

The Worth of the Lamb

Revelation 5:1-7

Intro: Have you ever wondered what will heaven be like?

A)This Wednesday - We will take a tour of heaven - Encourage you to be here -

B)Know some things to expect - You don't want to be in the dark about Heaven

1)Tourist - what is that ?

C)This Wednesday we are also going to talk a bit about the Rapture of the Church -

D)For the remainder of our Sunday am Revelation studies - Focus on Jesus - Revealed in Revelation

E)Today we jump into the heavenly scene - John is already in Heaven - Talk how on Wednesday

1)He sees something that REALLY surprises him

And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.

4 So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.

Wept much is - sob uncontrollably

V5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. Pray

Like Surprises? It depends - Not surprise parties -

A)Julian STORY - BAD SURPRISE - but a special time

B)In our text today: John is in heaven where he gets a powerful surprise.

1)A surprise that has Great application to all of us in this room here today -

C)All of Humanity through the ages

Outline:

A)The Deed - A Deed is presented -

B)The Dilemma - A Dilemma is presented -

1)A Dilemma that has global ramifications for the entire history of human civilization

C)The Deliver - Finally a Deliverer is presented!

D)Big idea today: The Worthiness of Jesus overcomes the unworthiness of everyone else.

The Deed: A Deed is presented

A)John's focus is on the throne: The Throne is Always the focus of Heaven

B)On the Throne John sees God the Father - and in his hand is a Scroll

C)In Bible times they didn't have books like we have today - so they wrote on scrolls -

1)rolled up and sealed with a wax seal

D)Only the rightful owner or the recipient of the scroll could break the seal and open the scroll

What is this Scroll in the right hand of God?

A)We know it's highly significant, because it's in the right hand of God.

B)And right hand is always the hand of authority, in the Bible.

C)Verses 3-4 tell us it involves the fate of all the earth

D)It is a scroll sealed with seven seals!

That would mean something to anyone with a Jewish background -

A)Because in their ancient real estate transactions - the title deed to a property was sealed with 7 seals !

B)If you bought property, you had two deeds.

1)One that was kept in storage; one that the seller would keep himself.

C)Now if you ever had to sell a property or let's say you lost it and had to forfeit it for whatever reason,

1)there was the possibility you could get the land back if all of the requirements were fulfilled.

For in the OT there was what was called the Right of Redemption clause to buy back the land.

A)Because if you had to sell the land or forfeit it, the land could never be sold permanently.

B)So that your family, your tribe, would always have an allotment in the land of Israel.

C)So when the Two deeds were drawn up, a seller kept one and one was kept in storage.

1)On the inside of the scroll were written the assets and the liabilities

D)And On the outside of the scroll, were written all of the conditions necessary to get the land back

1)If it were lost or had to be forfeited for some reason

E)Then the Scroll was sealed with seven seals

Now let's say, after losing or selling your land, you wanted it back.

A)If you could fulfill all of the requirements, written on the outside of the scroll

B)You then had then the authority to take the scroll, break the seals, and read what was written inside.

1)It was your property.

C)Now lets say that you couldn't fulfill the requirements

The land wouldn't be lost - because a relative of yours could redeem it for you.

A)The Bible refers to such a relative as the Goel or the Kinsmen redeemer - Boaz in story of Ruth

B)The kinsmen redeemer had to meet three qualifications.

#1 He had to be a **kinsmen**, he had to prove he was related to you.

C)He couldn't be just some Dude! - Some guy who said he was related - distant cousin -

1)He had to Prove it

#2 he had to be **ABLE** to do it; he had to have the **MEANS** - **THE** money.

A)#3 He had to be WILLING

B)He didn't have to do it. -No obligation

1)If he didn't want to fork out the bucks to get the property for you, he didn't have to.

C)So that was the kinsmen redeemer.

So we see in the Right hand of God is this deed - sealed with seven seals

A)It is a title deed to planet earth.

B)In the beginning of Creation - God gave man - Adam and Eve - the title deed.

1)When he gave them Dominion over the garden

C)But when man sinned - broke their Covenant with God - That title deed was surrendered

1)Into the hands and power of Satan

Romans 5:12 through one man-- that's Adam-- sin entered the world, and death through sin, and death spread to all.

But it wasn't just mankind that was affected.

A)It wasn't just people that was affected. The Property was affected.

B)The Earth itself came under a curse.

C)Romans Chapter 8:19-22 says, this creation was made subject to futility, and all of creation,

1)Planet earth groans and travails, wanting to be delivered. - Earthquakes

D)Remember what did Jesus Christ call the Devil, Satan is called the ruler of this world. -John 12:31

1)What did Paul call Satan? The god of this age. 2 Corinthians 4:4

E)What did the apostle John say of the Devil?

1)He said the whole world is under the sway or control of the wicked one. 1 John 5:19

And remember when Jesus was taken up to a high mountain and tempted by the Devil?

A)The Devil came to Jesus, showed him the kingdoms of this world, and said, all this authority I will give you and its glory, for it has been delivered to me and I give it to whomsoever I wish.

B)Jesus didn't dispute that. He didn't argue that.

C)Why? Because - the title deed to planet earth was lost to Satan the usurper

#2 The Dilemma: V.2 This angel cries out, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and loose the seals?' This question is asked in heaven and it is a very critical question

B)The fate of planet earth is in the balance

1)Is there anyone in Heaven who can redeem planet earth?

C)And then it is as if a search was made in heaven and earth to find someone who was worthy,

1)to take the scroll and break the seals -

D)Someone who can play the role of the Kinsmen Redeemer

E)Looking for someone who would be found worthy to lay claim to planet earth.

1)Who is WORTHY?

It's a very important question. Who has the right? Who has the authority to take it?

A)Who has the innate virtuous worthiness of character, the divine right to take that scroll?

B)Who has the power to defeat Satan and wipe out the effects of sin on the Earth,

C)Who is worthy to reverse the curse put on all creation?

And then something very troubling appears, verse 3.

"And **no one** in Heaven or on Earth or under the Earth was able to open the scroll or to look at it."

A)In other words, the question is asked, and the answer is dead silence.

B)Who is worthy to take the scroll? Nobody steps forward.

C)Of all the millions of angels, not one of them--

1)Not Gabriel, or Michael, none of them-- step forward and say, I can do it.

D)Not mother Mary or Father Abraham, the father of faith?

1)He didn't say anything. He didn't step forward.

None of the Heroes of the faith in Hebrews 11 not Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua or Gideon

A)Or even David - the man after God's own heart

B)None of the prophets, Elijah, Isaiah, Amos, Zephaniah, Zechariah, Ezekiel or even Daniel

C)Nobody says a word. No one says, I'm worthy. I've got the power. I've got the right.

1)Dead silence.

Verse 4, John says, "So I wept much- idea - He convulsed - sobbed uncontrollably

A)I sobbed in loud wails over and over again. That's the intent of it.

B)Can you blame him? Here's John. He's come up into heaven.

C)He sees the throne. - Awesome marvelous - glorious

1)But then there's that title deed, and nobody steps forward to take it

W.A. Criswell writes, "John's tears represent the tears of all God's people through all the centuries. They're the tears of Adam and Eve as they viewed the still form of their dead son, Abel, and sensed the awful consequence of their disobedience. These are the tears of the children of Israel in bondage as they cried to God for deliverance from their affliction and their slavery.

These are the sobs in the tears wrung from the heart and soul of God's people as they have stood beside the graves of loved ones and experienced indescribable heartache and disappointments of life. Such is the curse that sin has laid upon God's beautiful creation. No wonder John wept so fervently. If no redeemer could be found to remove the curse, it meant that God's creation was forever consigned to remain in the hands of Satan."

C)This is a major Dilemma - and John is moved to deep despair -

1)But thank God that is not the end of the story.

#3 The Deliverer is presented:

5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, (Check this out and be ready to be amazed) the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

A)Notice he's called the lion of the tribe of Judah. Of the root of David

B)These were two references to the Messiah - Genesis 49 - the Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah

C)And in Isaiah 11 he would be of the lineage or root of David -

So capture this scene: John's up there. He's crying. Elder says, don't weep. Stop crying.

A)Behold Check it out- BE AMAZED! - The Lion of the Tribe of Judah, right over there.

B)So he turns around to see a lion. Here comes the surprise -

C)There is no lion Instead. He turns to see a lion and he sees a lamb, as though it had been slain.

Now, this is just Revelation speak for the lion was the lamb and the lamb was the lion.

A)They're one in the same. -Two different emphases, but it's the same person.

B)The lamb was a frequent picture of Jesus, right? John the Baptist said, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

C)In fact Jesus is referred to as THE LAMB -29 times in the Book of Revelation

D)But this no ordinary lamb - this lamb has seven horns.

1)Have you ever seen a lamb with any horns? This one has seven horns

A horn is an implement by which an animal gains authority over another animal.

A)It's a symbol of strength and authority.

B)There are seven horns, and seven is the number of completion,

1)suggests this lamb has ultimate authority or omnipotence. - Attribute of God

C)Moreover, he has seven eyes. Eyes signify insight, knowledge, wisdom, comprehension. -

1)another attribute of God - He is omniscience. He knows everything

D)The eyes we are told- which are the seven spirits of God--

1)We have seen this before - reference to the seven-fold working of the Holy Spirit,

E)Here's what it's saying I believe-- this lamb is perfect in strength, perfect in knowledge, 1)perfect in presence.

There is Something else to notice about this lamb--

A)It's a very different lamb, because it looks as though it has been slain.

B)We know it's alive, because it's standing and walking and it takes the scroll out of the right hand.

1)But it looks as though it's bearing marks of violence from some past event, like it's been killed.

C)This is a picture of Jesus in heaven.

D)When Jesus rose from the dead, he still bore the marks of his crucifixion, right?

1)He had to say to Thomas, reach your hand here. Look, see that it's me. Put your hands in my wounds.

So he had those wounds in his glorified resurrected body.

A)He ascended into heaven in that body.

B)He is at the right hand of the father's throne HE STILL bears the marks in some way

1)of the crucifixion

C)SO bearing the marks of crucifixion is part of the glory of Jesus Christ

1)at least until after the 2nd coming

A remarkable thought:

A)Could it be that the only work of man in heaven that we will see are the marks of crucifixion that we put on him?

B)And that would not be to shame any of us.

C)But It would be Jesus the badge of honor and glory of Jesus to remind us,

1)YOU WERE WORTH THIS MUCH TO ME!

D)The Bible says in heaven - Jesus wipes away every tear in heaven

1)Ever thought - why is there tears -- could it be that is our first reaction when we see him -

2)WE DID THAT TO HIM

JR. High student - He died for my sins

Verse seven, the greatest moment of all,

"Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song."

This is the greatest moment of all. He takes the title deed.

A)They were weeping and now there is rejoicing. Why?

B)Because the kinsmen-redeemer, the Goel, is going to take the property that was lost and forfeited in the Garden,

1)the curse that was placed upon the earth, and it will be redeemed.

C)He will fulfill the redemption clause.

Question Does Jesus qualify as the kinsmen-redeemer?

A)Remember what I said?

B)There are three requirements to redeem back a title deed, a piece of property that's been lost.

C)Three requirements-- you have to be related, you have to be willing, you have to be able.

The first question, was Jesus related to us?

A)Sure he was. He was God. But it says, the word became flesh and lived among us.

B)He was one of us. He became a human related to humanity- fulfilled the first qualification

C)And this is why he is worthy. This is why he's qualified to take the scroll.

Second, Was he willing?

A)Was he willing to go to the cross, or was this forced? - just murdered by the Romans? No.

B)What did Jesus said John 10: I am the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. No man, said Jesus, takes my life from me. I have the power to lay it down, and I have the power to take it again.

C)So when we realize it wasn't those nails that held

Jesus to the Cross - it was Love for us.- WILLING

Third requirement, was he able to do it? Did he have the bank, the price?

A)Yes because what did it cost to redeem us? What did he pay for it?

B)His blood. That's why the anthem in heaven down in verse 9 is, "We have been redeemed by your blood."

C)You are worthy because you spent your blood. So he's related, willing, and able.

D)And this is why he is worthy. He was qualified to take the scroll..

Application:

A)1st Because he is worthy - We can be saved - We can know we have been redeemed

I was reading about a policeman in northern England who was doing his beat late one night, walking the streets of a small town, and he heard the sobs obviously of a youngster. It was a young boy sitting on the steps of some little house, weeping. And the policeman found him and the child said, take me home, I'm lost. Not knowing where his home was, he started asking him questions. What street do you live on? I don't know. He started naming all of these streets. None of them rang a bell to the kid. He started listing of different businesses, hoping the kid would say I live by that bakery or this, to no avail. Finally the policeman, knowing that there was a huge church in the center of the town with a big white cross that was a landmark over the horizon, pointed to the distant cross and he said, do you live anywhere near that cross? The boy saw the cross and he lit up and said, that's it. Take me to the cross and I can find my way home!

It will be that way for us in heaven.

A)There will be the reminder of the cross

B)and when we see Jesus with His wounds, we'll be able to say, I know I'm home.

2nd Because he is worthy - We SHOULD WORSHIP!!!

A)WE HAVE -SOMETHING AND SOME ONE TO SING ABOUT

3RD Because he is worthy

A)We live on Mission - Heart for those who are not redeemed!

B)Communion: The response in Heaven