

The Lamb

Seeing Jesus in Revelation (and Hearing His Voice)



It's been several weeks now since we've looked at the Book of Revelation. Last time, we spent some time with **Revelation 4**, which began a new section.

It represents a transition from Earth to Heaven. It takes us from looking at things from a human perspective to now catching glimpses *behind the scenes* – to see what is happening up in Heaven.

We saw the message Jesus gave to the collective church, both as a whole, and as a historical church in **Revelation 1 – 3**.

And then, it takes us behind the scenes in Heaven with Jesus making a grand entrance in **Revelation 5**.

Revelation 4 sets the stage for what follows.

At first glance, things seem to be full of harmony and peace with lots of praising going on.

But, is this really the way it is?

There's one element of **Chapter 4** I find a bit jarring. It's found in the last few verses. Reading from Revelation 4, beginning with verse 8:

*Each of the four living creatures had six wings; they were covered with eyes around and inside.
Day and night they never stop, saying,*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God, the Almighty, who was, who is, and who is to come.

Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to the one seated on the throne, the one who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before the one seated on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever. (Revelation 4:8-10, CSB – emphasis mine)

This never stops.

“Day and night they never stop ...”

This appears to be an endless cycle, which to me doesn't seem to be wonderful. After a few days, this would get monotonous. I know it sounds sacrilegious to say it, but this sounds as bad or worse than sitting on a cloud playing a harp for eternity, and this is actually Biblical.

After thousands of years, this endless cycle would seem more like a nightmare. What is going on here?

First of all, we know some of this is symbolic, because it seems to stop as other things happen when we move into **Chapter 5** and beyond – so that's helpful.

But for me, the most useful piece of information comes later in **Revelation 12**, where it tells us this:

For the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down to earth – the one who accuses them before our God day and night ...” (Revelation 12:10, NLT)

There is another voice heard in Heaven before the throne day and night. It's the voice of the accuser.

The war we find ourselves in the middle of, between God and Satan, began in Heaven. It would make sense that Heaven is still feeling the weight of the battle, not the peace of final victory.

We like to think we're the main point of the battle. We're not. It's always been bigger than just you and me.

Satan could care less about you and me. His only objective is to bring God down in any way he can. He only uses you and me to get at God.

God really does care about you and me. But He knows the only way to take care of us, is to bring the war with Satan to an end. The final outcome of the war was decided with Jesus' death and resurrection – God will win. But for reasons we don't fully understand, battles are still raging.

I believe the praise going on in Heaven – day and night – is working to balance the accusations also going on day and night. They are evidence of a battle, not of peace.

Heaven is not shielded from the war, but fully engaged in it.

With this as background, let's dive into **Chapter 5**; which begins with a big problem. Another evidence Heaven is not always full of peace and joy these days.

Revelation 5

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides, sealed with seven seals. I also saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or even to look in it. I wept and wept because no one was found worthy to

open the scroll or even to look in it. Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Look, the Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered so that he is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth. He went and took the scroll out of the right hand of the one seated on the throne.

When he took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song:

You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation. You made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth.

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels around the throne, and also of the living creatures and of the elders. Their number was countless thousands, plus thousands of thousands. They said with a loud voice,

Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing!

I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them say,

Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!

The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

(Revelation 5:1-14, CSB)

The Problem

We begin with a problem that had John sobbing.

God had a scroll at His right hand sealed with seven seals. This means the contents of the scroll were quite important, maybe even a will. But it couldn't be read until all the seals were broken.

And the seals could only be broken by someone who had the authority to break them – usually the one who put them there or their legal representative or heir.

The problem was they couldn't find anyone with the proper credentials to break the seals which means the contents of the scroll would remain hidden.

The Solution

One of the Elders came to comfort him and told him there was One who could break the seals and that was the Lion of the Tribe of Judah – a common term applied to the Messiah. This was Jesus.

But, when John turned to see this Lion, he saw a Lamb that had been slaughtered.

Why was Jesus announced as a Lion, but showed up as a Lamb?

Jesus, as the Messiah, had the courage and strength of a lion. The solution however was not a fight, but a sacrifice. So like countless literal lambs that had been sacrificed through the years representing Jesus, Jesus took the form of a lamb and allowed Himself to be killed. Then, three days later He came back to life.

He gave up His life as a ransom, a payment for the ultimate consequence of sin – eternal death – so those who accepted Him could be forgiven, cleansed, and receive eternal life as a gift of grace.

Jesus went and took the scroll from God, Who was seated on the Throne

The Praise

And when He did, things simply broke loose there in Heaven. The four beasts and the 24 elders bowed down before Him and sang this new song:

You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation. You made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth.
([Revelation 5:9-10](#), CSB)

And then this huge number of angels, almost beyond counting it seems, couldn't stay silent any longer and said:

Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing! ([Revelation 5:12](#), CSB)

And then the rest of Heaven joined in, implying this was a huge festival of some type and that there were beings there who were not angels. Perhaps from other created worlds that had not fallen. They said:

Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever! ([Revelation 5:13](#), CSB)

This ascribed to both God and to the Lamb the same status and the same praise. This confirms what Jesus said when He was here on earth:

“The Father and I are one.” (John 10:30, NLT)

“Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! ...” (John 14:9, NLT)

The Lesson

So what should we take away from **Revelation 5** today?

What difference does it make to you and me?

Let’s take another look at words of the new song the four living creatures and 24 elders sang recorded in **verses 9-10**:

You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation. You made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth.
(**Revelation 5:9-10**, CSB)

Here we are brought face to face with the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus’ grace!

We have seen it many times stated in many ways. It is something God does not want us to miss. It is the central message of the Bible.

It was taught countless times a day through the sacrificial system of the Sanctuary and Temple.

To Nicodemus, Jesus stated it this way:

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16, NLT)

Paul put it this way:

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. (Romans 3:23-25, NLT)

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23, NLT)

The Apostle John wrote this:

God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love – not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. (1 John 4:9-10, NLT)

This is the central message of the Bible.

Eternal life is beyond your reach until you connect with Jesus. He can provide it for you because He took the penalty for your sin (eternal death) by becoming the Sacrificial Lamb after living a perfect life here on earth.

Jesus ensured that the war with Satan will be won by God because by His death He proved that God is both absolutely fair, and incredibly merciful and loving – disproving Satan’s claims to the contrary.

We see this message from beginning to end in the Bible.

The question becomes: Have you acknowledged your helplessness and asked for God’s grace and gift?

How are you relating to the Gospel – the Good News that salvation is a gift to you?

Assignment

Next Sabbath we will continue our series on the book of Revelation titled *Finding Jesus in Revelation (and Hearing His Voice)* with a message titled *The Seals*. We will focus on the general message found in **Revelation 6-8**. In following weeks, we will look at some of the specific items such as the souls under the alter, the 144,000, etc.

- This week spend some time with **Revelation 6-8**. Read it through several times, maybe even in a couple different translations.
- What do you find comforting in this passage?
- Is there anything about this passage that makes you uncomfortable? Why do you think that is?
- Generally, do good things or bad things happen when the seals are opened? Why do you think this is?
- The seven seals are often thought to represent the time from Jesus' ascension through the Second Coming. At what point in the process does Jesus come?
- How is Jesus revealed through the opening up of the seals?
- What is the most important message you see in this passage?
- How will this affect the way you live your life? Why?

Notes

Text you find in **this color** is a link to more information. It may take you to the Bible verse in context and/or in several different translations utilizing [BibleGateway.com](https://www.biblegateway.com). In some cases, it may take you to a website where there is additional information. And, it may take you to a PDF copy of previous sermons in this series.

Resource Books

Revelation, Sigve K. Tonstad, Baker Academic, © 2019. To purchase a paper copy go to [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). For an iBook, [click here](#). For a Kindle version, [click here](#). For a Nook Book, [click here](#).

Revelation of Jesus Christ, Commentary on the Book of Revelation, 2nd Edition, Ranko Stefanovic, Andrews University Press, © 2009. To purchase a paper copy go to [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). For an iBook, [click here](#). For a Kindle version, [click here](#).

Revelation, the Fifth Gospel, Elizabeth Talbot, Pacific Press Publishing Association, © 2014. To purchase a paper copy go to the [ABC](https://www.abc-clc.com) or to [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). For an iBook, [click here](#). For a Kindle version, [click here](#). Or, for a Nook Book, [click here](#).

What We Believe: Prophecies of Revelation for Teens, Seth Pierce, Pacific Press Publishing Association, © 2013. To purchase a paper copy go to the [ABC](https://www.abc-clc.com) or to [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). For an iBook, [click here](#). For a Kindle version, [click here](#). Or, for a Nook Book, [click here](#).

Previous Messages in this Series (click on the title to download a PDF copy of it)

- Jan. 9, 2021 – *Present* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Jan. 23, 2021 – *Alpha + Omega* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Jan. 30, 2021 – *Available* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Feb. 6, 2021 – *Snapshot* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Feb. 13, 2021 – *Salvation* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Feb. 20, 2021 – *History, Part 1* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Mar. 6, 2021 – *History, Part 2* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)

- Mar. 27, 2021 – *Beginning, Part 1* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Apr. 17, 2021 – *Beginning, Part 2* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Apr. 24, 2021 – *Beginning, Part 3* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- May 1, 2021 – *Thrones* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)

Scripture References

Matthew 11:28-30 (NLT): *Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30, NLT)*

John 3:14-17 (NLT): *And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.*

¹⁶ *“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3:14-17, NLT)*

John 10:22-42 (NLT): *It was now winter, and Jesus was in Jerusalem at the time of Hanukkah, the Festival of Dedication. ²³ He was in the Temple, walking through the section known as Solomon’s Colonnade. ²⁴ The people surrounded him and asked, “How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.”*

²⁵ *Jesus replied, “I have already told you, and you don’t believe me. The proof is the work I do in my Father’s name. ²⁶ But you don’t believe me because you are not my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, ²⁹ for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father’s hand. ³⁰ **The Father and I are one.**”*

³¹ *Once again the people picked up stones to kill him. ³² Jesus said, “At my Father’s direction I have done many good works. For which one are you going to stone me?”*

³³ *They replied, “We’re stoning you not for any good work, but for blasphemy! You, a mere man, claim to be God.”*

³⁴ Jesus replied, "It is written in your own Scriptures that God said to certain leaders of the people, 'I say, you are gods!'" ³⁵ And you know that the Scriptures cannot be altered. So if those people who received God's message were called 'gods,' ³⁶ why do you call it blasphemy when I say, 'I am the Son of God'? After all, the Father set me apart and sent me into the world. ³⁷ Don't believe me unless I carry out my Father's work. ³⁸ But if I do his work, believe in the evidence of the miraculous works I have done, even if you don't believe me. Then you will know and understand that the Father is in me, and I am in the Father."

³⁹ Once again they tried to arrest him, but he got away and left them. ⁴⁰ He went beyond the Jordan River near the place where John was first baptizing and stayed there awhile. ⁴¹ And many followed him. "John didn't perform miraculous signs," they remarked to one another, "but everything he said about this man has come true." ⁴² And many who were there believed in Jesus. (John 10:22-42, NLT)

John 14:9-11 (NLT): Jesus replied, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know who I am? *Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!* So why are you asking me to show him to you? ¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. ¹¹ Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do. (John 14:9-11, NLT)

Romans 3:19-31 (NLT): Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the entire world is guilty before God. ²⁰ For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.

²¹ But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. ²² We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵ For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, ²⁶ for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

²⁷ Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith. ²⁸ So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law.

²⁹ After all, is God the God of the Jews only? Isn't he also the God of the Gentiles? Of course he is. ³⁰ There is only one God, and he makes people right with himself only by faith, whether they are Jews or Gentiles. ³¹ Well then, if we emphasize faith, does this mean that we can forget about the law? Of course not! In fact, only when we have faith do we truly fulfill the law.

(Romans 3:19-31, NLT)

1 John 4:7-21 (NLT): Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God.

Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. ⁸ But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

⁹ God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. ¹⁰ This is real love – not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

¹¹ Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. ¹² No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.

¹³ And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us. ¹⁴ Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. ¹⁶ We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love.

God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. ¹⁷ And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world.

¹⁸ Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. ¹⁹ We love each other because he loved us first.

²⁰ If someone says, "I love God," but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? ²¹ And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers. (1 John 4:7-21, NLT)

Revelation 4:1-11 (CSB): After this I looked, and there in heaven was an open door. The first voice that I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."

² Immediately I was in the Spirit, and there was a throne in heaven and someone was seated on it. ³ The one seated there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian stone. A rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald surrounded the throne.

⁴ Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones sat twenty-four elders dressed in white clothes, with golden crowns on their heads.

⁵ Flashes of lightning and rumblings and peals of thunder came from the throne. Seven fiery torches were burning before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God. ⁶ Something like a sea of glass, similar to crystal, was also before the throne.

Four living creatures covered with eyes in front and in back were around the throne on each side. ⁷ The first living creature was like a lion; the second living creature was like an ox; the third living creature had a face like a man; and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. ⁸ Each of the four living creatures had six wings; they were covered with eyes around and inside. Day and night they never stop, saying,

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God, the Almighty, who was, who is, and who is to come.

⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to the one seated on the throne, the one who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before the one seated on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne and say,

¹¹ Our Lord and God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power, because you have created all things, and by your will they exist and were created.

(Revelation 4:1-11, CSB)

Revelation 5:1-14 (CSB): Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides, sealed with seven seals. ² I also saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or even to look in it. ⁴ I wept and wept because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or even to look in it. ⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Look, the Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered so that he is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

⁶ Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth. ⁷ He went and took the scroll out of the right hand of the one seated on the throne.

⁸ When he took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song:

You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation. ¹⁰ You made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth.

¹¹ *Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels around the throne, and also of the living creatures and of the elders. Their number was countless thousands, plus thousands of thousands. ¹² They said with a loud voice,*

Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing!

¹³ *I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them say,*

Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!

¹⁴ *The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.*

(Revelation 5:1-14, CSB)

Revelation 12:7-12 (CSB): *Then war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels also fought, ⁸ but he could not prevail, and there was no place for them in heaven any longer. ⁹ So the great dragon was thrown out—the ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the one who deceives the whole world. He was thrown to earth, and his angels with him. ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say,*

*The salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have now come, because **the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night**, has been thrown down. ¹¹ They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; for they did not love their lives to the point of death.*

¹² Therefore rejoice, you heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you with great fury, because he knows his time is short.

(Revelation 12:7-12, CSB)