

Revelation 5 | The Lion and The Lamb

The scene from **chapter 4** continues uninterrupted

- The throne and the worship
- The angels are singing; the elders are bowing and casting their crowns
- God is being praised for His glory, His holiness, His eternal nature, His sovereign power and as the creator of all things

As this scene continues John notices something else...

Verse 1

- The book or scroll
- The judgment scroll of the world's final destiny (wickedness punished—righteousness rewarded)
- Surely the world's final destiny involves judgment
 - Can you imagine if it didn't?
 - Happens in our time and space (it must) (just as salvation does)
 - **2 Peter 3:3-15a**
 - **Romans 2:2-8** (NLT)
 - **The absence of cataclysmic judgment and justice now is mercy and patience from God**
- We know that this scroll is the judgment document because we see in the next chapter what happens when it is opened
 - **6:1^a** and **6:15-17**
 - This is good news... but this will be horrific
 - But it ends well (**20:1^a** and **22:1-5**)
- In **5:1**, this moment has arrived... these things are about to unfold
 - John, being Jewish, had read about this scene before seeing it here
 - **Daniel 7:8-14** (NASB)
 - This was the great hope—That God would judge the world and the Messiah King would come and establish His kingdom
 - This is what history is moving toward: **Revelation 11:15-18a**
- In **5:1**, this moment has arrived... these things are about to unfold

Verse 2-4

- John is weeping because thus far the only one who is able to execute judgment and establish righteousness of earth is absent from the scene
- No created being was **worthy** (morally deserving of the privilege of unleashing the judgments of God on his sinful universe)

Verse 5

- **The Lion from the tribe of Judah—The Root of David—Has overcome**
 - How did Jesus overcome?
 - Many ways—but the central way prevalent here is revealed in the next verse

Verse 6

- **The Lamb standing as if slain**
 - **"Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"** –John 1:29 (NASB)
- The Lamb was **slain**
 - Pointing to the **Cross**
- But the **lamb** is **standing** (though it was **slain**)
 - Pointing to the **Resurrection**

- **Through His Cross and Resurrection, Jesus has overcome**
 - The rebellion of humanity
 - The power of sin
 - The work of Satan
 - The power of death

This Lamb is shown as being Almighty (symbolism)

- The lamb had **7 horns** and **7 eyes** (**7 Spirits**)
- Being all powerful and all seeing and possessing the Holy Spirit—this is none other than Deity—the Second person of the Trinity
- Who, because of love carried out the Father's **plan of redemption** through the Cross and so is qualified to carry out the Father's **plan of judgment**
 - First Coming: **John 3:16-17** (NASB)
 - Second Coming: **John 5:19-29** (NASB)

Verse 7

- The culminating act of history
 - All the **prayers** of **"Thy Kingdom Come"** are about to be answered
 - All the **cries** for **justice** are about to be answered
 - All the **wickedness** that has **gone unanswered** is about to be answered—definitively
- And only Jesus is **worthy**
- **Jesus is the only One who performed the greatest act of mercy the world has ever seen—so He is the One worthy to carry out the justice the world needs**

Verses 8-9

- Again, we fall down
- The evidence of our prayers having been heard
- A new song
 - **Jesus is the only One who performed the greatest act of mercy the world has ever seen—so He is the One worthy to carry out the justice the world needs**
 - Let's remember whom Jesus saves—sinners!
 - We are not sitting on the right side of judgment because we deserve it—but because mercy has been brought to us!
 - If the thought of the world being judged is troubling to you—then get busy taking that mercy to the world!
 - **Verse 10**
 - **1 Peter 2:9-16**

Verses 11-13

- All of creation is worshipping Jesus—The Lion and the Lamb—and declaring His worthiness (imagine!)
- This worthiness is because He is the **Lion** who is also the **Lamb**
 - **Though He possessed all the strength and glory of Deity**
 - **He humbled Himself and suffered for you and me**

Dear brothers and sisters—it is this present reality of Christ (**The Lion and the Lamb**) that is to form **who** we are and **how** we live now

- **Philippians 2:3-16** (NASB)

Verse 14

- **And the elders fell down and worshipped...** (Life feels out of control? You need face time)