

THE SEALED BOOK

REVELATION 5:1-10

NONE TO OPEN THE BOOK (REV. 5:1-3)

1. What did John see in the right hand of the one who sat on the throne?
 - A book (Rev. 5:1).
 - This was a scroll - βιβλίον
 - cf. Luke 4:17 - ἀναπτύξας τὸ βιβλίον (unrolled the scroll).
2. How was it written?
 - It was written within and on the backside (Rev. 5:1).
 - If you think of this as a book like we have today then being written on front and back wouldn't be unusual or express any special meaning.
 - A scroll was typically written on one side and rolled with the blank side out.
 - This scroll was written on front and back, inside and out. This expresses the fullness of the writing (cf. Ezek. 2:9, 10).
 - **It is God's word held in the right hand with no room for additions or alterations.**
3. How was it sealed?
 - It was sealed with seven seals (Rev. 5:1).
 - The significance of the seals:
 - 1) A seal of wax or clay stamped with an insignia of the sender was used as a proof of authenticity.
 - 2) The seal verified that the scroll was from the one claiming to have sent it and the authority of the message.
 - 3) The seal protected the contents of the scroll from being tampered with.
 - 4) Only the one authorized to break the seal could open and read the scroll (cf. Isa. 29:9-12).
 - The significance of seven seals:
 - 1) Seven represents completion or perfection.
 - 2) The book was perfectly or completely sealed and only the one worthy could open it.

STUDIES IN REVELATION: LESSON 5

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4. What did John see?
 - John saw a strong angel (2)
 - Possibly Michael (Jude 9; Rev. 12:7-9).
5. What was he proclaiming?
 - The proclamation was for one who was worthy to come and open the scroll (2).
6. Did anyone answer the call of the proclamation?
 - There was none worthy in heaven or on earth or under the earth to open the book.
 - There is no man in all creation who has not sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23; Eccl. 7:20).

THE LION OF JUDAH (REV. 5:4-7)

7. How did John react?
 - John wept much when there was none found to open the book (4).
 - Looking over all mankind, dead and living, throughout the ages, there is not even one who has not rebelled against God.
 - How sad it is that of all the billions of souls created in the image of God, not one could step forth on their own merit to take the scroll.
8. Who spoke to John?
 - One of the 24 elders spoke to John (5).
9. How did he comfort John?
 - He told John to “weep not.”
 - John was weeping because there was no one found worthy to open the scroll.
10. Who is the Lion of the tribe of Judah?
 - The Lion of the tribe of Judah (cf. Heb. 7:14; Gen. 49:10).
 - The Root of David (see chart)
 - 1) Jesus is the fulfillment of every promise for a Root of David.
 - 2) Jesus is the long awaited Shiloh!
11. What had he done?
 - The elder told him that there was one who had “prevailed” that was worthy to open it.

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- 1) 39.57 νικάω; νίκη, ης; νίκος, ους *n*: to win a victory over—‘to be victorious over, to be a victor, to conquer, victory.’
- 2) 1 John 5:4; 1 Cor. 15:57

12. What did John see when he looked?

- As lamb as it had been slain in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures (6).
- Isa. 53; 1 Pet. 1:20; Rev. 13:8
- Jn 1:29, 36; 10:17-18

13. Describe the one John saw?

- The Lamb was as it had been slain (Heb. 9:14, 26; 10:12).
- He had seven horns and seven eyes.
 - 1) Horns are symbolic of power (cf. Dan. 7:7-8, 20-25; 8:3-10, 19-27).
 - 2) Seven horns symbolize his complete and total authority.
 - 3) The seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits, represent his total and complete control over his kingdom by the revelation delivered at his behest through the Holy Spirit (cf. Jn. 14:16-18).

14. What did John see him do?

- He came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne (7).

WORTHY IS THE LAMB (REV. 5:8-10)

15. How did the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders react?

- They fell down before the Lamb and worshiped him (8).

16. What did they have?

- They had harps and golden vials (bowls) full of incense (8).
- The harps and bowls of incense are symbolic of the worship of the saints.
 - 1) It explicitly states that these were the prayers of the saints.
 - 2) This does not authorize mechanical instruments in worship any more than it does the offering of incense.
 - 3) It is symbolic of the praise and worship of the saints and not descriptive of the literal elements of the worship.

17. What did they do?

STUDIES IN REVELATION: LESSON 5

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- They sang a new song unto the Lamb (9).

18. How did they address the Lamb?

- Thou art worthy (9).

19. Why did they address him in this way?

- He was worthy to take the book because he had been slain and redeemed us to God by thy blood (9).

20. What had the Lamb made them?

- He has made us kings and priests (10).

21. Where would they reign?

- On the earth (11).