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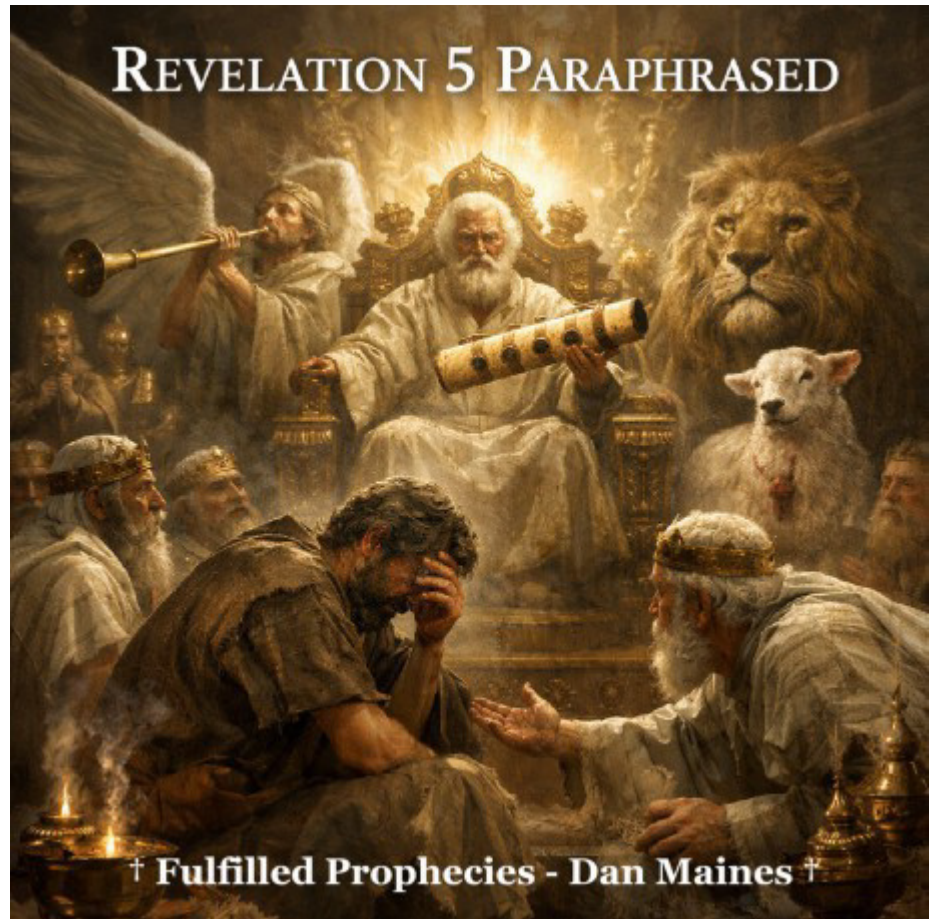
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## Revelation 5 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

## Revelation 5 Paraphrased

### Introduction

† Revelation 5 continues the throne room scene that began in the previous chapter. The focus now shifts to a sealed scroll in God's hand and the search for someone worthy to open it. This scroll represents God's decreed judgment and covenantal conclusion that would soon unfold upon the old covenant world. † The sealed scroll shows that God's plan was fixed and written beforehand. Nothing about the coming judgment was accidental

or random. It was already determined and waiting for the appointed time to be revealed (Isaiah 29:11; Daniel 12:4).

† Only the Messiah could open this scroll. The scene reveals Christ as the rightful King and Redeemer who alone had authority to bring the old covenant age to its completion and reveal the new covenant kingdom.

## **Revelation 5:1**

### **Revelation 5:1**

Then I saw in the right hand of the One seated on the throne a scroll written on both sides and sealed shut with seven seals.

† The scroll written on both sides shows a complete and final decree. Nothing was left unfinished or unwritten. It represented the full judgment that was about to unfold (Ezekiel 2:9-10).

† The seven seals show divine authority and finality. In the ancient world sealed documents represented official decrees that only authorized persons could open. This scroll belonged to God alone.

† The fact that it was in God's right hand shows power and authority. The plan of judgment and redemption was fully under His control (Isaiah 46:9-10).

## **Revelation 5:2**

### **Revelation 5:2**

Then I saw a powerful angel loudly announcing, who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?

† The question was not who was strong enough but who was worthy. Opening the scroll required authority given by God Himself.

† This challenge revealed that no created being had the right to carry out God's covenant judgment. Only the Messiah could do this work (Isaiah 11:1-4).

† The loud proclamation emphasizes the universal scope of the

question. All heaven and earth were effectively being asked if anyone qualified.

### **Revelation 5:3**

#### **Revelation 5:3**

But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or even look inside it.

† This shows the complete inability of mankind and angels to fulfill God's redemptive plan. The solution had to come from the Messiah alone.

† It also highlights humanity's helpless condition apart from Christ. No prophet, priest, or king in Israel had the authority to bring the covenant story to completion.

† The phrase heaven, earth, and under the earth simply means the entire created order. No one anywhere could open the scroll.

### **Revelation 5:4**

#### **Revelation 5:4**

I began to cry deeply because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or look into it.

† John's weeping reflects the seriousness of the moment. If no one could open the scroll, God's plan for justice and redemption would remain unrevealed.

† The sorrow shows the longing for the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel and the nations. The prophets had spoken of this day for centuries (Habakkuk 2:3).

† John's reaction shows how central the Messiah is to God's entire redemptive plan.

### **Revelation 5:5**

## **Revelation 5:5**

Then one of the elders said to me, stop crying. Look, the Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so he can open the scroll and its seven seals.

† The Lion of Judah is a direct reference to Genesis 49:9-10 where the Messiah was promised to come from Judah's royal line.

† The Root of David refers to Christ as the fulfillment of the Davidic covenant and the rightful King of Israel (Isaiah 11:1,10).

† The phrase has overcome points to Christ's victory through His death and resurrection. That victory made Him worthy to open the scroll.

## **Revelation 5:6**

### **Revelation 5:6**

Then I saw standing between the throne and the four living creatures and the elders a Lamb that looked as if it had been killed. It had seven horns and seven eyes which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

† The Lamb that appeared slain represents Christ's sacrificial death. Though He was killed, He now stands alive and victorious.

† The seven horns symbolize complete power and authority. Horns in scripture often represent kingship and strength (Daniel 7:24).

† The seven eyes represent complete knowledge and the fullness of God's Spirit working throughout the earth (Zechariah 4:10).

## **Revelation 5:7**

### **Revelation 5:7**

He came forward and took the scroll from the right hand of the

One sitting on the throne.

† This moment shows Christ receiving full authority to carry out God's covenant plan.

† It reflects Daniel's vision where the Son of Man receives dominion and authority from God (Daniel 7:13-14).

† The action confirms that Christ alone was worthy to execute the judgments written in the scroll.

## **Revelation 5:8**

### **Revelation 5:8**

When He took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one held a harp and golden bowls full of incense which represent the prayers of God's people.

† The worship of the Lamb confirms His divine authority and kingship. Heaven recognizes Christ as worthy of honor and praise.

† The prayers of the saints show that God's people had long cried out for justice and redemption (Luke 18:7).

† These prayers were about to be answered as the scroll was opened and God's covenant judgments unfolded.

## **Revelation 5:9**

### **Revelation 5:9**

They sang a new song saying you are worthy to take the scroll and open its seals because you were killed and by your blood you purchased people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.

† The new song celebrates the new covenant reality established by Christ's sacrifice.

† Redemption through Christ extended beyond Israel to the nations, fulfilling God's promise to Abraham (Genesis 12:3).

† The emphasis on Christ's blood highlights the foundation of the new covenant kingdom.

## **Revelation 5:10**

### **Revelation 5:10**

You have made them a kingdom and priests to our God and they will reign upon the earth.

† This fulfills God's promise that His people would be a kingdom of priests (Exodus 19:6).

† Believers share in Christ's reign as part of His spiritual kingdom (Ephesians 2:6).

† The reign upon the earth shows the establishment of God's kingdom in the world through the gospel.

## **Revelation 5:11**

### **Revelation 5:11**

Then I looked and heard the voices of many angels around the throne along with the living creatures and the elders. Their number was countless thousands and thousands.

† The massive number of angels emphasizes the glory and authority of Christ's kingship.

† Heaven itself celebrates the Lamb's victory and authority to open the scroll.

† This scene shows the cosmic significance of Christ's redemptive work.

## **Revelation 5:12**

### **Revelation 5:12**

They were loudly saying worthy is the Lamb who was killed to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise.

- † The sevenfold praise reflects completeness and perfection. Christ is worthy of every form of honor.
- † His death did not diminish His glory but established it.
- † Heaven openly acknowledges the Lamb as the rightful ruler.

## **Revelation 5:13**

### **Revelation 5:13**

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea saying blessing and honor and glory and authority belong to the One sitting on the throne and to the Lamb forever and ever.

- † This universal praise shows the ultimate recognition of God's sovereignty and Christ's kingship.
- † The Lamb is worshiped alongside the One on the throne, demonstrating Christ's divine authority.
- † The entire creation acknowledges God's reign.

## **Revelation 5:14**

### **Revelation 5:14**

The four living creatures kept saying amen and the elders fell down and worshiped.

- † Amen confirms the truth and certainty of what was proclaimed.
- † The elders falling down shows complete submission and reverence before God and the Lamb.
- † Heaven fully recognizes the Lamb as the one worthy to carry out God's covenant plan.

## **Historical References**

- † Justin Martyr wrote that Christ alone fulfilled the prophetic promises and received authority from the Father to rule and judge.

† Irenaeus taught that the Lamb who was slain fulfilled the redemption foretold in the prophets and was given authority over all creation.

† Eusebius connected the Lamb's victory with the historical judgment that came upon Jerusalem in the first century.

## **How It Applies To Us Today**

† Christ reigns now as the victorious Lamb who completed redemption and fulfilled God's covenant plan.

† The opening of the scroll reminds us that history is not random. God governs events according to His purpose.

† Believers today live under the authority of the Lamb who conquered through sacrifice and now reigns as King.

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q** What does the scroll represent in Revelation 5?

**A** The scroll represents God's written decree of covenant judgment and redemption that would soon unfold (Ezekiel 2:9-10; Daniel 12:4).

**Q** Why was only Christ worthy to open the scroll?

**A** Because He alone conquered through His death and resurrection and fulfilled the messianic promises (Genesis 49:9-10; Isaiah 11:1).

**Q** What does the Lamb that appeared slain represent?

**A** It represents Jesus Christ whose sacrificial death redeemed His people and established the new covenant (John 1:29; Hebrews 9:12).

**Q** What do the prayers of the saints represent?

**A** They represent the cries of God's people for justice and deliverance which were about to be answered (Luke 18:7; Revelation 6:10).

**Q** Why did John begin crying when no one could open the scroll?

**A** John's sorrow shows how critical the moment was. If no one could open the scroll, God's covenant plan of judgment and redemption would remain hidden and unfinished. The prophets had long spoken of the day when God's purposes would finally be revealed and fulfilled (Habakkuk 2:3; Daniel 12:4).

**Q** Why is Jesus called both the Lion and the Lamb in this chapter?

**A** The Lion represents His royal authority as the promised King from the tribe of Judah, while the Lamb represents His sacrificial death that redeemed His people. Together they show that Christ conquered not by force, but through His sacrifice and resurrection (Genesis 49:9-10; John 1:29; Isaiah 53:7).

**Q** What does the new song represent in heaven?

**A** The new song celebrates the completion of redemption through Christ. His sacrifice purchased people from every nation and established the new covenant kingdom where believers serve as priests to God (Revelation 5:9-10; 1 Peter 2:9).

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

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## **Source Index**

† Revelation 5:1-14; Ezekiel 2:9-10; Daniel 7:13-14; Genesis 49:9-10; Isaiah 11:1,10; Exodus 19:6; Luke 18:7; John 1:29; Hebrews 9:12

† Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

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