**Revelation 5, 1/4/2019**

**Opening**

* Do you know what SWAK means? Sealed With A Kiss.
	+ Have you written (or received) love letters? Have you seen or used that term? Why sealed?



* Have you seen a will before? What is that? Generally who write it? What is its purpose? What does it describe? Who can open it and when? Why?
	+ Do you have a will? Having a will is very important if you have children.
* Many times a government has documents classified, and only very few people can read them. Have you heard about such documents?
	+ Can such documents be declassified? Why and when?
	+ Declassification of information. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Declassification
	+ The originating agency assigns a declassification date, by default 10 years. After 25 years declassification review is automatic, with nine narrow exceptions that allow information to continue to be classified. At 50 years there are two exceptions, and classifications beyond 75 years require special permission.
	+ Examples of declassified information:
		- JFK Assassination Records - 2018 Additional Documents Release. https://www.archives.gov/research/jfk/release
		- UFO Documents. https://www.nsa.gov/news-features/declassified-documents/ufo/
		- FBI Records: The Vault. https://vault.fbi.gov/
* What was discussed in Revelation 4 previously? The Throne in Heaven.
	+ Revelation 4:11. “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.” What’s next? A scroll with seven seals for things to come.



The scroll with seven seals.

https://woodlandonline.org/wednesdaywoodland-revelation-5-the-scroll-and-the-lamb/

**The Scroll and the Lamb (5:1-14)**

* Rev. 5:1-14 John recounts two parts of a single magnificent vision of God’s glory in Chs. 4 and 5. The second dramatic act within the vision is introduced in 5:1. From creation in 4:11, the action shifts to a focus on redemption and re-creation. God’s purposes of redemption and rule can be accomplished only through One who is uniquely worthy – Jesus Christ. He is simultaneously the fierce Lion of the tribe of Judah, warring against God’s enemies, and the gentle Lamb that has been slain, who purchased His people with the blood of His atoning sacrifice. Only God in His Trinitarian fullness can accomplish these magnificent purposes. Note the presence of the Father (him who was seated on the throne), the son, and the Spirit of God. Reformation Study Bible.
* This chapter constitutes the opening scene for the first cycle of judgments that lead up to the Second Coming of Christ. The Lamb and the sealed scroll are introduced. The opening of the seals in 6:1 to 8:1 sets in motion a series of judgments that have their origin in God’s throne and purpose. Reformation Study Bible.
* Rev. 5:1 A scroll written within and on the back is like the scroll given to Ezekiel (Ezek. 2:9–3:3). This scroll resembles a Roman will or contract deed. The contents of such documents were written in detail on the inside and summarized briefly on the outside; they were then sealed with seven seals. The scroll John sees could symbolize a will to be opened so that its directions could be carried out, or it could symbolize God’s covenant with mankind. If so, the covenant curses that will happen are because of mankind’s covenant breaking. In a broader sense, the scroll contains God’s purposes for history, but its seven seals prevent the full disclosure and enactment of its contents. ESV Study Bible.
	+ Ezek. 2:9-3:3. And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning and woe. And he said to me, Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.” So I opened my mouth, and he gave me this scroll to eat. And he said to me, “Son of man, feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it.” Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey.
* Why is it necessary for someone to be found worthy to receive this scroll sealed with seven seals?
	+ What was the scroll about?
		- Redemption and re-creation.
	+ What would be the qualification for the one to open it?
		- Who can open a will?
	+ Why did John weep?
		- Think about the church in Laodicea? Neither cold nor hot. How about John here?
* Rev. 5:5 The Lion of the tribe of Judah echoes Jacob’s blessing on Judah (Gen. 49:8–12). Also, the Messiah was the branch that would grow from Jesse’s root to restore David’s dynasty (Isa. 11:1, 10). He is thus called the Root of David. Jesus is not only David’s royal descendant (Rev. 22:16); he is also the source of David’s rule (Mark 12:35–37). ESV Study Bible.
	+ Gen. 49:8–12. “Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples. Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine, he has washed his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes. His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk.
	+ Isa. 11:1. There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
	+ Isa. 11:10. In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples – of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.
	+ Rev. 22:16. I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”
* Rev. 5:6–7 The conquering Lion now appears as a Lamb standing, as . . . slain. Jesus, God’s servant, was led like a lamb to slaughter. He took on himself the sins of others and achieved their healing (Isa. 53:4-7; John 1:29; 1 Pet. 1:19). The Lamb’s seven horns symbolize complete power (Ps. 18:2). His seven eyes, identified with God’s “seven spirits,” show that the Lamb’s knowledge extends throughout all the earth. ESV Study Bible.
	+ Isa. 53:4-7. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned – every one – to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.
	+ The seven horns represent the fullness of power (omnipotence) and the seven eyes represent the fullness of knowledge (omniscience). “The seven spirits of God sent out into all the Earth” is an expression indicating that Jesus perfectly knows everything taking place at any point in time.
		- https://www.wake-up.org/seven-seals/breaking-seven-seals.html
	+ Minister David Tai’s view:
		- Holy Spirit is omniscience. He sees the plan of God and minds of people.
		- Holy Spirit is sent by God to the world to fulfill the redemption work of the lamb on the believers.
* Rev. 5:8–10 Incense symbolizes the prayers of the saints. It shows that God hears their cries for relief and will answer through judgment (8:3–5). ESV Study Bible.
	+ Is God’s salvation limited to Israelites? No – it is for every tribe and language and people and nation.
* Rev. 5:9 Paradoxically, the Lion’s victory is his being slain as the Lamb, ransoming a multiethnic multitude (7:9) by his blood (1:5–6). Likewise, his martyrs’ faithfulness even to death is their victory (12:11). ESV Study Bible.
* Rev. 5:10 Kingdom and priests. See 1:6; Ex. 19:6; 1 Pet. 2:9. Reign on the earth. The first creation was damaged by human sin. It will be replaced by a new (or fully renewed) heaven and earth (Rev. 21:1, 4). There Christ’s saints will rule in righteousness (2 Pet. 3:13). ESV Study Bible.
	+ Ex. 19:6. and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”
	+ 1 Pet. 2:9. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
	+ Rev. 21:1. Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.
	+ Rev. 21:4. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”
* Rev. 5:11–12 The worship of the Lamb in this chapter testifies to his deity. ESV Study Bible.
* There are three sets of praises.
	+ Verses 8-10: to the Lamb by the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders.
	+ Verses 11-12: to the Lamb by angels.
	+ Verses 13-14: to him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb by all.
* Discussion
	+ Can you see Jesus’ central role in God’s whole plan?
	+ Was he worthy to receive the scroll and open the seals? Why?

**Wrapping up**

* What are your favorite verses in this chapter?
* What are inside the scroll? Do you want to find out? Come back next time.

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Peter Luh, Chunlong Liu, Shiki Yin, Xiao Zhou, 5/1/2014

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