

The Unopened Scroll

January 26, 2020



Open: Have you ever felt you were missing an important character quality in your personality?

Read: Revelation 5:1-14

Discuss:

1. Chapter 5 continues John's vision from chapter 4 in which he witnesses the worship around the throne of God. In 5:1-4, John sees a sealed scroll and, in vain, someone is sought to open the scroll. According to some interpreters, the scroll represents God's redemptive plan for the world. Why do you think it was so important that the scroll be opened? How is John's response of weeping understandable (v. 4)? How *should* God's people feel about the state of the world?
2. Verse 5 assures us there is one who can open the scroll—"the Lion of the tribe of Judah" (*Genesis 49:8-10*) and "the Root of David" (*Isaiah 11:1,10; Romans 15:12; Revelation 22:16*). What is meant by the comment that Jesus is worthy to open the scrolls because He "has conquered"? How should this truth about Jesus shape our outlook on the state of the world?
3. What John *heard* was an announcement regarding a Lion (v. 5), but what he *sees* is a Lamb (v. 6). How are these two animals different? What might each animal symbolize? What would be lacking in our understanding of Jesus if we only saw Jesus as *either* the Lion or the Lamb and not as *both*?
4. The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders say that Jesus is worthy to open the scroll because He "was slain" (v. 11). According to verses 9-10, what did Jesus accomplish in His death? What do these verses tell us about the value and significance of all people groups to God? How should this concern of God shape our priorities and lifestyle?
5. Verses 11-12 add the praise of angels, who declare Jesus to be worthy to receive power, wisdom, might, honor, glory and blessing. In verse 13, this praise is similarly extended to God the Father. How does this worship compare with the way you worship God? What are some specific things you say to God in worship?

Apply: How could this passage help enhance your worship?

Pray: Pray that we will live in awe of Jesus, joyfully worshipping Him ourselves and doing all we can to see that people from all other people groups one day join us in our worship of Jesus.

Revelation 5:1-14

¹Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴ and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

⁶ And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. ⁸ And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying,

*"Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth."*

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with 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!"*

¹³ And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

*"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"*

¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped. (ESV)