

#### 4. The Enthronement of the Lamb (1Q 2019—Revelation)

**Biblical material:** Revelation 4, Ezek. 1:5–14, Revelation 5, Eph. 1:20–23, Heb. 10:12; Acts 2:32–36; Rev. 3:21.

##### Quotes

- But that a pope or a bishop anoints, confers, tonsures, ordains, consecrates, or prescribes dress unlike that of the laity, -- this may make hypocrites, and graven images, but it never makes a Christian or “spiritual” man. Through baptism all of us are consecrated to the priesthood, as St. Peter says in I Peter ii, “Ye are a royal priesthood, a priestly kingdom,” and the book of Revelation says, “Thou hast made us by Thy blood to be priests and kings.” *Martin Luther*, Open Letter to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation Concerning the Reform of the Christian Estate
- If God and the Lamb are not on the throne in our being, there is no flow of the divine life. But when God is on the throne in our spirit, the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit flow within us from the throne of grace in our spirit to richly supply us. *Stefan Misaras*
- Revelation has a robust presentation of the story of God’s gospel is his work through the enthronement of Christ. It strikes me as significant that the first thing affirmed about Christ in the literary setting of the two chapter “throne room” scene in Revelation chapters 4-5 is Christ’s connection with his Davidic heritage, “See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals” (Rev. 5:5). Once this Davidic heritage is appreciated, then one sees the logical necessity of Jesus, certainly as the slain lamb, enthroned with God. *Richard Oster*

##### Questions

Why is the enthronement of the Lamb important? What does this tell us? What about the scroll that no one could open? What is so significant about this, and why is it so important that Jesus can open it? How can we take these images and symbols and gain assurance that God is answering the issues in the great controversy, and saving us?

##### Bible summary

Our main material for this week’s study is Revelation 4 and 5. A door is opened in heaven (or “into heaven”) which gives John the ability to see what is happening there. He is called up to see what will happen next. He is given a vision of the throne room and the God who sits on the throne, and those who continually worship him. He also sees the one who is able to open the scroll, with all that this means. Ezek. 1:5–14 is a vision of the living creatures, showing once again how much of the Book of Revelation is dependent on the imagery of the Old Testament. Eph. 1:20–23 describes the enthronement of Jesus. Heb. 10:12 tells us that Jesus, our high priest, sat down at the right hand of God, also mentioned by Peter in Acts 2:32–36.

##### Comment

The great line in this study comes from Revelation 5:12 FBV: “The Lamb that was slain is worthy to receive authority, wealth, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and blessing.” The centrality of Jesus is once again emphasized in this lesson, and we should once again try to understand what this imagery says about the Jesus who came to show us the Father. While there is much in these chapters that reflect the glorious power of God sitting on the throne, this is not power as we usually understand it. God’s power is never used for himself; it is always for the benefit of others. This is why God is worshiped as he is—not for all his power and might, but because of the kind of God that the Lamb reveals.

As we think of how God the Father through Jesus by the Spirit answers the charges of the Devil in the great controversy, we see God’s true nature shining through. He is not the demonic tyrant the Devil describes, but a truly loving God who cares for each of his children, and who loves them so much he is willing to die for them. He shows himself to be worthy of worship not just because of his position, but because of his nature. We love because he first loved us.

There has been much speculation about what was written on the scroll. Some have pointed out that scrolls of title deeds contained details on the inside, and a brief description on the outside, so it could be seen as God’s title of ownership. However more significantly it cannot be opened, except by Jesus. Here we see something more. The seals that are opened are surely part of the message of the scroll, especially as it speaks to the times of the end. But most importantly we can see that the scroll is really God’s answers to the charges of the Devil and problem of sin, as demonstrated in Jesus who said, “anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.” Jesus is God’s greatest answer, which is why he is the only one who can open the scroll of God’s answers. The scroll can also be linked to the Lamb’s Book of Life (Rev. 21:27) since part of God’s answer is through those who trust in him. So in summary, the scroll is God’s complete answer and demonstration of truth against the lies of the Devil, and incorporates all the history and destiny of those involved, most importantly the answers about God which for us are essential in our salvation. That is why John was so upset that no one could be found to open the scroll, until he was told, “Look, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Descendant of David, has won the battle and can open the scroll and its seven seals.” Rev. 5:5 FBV.

### **Ellen White Comments**

It was the Lion of the tribe of Judah who unsealed the book and gave to John the revelation of what should be in these last days. Daniel stood in his lot to bear his testimony, which was sealed until the time of the end, when the first angel’s message should be proclaimed to our world. These matters are of infinite importance in these last days. . . . The book of Daniel is unsealed in the revelation to John, and it carries us forward to the last scenes of this earth’s history. {CTr 334}

There in His open hand lay the book, the roll of the history of God’s providences, the prophetic history of nations and the church. Herein was contained the divine utterances, His authority, His commandments, His laws, the whole symbolic counsel of the Eternal, and the history of all ruling powers in the nations. In symbolic language was contained in that roll the influence of every nation, tongue, and people from the beginning of earth’s history to its close. This roll was written within and without. {9MR 7}

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