

## "The Scroll and the Lamb"

### Part 1

#### Revelation 5:1-14

**Introduction:** Two weeks ago we started into the 3<sup>rd</sup> section of this book and it is the section which deals with prophecy. This prophetic section of the letter starts in Revelation 4 and goes through Revelation 22. In chapter 4 we were privileged to see into heaven. In chapter 4 John related that which he was able to see in heaven. Now as we approach chapter 5 things are going to begin to stir. In chapter 4 John spoke of seeing God the Father on the throne as He sat in all of His glory. In chapter 5 God the Father is going to begin to move. In chapter 4 we did not see Jesus Christ. John heard His voice but never mentioned His presence. Here in chapter 5 Jesus will be present and He will be seen as the Lamb who had been slain.

In chapter 5 we are going to begin to see something which was hidden for thousands of years but starting here it is going to be revealed. We are not going to get very far into this chapter this morning but we are going to cover a lot of spiritual ground.

#### I. The Scroll

##### Notice Revelation 5:1

Here we see that the events in heaven are starting to unfold. It is still the same scene as chapter 4 but now we see in the hand of God the Father there is a book which is a scroll and it is written on the inside and on the outside and it is sealed with 7 seals.

This then raises several questions, "What is this scroll?" and "What is recorded on this scroll?"

##### 1. History

Let me give you a little history.

There were many legal documents in ancient days which were recorded on scrolls and then sealed. Wills were recorded on scrolls and they were then sealed with several seals. As they were rolled they would be sealed at the edges by a witness and then also signed by that witness. This was usually done 7 times thus there would be 7 seals. The seals prohibited anyone from looking at what was recorded until the appropriate time. The seals were often done with wax. But I do not believe the scroll here is a will.

Another official document which was recorded on a scroll and then rolled and sealed was a title deed for a piece of property. The details of the property were recorded in the deed and as it was rolled up there would be 7 seals placed on the edges of the scroll and it would be signed by those who witnessed the purchase. On the outside of the scroll there would be written a summary of what was inside the scroll. Therefore the scroll would be written on the inside and the outside.

## 2. The Scroll of the Old Testament

### Notice Daniel 12:1-13

Here in verse 9 we see that the scroll is sealed and it is closed up until the time of the end. In Revelation 5 we see the scroll again and it is about to be opened.

Ezekiel speaks about the scroll and he gives to us a little more insight.

### Ezekiel 2:9-10

<sup>9</sup> *And when I looked, behold, an hand was sent unto me; and, lo, a roll of a book was therein;*

<sup>10</sup> *And he spread it before me; and it was written within and without: and there was written therein lamentations, and mourning, and woe.*

Ezekiel was permitted to see the scroll and he tells us that there were therein lamentations, mourning and woe. These 3 words describe the Tribulation period which is recorded within the scroll.

**Now let us get back to our questions, "What is the scroll and what is recorded within the scroll?"**

The scroll which we see in Revelation 5 and in Daniel and Ezekiel is the Title Deed to the earth. Let me explain why I say this. God created the earth in Genesis 1 and then He entrusted the earth to man to subdue it.

### Genesis 1:28

<sup>28</sup> *And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

When Adam sinned the earth came under the curse and under the rule of Satan. Let us notice the words of Paul in 2 Corinthians and Ephesians.

**2 Corinthians 4:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> *But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:*

<sup>4</sup> *In whom the **god of this world** hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

**Ephesians 6:12**

<sup>12</sup> *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, **against the rulers of the darkness of this world**, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

These verses help us to see that the earth was lost by mankind and now it is under the influence of Satan and his demonic forces.

Now as the seals of the book of Revelation 5 are broken there will be 3 sets of terrible judgments poured out upon the earth. Now normally a title deed for property contains information about the property. It would call out the dimensions and where the corners were to be found along with other information about the property.

But the title deed to the earth does not contain such information. Instead it contains the way in which God is going to cleanse it, judge it and present it back to its original Owner. In the title deed we will see the seals, trumpets, and the bowl judgments which will be used by God to rid the earth of all who are unsaved and then it will be presented to Jesus Christ the original Owner and He will set up His kingdom.

**3. The Picture**

Now let me show you a picture of this in the Old Testament.

**Notice Jeremiah 32:1-15**

Jeremiah lived right before the Babylonian captivity. The Babylonians were already in the land and his cousin came to him and asked him to buy a piece of land. God gave Jeremiah the ok to buy the land so it was purchased. The title deed was written up and it was signed and sealed before witnesses. The land would be lost into the hands of the Babylonians for at least 70 years but it would eventually go back to the descendants of Jeremiah for he purchased the property.

This is a picture of what we have in the book of Revelation. The earth was entrusted into the hands of mankind and it was then lost to the enemy. But Jesus Christ has paid the price of redemption just as Jeremiah did.

**Romans 8:20-23**

<sup>20</sup> For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

<sup>21</sup> Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

<sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

<sup>23</sup> And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

The earth will be restored back to the way it was in the Garden of Eden after the Tribulation. Therefore, this scroll is a title deed to the earth and it contains the means by which god will cleanse it and restore it back to its original condition.

II. **The Search**

**Notice Revelation 5:2**

Now the strong angel asks with a loud voice a question:

"Who is worth to open the book and to loosen the seals?"

Now we must understand that the one who would open the book and loosen the seals had to meet several requirements.

1. He had to be a near relative to one who lost it.
2. He had to be able to pay the price of the purchased redemption.
3. He had to have the ability not to just loosen the scrolls but to set the judgments in motion and bring to pass the full redemption.
4. He had to be willing to do all of this.

**Notice Revelation 5:3-4**

This is an amazing statement! No man in heaven or on the earth was found worthy to read the book or even to look there on.

Think of the great people who were in heaven.

David, Daniel, Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Jeremiah and all the Apostles are there. But none in heaven are worthy. Neither is there one person on earth who is worthy.

Oh, there are many who would like to rule the world but none are worthy to open the book or even look upon the words written.

John stood in heaven and he wept and sobbed because there was no man found worthy. Let me read what W. A. Criswell says concerning the tears of John.

"[John's tears] represent the tears of all God's people through all the centuries. Those tears of the Apostle John are the tears of Adam and Eve; driven out of the Garden of Eden, as they bowed over the first grave, as they watered the dust of the ground with their tears over the silent, still form of their son, Abel. Those are the tears of the children of Israel in bondage as they cried unto God in their affliction and slavery. They are the tears of God's elect through the centuries as they cried unto heaven. They are the sobs and tears that have been wrung from the heart and soul of God's people as they looked on their silent dead, as they stand beside their open graves, as they experience in the trials and sufferings of life, heartaches and disappointments indescribable. Such is the curse that sin has laid upon God's beautiful creation; and this is the damnation of the hand of him who holds it, that usurper, that interloper, that intruder, that alien, that stranger, that dragon, that serpent, that Satan-devil. 'And I wept audibly,' for the failure to find a Redeemer meant that this earth in its curse is consigned forever to death. It meant that death, sin, damnation and hell should reign forever and ever and the sovereignty of God's earth should remain forever in the hands of Satan."

**Conclusion:**

We live in a world that is under the curse and that is a good thing for now. It is for man's sake. But we look forward to the day when the curse will be removed.