

**Revelation, Part 7: "The Glorification of Jesus"**  
**Revelation, Chapter 5**  
**Pastor Elizabeth Coleman**  
**Northwest Presbyterian Church**

**February 14, 2021**

**Text: Revelation 5**

Last Sunday, we entered the throne room of God through John's description of what he saw when he entered an open door in heaven in Revelation, Chapter 4.

We saw four living creatures with six wings each and four different kinds of heads; we saw twenty-four elders dressed in white robes with golden crowns on their heads that they cast before God's throne when they fell down to worship God. We saw seven burning torches, which are the seven spirits of God.

Now, for the first time in this particular scene in heaven, Jesus enters the picture; but, not before everyone is made keenly aware of his absence and the dire need for his presence in order to continue the unfolding of this epic series of events that will soon take place.

John finds himself observing the ongoing worship of God by those who surround God's throne. In the midst of that scene, John notices that there is a scroll in the right hand of Almighty God, as God sits on his throne. The scroll has writing on the inside of it and on the back of it. It is sealed with seven seals.

The sealing of this scroll reflects the mysteries that God has reserved for himself alone throughout the ages. Although much was already declared by God in writing ages ago, these prophecies were not fully revealed in clarity to anyone. Among the prophets, no one was worthy to open the seals of this revelatory book to learn the *full* story of God's plan for humankind.

Various prophets of old were given bits and pieces of prophetic events, and rabbis and biblical scholars have poured over those prophecies for centuries with great interest and zeal to try to uncover their deepest secrets. Nevertheless, God has still reserved the full revelation for the one person who would be worthy to open the seven seals and reveal to all the glorious plan of God for the consummation of all things and the end of the age.

God's personality shines through in the way events play out in heaven and on earth. Just as Paul states in his epistle, God uses the simple and humble things to confound those who are wise and great. God exalts the humble who sacrifice themselves — their time, their resources, their energy — for the sake of others.

In the same fashion, God gave his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, who existed before the earth was created, to humble himself from the loftiest state of exalted glory in heaven to be born as a lowly human being to a woman who would have to give birth to him among animals in a stable.

This Son of God would be spat upon, talked about, threatened, nearly thrown off of a mountain, beaten to a pulp, nailed to a tree, and even after he gave up his spirit in human death, he would be pierced in the side with a sword. All of this in order to pay the price for our sins and to redeem us from eternal death.

Not for his own sake, but for our sake, Jesus endured the blasphemy, the pain and the death, going to hell for us and conquering the enemy of us all, Satan the deceiver, the liar who deceived our ancestors to mistrust God's word and to believe Satan's lies.

Jesus the Righteous One, who merited life because he lived his life without sin and blameless, could not be held by the constraints of Satan. The shed blood of Jesus was spilled unlawfully, because Jesus had no sin. but Jesus presented himself as a sacrificial lamb to God for *us*, and bought us back from the clutches of Satan.

Jesus gave to us the gift of his life, based on his own merit and sacrifice as a spotless lamb without blemish. When we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, *we enter his life, and his life enters us*. Like the branch of a vine, we become connected to his life-giving sap, and we live forever, because of him.

It was this sacrificed lamb who appeared in the midst of the worshipping elders and living creatures before the throne of God.

A mighty angel had proclaimed with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?"

There was no response for a while, as it seemed that no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. John began to weep bitterly because of that.

Then, one of the elders told John to stop weeping, and that the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the shoot of David, has won the victory so that he *can* open the scroll and its seven seals.

At that moment, in the dearth of need and in John's sense of helplessness and hopelessness, Jesus appeared among the elders in the form of a lamb that looked like it had been slain.

The Savior of the whole world was presented as a helpless and slaughtered lamb, sacrificed.

This slaughtered lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, signifying the seven spirits of God. The horns signify might, authority, and power. The eyes signify prophetic vision and insight. These seven spirits of God were sent out into all the earth, giving power, authority, insight and prophetic vision to the Body of Christ in the earth. The number seven in Scriptures denotes fulfillment and completion. In Christ, the members of the Body of Christ on earth are fulfilled in the efficacy of their spiritual power by the Holy Spirit, and fulfilled in their insight and prophetic vision by the spiritual gifts given by the Holy Spirit of God.

Jesus, the only one worthy of opening the scroll, went to God and took the scroll from God's right hand.

When Jesus, the slaughtered Lamb, had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before him. Jesus, the Son of God who was slain for our salvation, was glorified in the presence of his Father, our Father, God. Jesus was honored by those around God's throne, because he was worthy. He had humbled himself to obey God's will for his life, even though it meant a painful death on the cross, and now he was glorified and given the honor of revealing the mysteries of God for all time by opening the seven seals of the scroll of God.

The twenty-four elders each held a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

The prayers prayed by those redeemed by the blood of the Lamb never expire. They are alive and speaking to God's heart. They ascended to God like incense, a sweet fragrance, acceptable to God and cherished by him.

The value of our prayers should never be under-estimated. They are precious in God's sight and valued forever by God.

The twenty-four elders sang a song of praise to Jesus, saying that Jesus is worthy to take the scroll and open its seals, because he was slain, and by his blood he ransomed for God members of every tribe and language and people and nation, and made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God.

Then, thousands of angels in heaven joined the praise by saying in a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

Then, every creature everywhere in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and in the sea, and all that is in them said, "To the one sitting on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

The four living creatures were saying, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

God the Father and Jesus the Son of God are worshiped in heaven and on earth, and in all places. Their grace and mercy and sacrifice for humankind express their sacrificial love that saves us all, and they are worthy of all our praise. Hallelujah! Amen.