

Revelation Chapter 5.

The things hereafter

Study 9

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Chapter 5 God's Sealed Book

Verse 1.

And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the Throne a book written within and on the backside sealed with seven seals.

These seals must be broken before the book can be open and read.

Lying in the right hand of God who was sitting on the Throne was God's Book of Life; sometimes called the Lambs Book of Life, in it were the names of all of God's creation who had acknowledged His Son to be their Saviour and Lord. The people whose names were in the Book were those who will live forever with Christ in heaven. In the Greek the opening of this chapter has the Book lying in God's open outstretched hand. On God's part there was no withholding of His future purposes for those whose names were written therein. This very important Book is the title deed of man's inheritance which contains the necessary steps by which God shall recover the Redemption of the Earth from the usurper and obtain total possession of the Kingdom already purchased for Himself. No-one knows or understands the Book; no-one knows its contents but God Himself. He knows the name of every believer man or woman boy or girl written in this legal document each one purchased by the blood of His only Son Jesus.

Revelation: 20:15

Anyone's name who was not written in the Book of Life was cast into the Lake of Fire.

Just as you chose God's offer of Salvation you are asking Him to put your name into His Book of Life and you surrender your heart and life to live for Him. So you can choose to remove your name by turning your back on Jesus, denying Him and going your own way again. We have dealt with this subject many times in many other studies, here it is again, it must be very important to God for His followers to get it settled in your heart before the Rapture. After the Rapture it will be too late. It is not God who has removed your name from His Book it's you!

This is the same Book that God mentioned in Chapter 3 verse 5 of our study on Sardis (5) this is the same Book from which your name could be blotted out of if your garments have become contaminated by the world and you have wilfully rejected Jesus. If you truly repent and allow Him to be your Lord and Saviour for the rest of your life He will allow you back into His kingdom and empower you to live a life of pleasing to Him. But that is the only way back ...it is not a step taken lightly to provide an insurance policy against going to Hell. It must be a true repentance and lifelong re-dedication to Him and Him alone.

Mortal man cannot understand the importance of this Book of Life. In its pages are the names of the true Saints of God who have a legal right to enter heaven. Revelation 21: 27 says that: *There shall in no wise enter into heaven anything that defiles, neither whatsoever works abomination, or make a lie but they which are written in the Lambs Book of Life.*

But there was a major problem, the Book was closed and sealed with seven seals.

Who is worthy?

Verse 2

And I saw a strong Angel proclaiming with a loud voice who is worthy to open the Book and to loose the Seals thereof?

Then John saw a strong angel come whose loud voice penetrated heaven, earth, and Hell so that everyone could hear it. Everyone in heaven and on earth and under the earth heard the voice but none was worthy to open the Book except Jesus. Once the Book was opened Satan could not accuse God of not offering any other being including himself, to open the Book so the Angel's voice had to be heard by everyone wherever they were.

Who is worthy to open the book and to loose the Seals thereof? And no man in heaven nor in earth neither under the Earth was able to open the Book neither to look thereon.

The cry goes out and it is a heartfelt cry, who is worthy, the Bible translators say 'no man' but the original Greek says 'no one' not just any man but any one of any other order of beings anywhere in the world or under the world, under the sea or in Hell, the invitation of 'who is worthy' was given.

John and indeed all others who are witnessing this scene were spellbound, shocked and dismayed that it was necessary to shout for someone to open the Book. In the quietness of the waiting moment for someone to step forward, most hearts had stopped as it were, in anticipation.

John who had been given the promise of revelation of "things which must be hereafter" now weeps in frustration in his earnest desire to see future events unfold apparently brought to an abrupt stop.

We are not told how many onlookers were involved in this sorry state of affairs; we know there were 24 Elders and the four living creatures. It could be that all heaven looked on; my guess is that every heart was pounding with anticipation, would that Book of Life ever be opened? In any earthly scenario like this we would look to the biggest, the strongest, and the one with the biggest muscles to be our hero and come forth and open the book, but none came, even the World's Strongest Man was strangely absent when needed the most.

Verse 5

And one of the Elders said unto me, Weep not Behold the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David has prevailed to open the book and to lose the Seven Seals thereof. And I beheld and lo, in the midst of the Throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the Elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain. Having seven horns and seven eyes which are the Seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

There was a movement from the Throne, and according to verse 11 John saw *many Angels round the Throne and the Zoa and the Elders and the number of them was Ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands*. The Greek actually says myriads of myriads which is an incalculable number. These Elders were representative of the multitudes of Raptured souls that have been saved by the blood of the Lamb. 1.Thess: 4; 16 says:

For the Lord shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel and with the Trump of God and the dead in Christ shall rise first then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

1.Thess; 3,13 says ...*at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ **with** all His Saints.*

So around the Throne were not just twenty four plus 4, the Elders represented all those that have come to a saving knowledge of Christ whose number could not be counted. That number included Moses, Aaron, Jeremiah, Ruth, Samuel, David, Esther, Daniel, Mathew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter, Paul in fact all those from Adam who followed Christ to the time of the Rapture. Will your name be amongst those Raptured Saints?

There was a shuffle of feet as this massive crowd of people slowly moved aside to make way for someone who wished to come forward. He was coming from the area of the throne, the crowd moved aside and saw it was Jesus, The Lamb, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of Jesse. A Lion and a Lamb yes two opposites, the former title Lion, depicts the power and authority of the Son, the later title a Lamb, depicts His perfect sacrifice for the souls of man. He was Christ our Passover lamb, the sacrificial Lamb symbolising the innocent and unblemished victim offered up for sinners. He was the only one who was worthy to open the Book of Life.

The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

This was classically expressed in Isaiah 53 which says *He like a Lamb that is led to the slaughter.* Again in John 1.29 at the commencement of the ministry of Jesus, John the Baptist proclaimed *Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.*

As the Lamb steps forward the weeping stops, in fact all weeping stops when we look away from our defeat and unworthiness and look to the Lamb the Saviour of the world. The tribe of Judah was the tribe of David and whose Kingdom would be established for ever. (Isaiah 9 verse 6 and 7.) It is through this tribe of David the kingly line preceded and to who the promise was given that this Kingdom would last forever. (2. Samuel 7. 13).

Verse 7

And He came and took the Book out of the Right Hand of Him who sat upon the Throne.

Can you imagine the sighs relief, maybe even the great intake of breath as one of the greatest problems in history was solved by the Lamb from the cross of Calvary?, This Document, made legal by the shedding of innocent blood, brim full of names, including mine and my families and I hope yours and your family, came away from His Fathers hand easily, without a struggle as though it was meant to be, which of course it was. Now the pages can be opened, the names read out giving each one a blood stained passport of Christ to enter God's heaven.

Thank you Jesus that you shed your blood to bring us back to God and save us from our sins. The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world is mentioned 27 times in Revelation alone.

Verse 6

He has seven horns and seven eyes which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

Horns in the Bible denote dominion, seven denotes God's perfection, His perfect number, and seven horns denote total perfect dominion all embodied in Christ Jesus. When we accept Christ we also accept His total dominion over sin and we can walk in victory. He also had seven eyes and this denotes total perfect watchfulness of all spiritual things including His church, and against her enemies also made possible to us by the death of Christ at the cross.

Verse 7

And He took the Book out of the right hand of Him Who sat upon the Throne.

All heaven stands in awe and wonder as the Lamb steps forward to take the Book. It was the Lamb, incarnate, unstained by sin, who was slain but is alive again, this glorified magnified only Son of God, the one who prevailed above all others, who alone was worthy to take this closely guarded, sealed Book from the hand of His Father.

Verse 8

And when He had taken the Book, the four Zoa (or living creatures) and the twenty four Elders, (who represent the Church) fell down before the Lamb having every one of them harps and golden vials full of odours which are the prayers of the Saints.

Each of the Elders is holding a harp, the music of which was associated with the offering of worship to God as instructed in

Exodus 34:8

And Moses made hast and bowed his head towards the earth and worshiped.

1st Chronicles 16:29

Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name, bring an offering and come before Him, worship the Lord in the beauty of Holiness.

The millions of those around the Throne were not only holding a harp but also a golden bowl full of fragrances which are the prayers of the Saints. Way back in Exodus 30; 1 instruction were given to make an Alter overlaid with gold, on which to burn Incense every morning and every evening. It was positioned just in front of the curtain behind which was the Holy of Holies where the Ark of the Covenant was and where God Himself ‘dwelt’ in the tabernacle. This was attended by the Priests day and night to provide *perpetual incense before the Lord*. It was in this way God’s people offered a continual offering of prayer ascending up to Heaven to be acceptable to the Father, much like the Psalmist’s petition *‘let my prayer be counted as incense before thee’*. The prayers and partitions of the Old Testament Saints as they strove and suffered in this earthy wilderness are pleasing to our Heavenly Father of this there is no doubt. But also in this vision the golden bowls are filled with the prayers and fragrant censes of the church of the redeemed. We know that all that we read in Revelation is yet to be fulfilled, the Angel called to St John and said come up hither and I will show you things to come. The glory that was revealed to John is a glory yet to come, but we must remember he was still a pilgrim on this earth. However John’s experience has shown us that our prayers are important to God and are kept in golden bowls and have a pleasing fragrance.

I sometimes wonder what fragrance I send up through my prayers. I am guilty of not offering up many prayers of thanksgiving, or praise, most of my prayers are cries of “take away my pain” “help me Lord” “help me fight Satan today”. My spine has crumbled trapping my spinal cord and I am in very great pain all the time, so much of my prayer is of the “help me” nature! Let me say right now the Lord is dealing with me in this and He is doing a great work in my life which is not all physical. But the natural me can’t help an occasional moan as I try to concentrate on these studies! What we are reading in this study shows me that our prayers could have an unpleasant smell about them; do you know what I mean? He can’t be all that pleased with them sometimes. If our prayers are kept in golden bowls to be presented before the Throne, don’t you think we need to pray more cautiously and

certainly more presentable to Him instead of rushing into church on Sunday or our closet at home with a 'Hey God I need help' attitude.

There is also a place in our lives for intercession as well as prayer where we spend more time with God by reading His Word, waiting on Him, asking Him to speak to us then spending time praying for others who are in such difficulties that they need our prayerful support. Not just a comment of "I will pray for you" and then forget them. Intercession means to take on the grief, or the heartache, or the pain of someone else. My wife, Pauline is an real intercessor, the Lord told her many years ago her ministry in life was to stand in the gap for those that God lays on her heart. She gets up early in the morning and before she does anything she spends time reading through a book in which are lots of people's names who have asked her to pray and people God has told her to intercede for. There are dozens of names and she talks to the Lord about them all in real prayer feeling their problems as she does so. I know her golden bowl is full of sweet smelling fragrance,

Verse 9

And they sang a new song saying You are worthy to taken the Book and to open the seals thereof and have redeemed us to God by your Blood out of every kindred and tongue and people and have made us unto our God kings and priests.

Can you imagine that vast number of Saints all singing a new song? The Saints of every nation, every kindred and tongue, all were singing with joy and happiness in worshipping the Lamb who was worthy to open the Book what a lovely sound. And this song will never grow old, because the wonder and joy of our salvation will not grow old because in the new heaven and earth no one and nothing becomes old. Jesus said (21;5) *Behold I will make all things new*. This newness includes the restoration of all things including the nation of Israel who will play an integral part in future events.

Verse 13

And every creature which is in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea and all that are in the them I heard saying Blessing and honour and glory and power, be unto Him who sits upon the Throne and unto the Lamb forever and ever.

The conclusion of chapter 5 presents the four Zoa and the twenty four Elders representing the Church falling down in worship and honour to the Lamb who lives for ever.

Next study the first of the seals is opened.

Be blessed

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