. 5 say <u>"us"</u>, only the Codex Alexandrinus says "them") on "You have made <u>us kings and priest to our God." Who is the only group of people who can say, "Out of every kindred and tongue, nation and people, we have been redeemed by the blood"? It is only the church!
  </u>
- And they sang a new song! Who is the "they sang a new song?" As you read the lyrics of the song, it becomes very obvious who is singing the song! We will be there! We will sing this song!

Rev 5:10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

• Only the church—which means the church is in heaven in chapter 5 before the Tribulation begins in chapter 6. This is the song of the church singing there in heaven of the worthiness of the Lamb to take the book and to loose the seals because He was slain and has redeemed us by His blood! It's not the song of redeemed Israel. This is the song of the redeemed from all the world, the church, which is comprised of people from every nation and tribe and family and tongue. Our destiny and our future are to be a kingdom of priests. You... have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.

- In chapter one, "(*Rev 1:5b-6*) *To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins* in *His* own blood, [6] and has made us kings and priests to *His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.* The future is very beautiful for the church as the Lord returns to the earth and we return with Him. We will be His representatives throughout the world. We will be a kingdom of priests, who will bring people unto the Lord and bring the Lord to the people in that great day!
- Notice they declare the worthiness to take the scroll, to loose the seals because He was slain. He paid the price of redemption. Redeemed us by His blood! We sing, *Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it, redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. Redeemed through His infinite mercy, His child and forever I am.* So, here we are in heaven singing the song of redemption! Finally, the family of God will be before our eyes! The overwhelming sense of the blood of Jesus and he only reason any of us will be there is solely for that reason! We have contributed nothing at all! We will look and see all the ethnicities gathered around and we'll all be home! Home, forever, seeing the way God always wanted it to be! What an incredible picture!

*Rev 5:11 (SONG WITH THE ANGELS JOINING)* Then I <u>looked (saw)</u>, and I <u>heard</u> the voice of <u>many angels</u> around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,

• Now after we are through, the angels, multitude of angels join with us. John said, Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand (a hundred million), and thousands of thousands, which are millions more! How many angels are there? We don't know! But indeed, there will be a big crowd, millions in every direction, as they are singing the wonders and the glory of the Lamb!

*Rev 5:12 saying with a <u>loud</u> ("home" field advantage, everyone wants to be there!) voice: "Worthy is the <u>Lamb</u> who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"* 

• These are the things that will be bestowed upon Jesus at this time! The power. All power, He said, is given to Me in heaven and earth. He is worthy to receive that power. The glory, the riches, the wisdom, the strength, the honor, the blessing. Worthy of these things. The blessings of the people and the angels.

*Rev 5:13 (SONG OF ALL CREATION) And <u>every creature</u> (all creation) which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the <u>Lamb</u>, forever and ever!"* 

- And then it even grows from there! *Every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth!* That is, those who have died who are now resurrected!
- (Joh 17:4-5, 24) I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. [5] And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. [24] "Father, I desire (the only time Jesus says what He wants! He wants the family "home"!) that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

Rev 5:14 Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

- The four living creatures said, "Amen" and the twenty-four elders! The four living creatures add their final "Amen"! Also, the twenty-four elders, which is believed to be representative of the church, prostrate themselves in worship. Indeed, an awesome picture! All of heaven is on its face before the Father and the Son! Praise resounds in crescendos! Worship comes from every heart! The Lamb has taken possession of the title deed to the universe, vanquishing Satan's usurped position, redeeming the universe back to God! Jesus holds the divine contract in His nail-scarred and pierced hands. He stands ready to open the seals, pronouncing the judgments, taking possession of His rightful kingdom on earth! Hallelujah!
- Every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess! Now there are many passages of scripture that refer to the day when every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord. In (*Psa 22:29*) All the prosperous of the earth Shall eat and worship; All those who go down to the dust (that is, those who are dead) Shall bow before Him, Even he who cannot keep himself alive.

- Paul, in (Rom 14:11) For it is written: "AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL CONFESS TO GOD." Then in Philippians chapter two, (Php 2:8-11) And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. [9] Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name, which is above every name, [10] 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, [11] and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- Now you may not want to do that, acknowledging that Jesus is Lord. You may not want to bow your knee to the lordship of Jesus. You may say, I am going to live after my own desires, my own wishes. I will not submit to the authority of Jesus in my life. And now, you have that ability because God has made us self-determinate creatures. But one day, like it or not, every knee shall bow, every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord to the glory of God the Father!
- The <u>tragedy is that if you wait until you are forced to bow your knee</u> at that day and make the confession that Jesus Christ is Lord. <u>That will not be a confession unto salvation, but it will be a</u> <u>confession unto damnation</u> as you make the confession that Jesus Christ is the Lord, but you refused to submit to His lordship in your life. **Don't wait!** You don't want to wait until that day to make the confession!
- Paul said, (*Rom 10:9-10*) that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. [10] For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. But one day every knee shall bow. If you don't do it now, you'll do it later. Doing it now will bring you salvation. Waiting till later only is acknowledging the righteousness of God in bringing you damnation. So, you need to think that one over because sooner or later, you're going to do it. Better sooner than later, for sure!
- The whole universe shall acknowledge the lordship of Jesus Christ. You see, God has given to Him a name that is above every name that at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow, every tongue confess. So here we find in Revelation chapter five at the end, all of the creatures declaring the worthiness of the Lamb and the glory to the Lamb forever and ever! *Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!*
- Now in chapter six, He begins to break the seals on this scroll. As He breaks the seals there in heaven, there are corresponding events that are taking place on the earth. These events are the beginning of the judgment period as God begins to pour out His judgment upon the earth. Chapter six begins the great period of judgment that is coming upon the Christ-rejecting world. As we go from six through eighteen, we will be reading of the events of God's judgment as His wrath is poured out upon the earth because of the sinfulness, because of their following the rebellion of Satan against the authority of God. Thus, God will begin His judgment upon them.
- Notice that we are in the heavenly scene in chapter five. The church is there, (*Rev 5:9-10*) And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, [10] And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." We're up there singing of His worthiness!
- I want to be there singing, when He takes the scroll out of the right hand, the title deed, and begins to lay claim to that which He purchased. I want to be there singing, *Worthy is the Lamb to take the scroll and open its seals*! I don't want to be down here on earth when He begins to break those seals!
- As we get into that next week, you won't want to be down here either! So, we'll move on now into the events that will be taking place on the earth during this seven-year period of time that we will be with the Lord in heaven. At the end of this judgment period, then in chapter nineteen, we return in glory with Jesus to the earth as He then establishes His kingdom upon the earth! So, we're moving into the future scene! It is most important, especially at this time. Many believers think that we are very, very close now to these things transpiring that we're going to be reading about in the Book of Revelation! I think we're on the verge of these things now!
- Jesus said, again in Luke, When you see these things, talking about the wickedness and the iniquity
  and all on the earth, He said, (*Luk 21:28, 36*) Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift
  up your heads, because your redemption draws near. [36] Watch therefore, and pray always that you
  may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of
  Man." We have some exciting chapters ahead as we take a look into the future as God renovates the

earth or brings judgment upon the earth in preparation for the return of Jesus Christ with the church to establish God's kingdom, the righteous rule and reign of God over the earth! Exciting days ahead!

### **SUMMARY POINTS:**

- When is this going to happen? SOON!
- The tribulation doesn't start until chapter six. We're already in heaven. The rapture of the church has taken place. In Luke 21, when Jesus is giving the disciples the signs of the His coming and the end of the age, He tells them that there's going to be this great tribulation that is going to come upon the earth.
- He tells them some of the events of the great tribulation. Some of the cataclysmic kind of judgments of God where the stars will fall from heaven, tremendous meteorite showers and the earth removed out of her place and just these terrible things. The earthquakes, the tidal waves and the destruction that comes from God and also from the demon hordes that are going to be released upon the earth as God judges the earth for their sin.
- Jesus, when He was talking to His disciples about these things of the great tribulation period, said in (*Luk 21:36*) Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man." When this day comes, you will be here on the earth to experience the judgment of God, or you will be there in heaven beholding it from the heavenly scene. Jesus said, "pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man." Believe me, if Jesus said that I should pray for that, you better know that I am praying for that. I want to be in that crowd in heaven!

## **CLOSING SONG:**

**<u>REDEEMED!</u>** - Fanny Crosby, William Kirkpatrick, Terry Blackwell (4:01/3:01) Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it! Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb; Redeemed through His infinite mercy, His child and forever I am. Refrain: Redeemed, redeemed, Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb; Redeemed, redeemed, His child and forever I am.

Redeemed, and so happy in Jesus, No language my rapture can tell; I know that the light of His presence With me doth continually dwell. Refrain

I think of my blessed Redeemer, I think of Him all the day long: I sing, for I cannot be silent; His love is the theme of my song. Refrain

I know I shall see in His beauty The King in whose law I delight; Who lovingly guardeth every footsteps, And giveth me songs in the night. Refrain

## **CLOSING PRAYER:**

- Father, You've given us fair warning in the scripture.
- Many of the things that You've spoken about have already come to pass. We see how that we are moving very definitely towards these final things.
- Lord, there are some here right now, who are not ready. If You should call Your church home tonight, they would be left to face this great tribulation and the events that will transpire when Jesus begins to break the seals from the scroll.
- Lord, it's tragic because they don't need to be here. You provided the way of redemption through Your blood.
- We pray, Lord, that this might be the moment that many will make their decision to submit to Jesus as their Lord. This will be the moment when they bow their knee and confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father. Lord, speak to our hearts. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

### For next week, read Chapter 6!