

MASTER THE CONTENT OF SCRIPTURE



The Book of Revelation

Volume II

Chapters 4-5

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Study of the Book of Revelation

The Victory of Christ and the Church

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CONTEXT OF CHAPTERS 4-5

Chapters 4 and 5 of Revelation transition the reader from the earthly concerns of the seven churches to a breathtaking vision of the heavenly throne room. These chapters emphasize the sovereignty of God and the exaltation of Christ as the Lamb, preparing the original audience for the unfolding of divine judgment and redemption in their historical context. These chapters affirm God's authority over all creation and highlight the fulfillment of His covenant promises through the victorious work of Christ.

INTRODUCTION

Chapter 4 depicts John's vision of the throne room of God. He is called up into heaven, where he sees a throne with One seated upon it, surrounded by twenty-four elders and four living creatures, all worshiping God. This vision is symbolic of God's sovereign rule over the events about to unfold in history. The imagery of the throne emphasizes divine authority, while the worship reflects the acknowledgment of God as the Creator and Sustainer of all things. This chapter reassures the first-century audience that the tribulations they face are under God's control and part of His divine plan.

In chapter 5, John sees a scroll in the right hand of the One on the throne, sealed with seven seals, and hears a question: "Who is worthy to open the scroll?" The Lamb, symbolizing Christ, appears as one who has been slain and is declared worthy to open the scroll. The text deals with the scroll as the unfolding of God's judgment and covenantal purposes, particularly as they relate to Israel and the early church. The Lamb's worthiness, rooted in His sacrificial death, signifies the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy and the inauguration of the new covenant. The chapter concludes with a crescendo of worship, as all creation exalts the Lamb for His redemptive work.

These chapters offer a heavenly perspective on the historical events unfolding in the first century, particularly the coming judgment and the establishment of Christ's kingdom. John

highlights the relevance of these visions for his audience, assuring them of God's sovereignty and Christ's triumph over sin and death. These chapters set the stage for the opening of the seals, underscoring that all history is ultimately directed by the hand of God through the victorious Lamb.

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REVELATION 4 CONTENT

1 After these things I saw, and behold, a door opened in heaven, and the first voice that I heard, a voice as of a trumpet speaking with me, one saying, Come up hither, and I will show thee the things which must come to pass hereafter. 2 Straightway I was in the Spirit: and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and one sitting upon the throne; 3 and he that sat was to look upon like a jasper stone and a sardius: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, like an emerald to look upon. 4 And round about the throne were four and twenty thrones: and upon the thrones I saw four and twenty elders sitting, arrayed in white garments; and on their heads crowns of gold. 5 And out of the throne proceed lightnings and voices and thunders. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God; 6 and before the throne, as it were a sea of glass like unto crystal; and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, four living creatures full of eyes before and behind. 7 And the first creature was like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face as of a man, and the fourth creature was like a flying eagle. 8 And the four living creatures, having each one of them six wings, are full of eyes round about and within: and they have no rest day and night, saying,

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come.

9 And when the living creatures shall give glory and honor and thanks to him that sitteth on the throne, to him that liveth for ever and ever, 10 the four and twenty elders shall fall down before him that sitteth on the throne, and shall worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and shall cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

11 Worthy art thou, our Lord and our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power: for thou didst create all things, and because of thy will they were, and were created.

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REVELATION 4 OUTLINE

IV. Chapter 4

A. After these things I saw, and behold,

1. a door opened in heaven, and
2. the first voice that I heard, a voice as of a trumpet speaking with me, one saying,
 - a. Come up hither, and
 - b. I will show thee the things which must come to pass **hereafter**. (1)

B. Straightway I was in the Spirit: and behold,

1. there was a throne
 - a. set in heaven, and
 - b. one sitting upon the throne; (2)
2. he that sat was to look upon like ...
 - a. a jasper stone and
 - b. a sardius: and
 - c. there was a rainbow round about the throne,
 - a. like an emerald to look upon. (3)
3. And round about the throne were
 - a. four and twenty thrones:
 - b. upon the thrones I saw four and twenty elders sitting,
 - arrayed in white garments; and
 - on their heads crowns of gold. (4)
4. out of the throne proceed
 - a. lightnings and
 - b. voices and
 - c. thunders.
5. before the throne

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- a. there were seven lamps of fire burning
 - b. which are the seven Spirits of God; (5)
 - c. before the throne, as it were a sea of glass like unto crystal; and
6. in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne,
- a. four living creatures full of eyes before and behind. (6)
 - the first creature was like a lion, and
 - the second creature like a calf, and
 - the third creature had a face as of a man, and
 - the fourth creature was like a flying eagle. (7)
 - b. the four living creatures,
 - having each one of them six wings, are
 - full of eyes round about and within: and
 - c. the four creatures have no rest day and night, saying,
 - Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God,
 - the Almighty,
 - who was and
 - who is and
 - who is to come. (8)
7. when the living creatures shall give glory and honor and thanks to him that sitteth on the throne, to him that liveth for ever and ever, (9)
- a. the four and twenty elders shall fall down before him that sitteth on the throne,
 - b. the four and twenty elders shall worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and
 - c. the four and twenty elders shall cast their crowns before the throne, saying, (10)
 - Worthy art thou, our Lord and our God, to receive the glory

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- Worthy art thou, our Lord and our God, to receive the honor and the power: for
- thou didst create all things, and because
- of thy will they were, and were created. (11)

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REVELATION 4 COMMENTARY

1 After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”

Verse 1 begins with the phrase “After this.” This refers to the content found in chapters 1-3. Remember that chapter 1:9-20, reveals a vision of Christ and his Church. In chapter 2-3, Jesus dictates a letter to each of the seven churches in Asia Minor.

This verse reports what John saw. “I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven!” John caught a glimpse of an open door in heaven.

This passage is similar to what we find in chapter 1:10. There John writes,

“I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet 11 saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”

The voice that spoke in chapter 1:10, is the one speaking in this passage. The voice in chapter 1:10, invited John to transcribe what he saw and deliver the content to 7 churches. In this passage, that same voice invites him to enter through an open door into heaven. John walks away from the earth and now enters the heavenly realm. What is the purpose of the invitation? The voice states that John will now see things which must take place.

The words “after this” (Gk. Meta tauta): Meta means immediately after. A new vision is introduced. In chapters 1-3, we saw a vision of Christ and his church. A letter was delivered to 7 churches in Asia.

In chapter 4, John steps off the earthly scene and walks into heaven.

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Context: What does the church need to hear? After being persecuted and tried, the church needs to understand that God is still on the throne. They need to know that their suffering and battles are not in vain. In the entire book of the Revelation, the word throne is used 46 times. In chapters 4-5, that word is mentioned 17 times.

2 At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.

In verse 2, John testifies that he was in the Spirit. This same expression is found in chapter 1:10. There, John was “in the Spirit” when he witnessed a vision of Christ and his church on the earth. In this chapter, we find that he was “in the Spirit” when he saw a 2nd vision.

As John was transported from the earth into the heavenly realm, he saw a throne. He also saw someone sitting upon it.

NOTE: This passage speaks of only one individual who was transported into heaven. There is no evidence that this passage is symbolic of a larger group. We must be careful not to add to the Word of God. (Rev. 22:18-19)

3 And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.

In this passage, John shares his vision of the throne and He who sat on it. He begins with the description of God. John writes that God had the appearance of jasper and carnelian. He does not describe any human features. He seems to identify God with the colorful light of precious stones. He reveals the shining or glory that emanates from God. John also identifies a rainbow with the appearance of an emerald that surrounded the throne.

NOTE: 1 Tim. 6:16 – He (God) dwells in unapproachable light. The 3 stones mentioned in this passage are present on the breastplate of judgement resting on the shoulders of the high

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priests (Ex. 28:17-19). They are also present in the garden of Eden (Ezek. 28:13). Ezekiel 1:26-28 describes the throne of God in terms of the brilliance of gemstones. There is no way to determine the meaning of each stone. We can only see that God is light and in him is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5; 1 Tim. 6:16). Note that God does not make Himself visible.

4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads.

John moves on to describe what was located around the throne. He saw 24 thrones in addition to God's throne. He describes those sitting on the thrones as elders. They are men. They are said to be clothed in white garments. They have a golden crown on their heads.

NOTE: The elders are representatives of God's people. Christians will reign with Christ (1:6) and wear crowns (2:10; 3:11). Christians will be granted kingly authority over the nations (2:26-27). Christians are said to be seated with Christ on His throne (3:21)

The 24 elders represent God's people in the Old and New Covenant. Twelve tribes in the Old Testament and the 12 apostles in the New Testament. Interesting to note that 12 is used repeatedly: 12 gates, 12 angels, 12 foundations, 12 apostles of the Lamb.

5 From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God,

In verse 5, John is again drawn to the throne of God. He can see flashes of lightning. He can hear the rumblings and peals of thunder.

John moves on to describe what he sees before the throne. There are 7 torches of fire. These are said to be the seven spirits of God.

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NOTE: The activity around the throne reveals God's power and judgment. (Ex. 19:16-19; Heb. 8:5; 9:23)

6 and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind:

In verse 6, John describes what he saw beyond the 7 torches of fire. There, he saw a sea of glass like crystal.

John moves on to describe what he saw around and on each side of the throne. He saw four living creatures. They are said to be full of eyes in front and behind.

NOTE: Ezekiel 1 mentions a sea of glass and a throne. Isaiah 6:1-3 mentions Seraphim around the throne. In Exod. 24:10, the elders saw under the feet of God "something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself." In Ezek. 1:22-26, a throne of sapphire appeared in the expanse over the heads of creatures. We will return to the meaning of these things later.

7 the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight.

In verse 7, John describes four living creatures. The first creature is like a lion. The second living creature is like an ox. The third living creature has the face of a man. The fourth living creature is like an eagle in flight.

NOTE: These creatures are also described in Ezekiel 1 and 10. Isaiah 6:1-4 describes 6 winged Seraphim. These creatures are mentioned 14 times in Revelation.

These 4 creatures represent all of God's creation. Every creature on the ark of Noah. They symbolize what is the noblest, strongest, wisest, and swiftest in creation. In Numbers 2, the encampment of the Israelites is described. East: The standard of Judah was a lion – South: the

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standard of Reuben was the face of a man. – West: the standard of Ephraim was an ox. North: the standard of Dan was the eagle. The Rabbis believed the lion was chief of wild beasts; the ox the chief of the land animals; the eagle the chief of the air; and man the leader of all.

8 And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”

John continues to focus on the four living creatures. Each creature had six wings. Each creature was full of eyes all around and within. John moves on to describe the activity in which the four creatures were involved. The creatures never cease to utter the following day and night: “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”

NOTE: Throughout the Bible there are holy places, holy things, holy days, and holy people, but they are holy only because they have been set apart for God’s use. If the creatures represent all the realm of creation, then the picture in this chapter is as follows: All Creation Worships God.

9 And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever,

John continues to describe the activity stated above. The living creatures are said to do three things:

They give glory, honor and thanks. John reveals the object of their worship. Their worship is directed to the One sitting on the throne. God is said to live forever and ever.

10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

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John describes the action taken by the elders who sit on their thrones after they see the living creatures worship God. The elders who sit on their thrones are said to take the following 3 action: They fall before God. They worship Him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne.

The worship rendered by the 4 living creatures prompts the elders on the throne to take action. What do the elders do every time the 4 living creatures worship? The 24 elders fall before God's throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They are said to cast their crowns before the throne.

Note that the word worship is used 24 times in Revelation. It means to kiss, fall down, prostrate oneself and adore on one's knees. We are called to worship him in spirit and in truth. (John 4:23)

This passage informs us that all creation, in particular the Lord's redeemed are in continual prayer. All they do is an act of worship. They do not seek their own glory. This is shown by the fact that they cast their crowns at the feet of the Almighty.

Note that the word for crowns is stephanos. It is a victor's or overcomer's crown. (Rev. 4, 10)

11 "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."

In verse 11, the reader is allowed to hear worship offered by the 24 elders who sit on their thrones. They declare the worthiness of our Lord and God in three directions: He is worthy to receive glory, honor and power. God is said to create all things. It is by His will and for His pleasure that they were created.

REVELATION 4-5

REVELATION 5 CONTENT

1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the back, close sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a great voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? 3 And no one in the heaven, or on the earth, or under the earth, was able to open the book, or to look thereon. 4 And I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open the book, or to look thereon: 5 and one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not; behold, the Lion that is of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath overcome to open the book and the seven seals thereof. 6 And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, having seven horns, and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent forth into all the earth. 7 And he came, and he taketh it out of the right hand of him that sat on the throne. 8 And when he had taken the book, the four living creatures and the four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having each one a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sing a new song, saying, Worthy art thou to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and didst purchase unto God with thy blood men of every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation, 10 and madest them to be unto our God a kingdom and priests; and they reign upon the earth. 11 And I saw, and I heard a voice of many angels round about the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; 12 saying with a great voice, Worthy is the Lamb that hath been slain to receive the power, and riches, and wisdom, and might, and honor, and glory, and blessing. 13 And every created thing which is in the heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and on the sea, and all things that are in them, heard I saying, Unto him that sitteth on the throne, and unto the Lamb, be the blessing, and the honor, and the glory, and the dominion, for ever and ever. 14 And the four living creatures said, Amen. And the elders fell down and worshipped.

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REVELATION 5 OUTLINE

V. Chapter 5

A. I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne

1. a book written within and on the back,
2. close sealed with seven seals. (1)

B. I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a great voice,

1. Who is worthy to open the book, and
2. Who is worthy to loose the seals thereof? (2)

C. no one in the heaven, or on the earth, or under the earth, was able to open the book, or to look thereon. (3)

1. I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open the book,
2. No one was worthy to look thereon: (4) one of the elders saith unto me,
 - a. Weep not;
 - b. behold,
 - the Lion that is of the tribe of Judah,
 - the Root of David, hath overcome to open the book and the seven seals thereof. (5)

D. I saw in the midst

1. of the throne and
2. of the four living creatures, and
3. in the midst of the elders,

E. I saw a Lamb standing,

1. as though it had been slain,
2. having seven horns, and
3. having seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God,

F. The Lamb was sent forth into all the earth. (6)

1. he came, and

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2. he taketh it out of the right hand of him that sat on the throne. (7)
 3. when he had taken the book,
 - a. the four living creatures and
 - b. the four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb,
 - having each one a harp, and
 - having each one golden bowls full of incense,
* which are the prayers of the saints. (8)
 - c. the four and twenty elders sing a new song, saying,
 - Worthy art thou to take the book, and
 - Worthy art thou to open the seals thereof:
 - for thou wast slain, and
 - for thou didst purchase unto God with thy blood men of every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation, (9)
 - for thou madest them to be unto our God
* a kingdom and priests; and they reign upon the earth.
(10)
- G. I saw, and I heard a voice of**
1. many angels round about the throne and
 2. the living creatures and
 3. the elders; and
 4. the number of them (angels) was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; (11)
 5. The song of the angels sung with a great voice,
 - a. Worthy is the Lamb
 - b. that hath been slain to receive the
 - power, and
 - riches, and
 - wisdom, and

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- might, and
- honor, and
- glory, and
- blessing. (12)

H. I hear every created thing which is

1. in the heaven, and
2. on the earth, and
3. under the earth, and
4. on the sea, and all things that are in them say,
Unto him that sitteth on the throne, and unto the Lamb, be
 - the blessing, and
 - the honor, and
 - the glory, and
 - the dominion, for ever and ever. (13)
5. four living creatures said, Amen. And
6. the elders fell down and worshipped. (14)

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REVELATION 5 COMMENTARY

5:1 Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals.

In verse 1, the writer zooms in on the right hand of the one sitting on the throne. We see a scroll with writing on both sides. There are seven seals affixed to the document.

During the first century, a scroll with seven seals was a will or testament. The document would be opened in the presence of the seven witnesses who sealed it. The document would be unsealed, read aloud and executed.

There are references to this in the Old Testament. In Daniel 8:25 and 12:4 – he is given an overview of the future. Daniel was told to seal up the words of the scroll he received until a later time. Daniel sealed the document until the time of the end. (Dan 8:17, 19; 11:35, 40; 12:4,9) What scroll Daniel sealed will be opened in this chapter. The content of the scroll is new revelation. In this chapter, Christ begins to execute his sovereignty (Acts 2:32-36; 1 Cor. 15:27; Eph. 1:20-22; Heb 1:1-5)

The scene in this chapter is God's courtroom. The trial has ended, judgment is pronounced and now preparations will be made to execute that judgement. What was the allegation?

1. Israel had played the harlot.
2. Israel had refused to repent.
3. Israel had killed the prophets
4. Israel had killed the very Son of God.

In line with the warnings of Christ in the Gospels, Israel has been pronounced guilty and judgment has been documented - established by eternal decree - symbolized by a scroll.

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Speaking to the Jews who had rejected Him, the Lord said...

Matthew 23:35-39 (ESV) 35 so that **on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth**, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, **whom you murdered** between the sanctuary and the altar. 36 Truly, I say to you, **all these things will come upon this generation**. 37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the **city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it!** How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! 38 **See, your house is left to you desolate**. 39 For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.' "

At the end of the age, God sent His Son. Jesus told them through parables what they would do to Him. They would **kill the Son and cast Him out of the vineyard**. He also warned them that the King would send His army to destroy those evil servants and the vineyard would be given to others.

The "end of the age" came. **God raised up the Roman legions against them. From 66-70 A.D., they suffered the terrible wrath of God until finally in 70 A.D.** Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed. Not one stone was left standing upon another.

It is fitting that chapter 5 end with worship because we serve a Holy God who is patient, who is long-suffering, who is not willing that any should perish. His desire is that all come to repentance. But there is also a time when His judgment must come. Our God is not to be trifled with. He is awesome in holiness. His righteous judgment is to be feared.

5:2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" 3 But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it.

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Verse 2 opens with a question. If judgment is to be executed, there was a need to find someone worthy to do so.

In the Bible, judgement could not be rendered if the person executing it was guilty of the crimes being judged. The Bible states that “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” The angel in the text is seeking a worthy person who can break the seals and open the scroll.

In verse 3, a search is made in heaven, earth and under the earth. The angel was unable to find anyone who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside it.

4 I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.

In verse 4, John’s response is recorded. He wept continuously. He knew the importance of the document, but understood that a worthy person was necessary before the content of the document could be revealed

5 Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

In verse 5, one of the 24 elders became aware of John’s weeping and comforted him by revealing that a worthy person had been found. The worthy one was called the Lion of the Tribe of Judah and the Root of David.

The Lion of the Tribe of Judah is referenced in Genesis 49 – “you are a lions cub”, and the “scepter shall not depart from Judah”. Jesus’ human ancestry was of the tribe of Judah. The Root of David is referenced in Isaiah 11:10 – The promised Messiah is “the root of Jesse” who is the father of King David. Who is the worthy one? It is none other than Jesus.

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6 Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

In the previous passage, John revealed the worthy one as a Lion, but now in this passage the worthy one is introduced as a slain Lamb. Note that this passage reveals, not only a Lamb, but a slain Lamb. Here we can say much about the death and resurrection of Christ. The Lamb was dead on the one hand, but alive on the other. The word slain points to the finished work of Christ on the earth. The Lamb is now standing at the center of the throne. It is surrounded by four living creatures and 24 elders.

The Lamb was said to have seven horns, and seven eyes. In Biblical numerology, the number 7 represents completion or perfection. In the Old Testament (e.g., Daniel 7:24; Psalm 18:2), horns symbolize strength and authority. The eyes in this passage represent the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. This points to omniscience. As we bring together these symbols, the 7 horns and the 7 Spirits represent ultimate dominion and omniscience. Again, the Lamb is none other than Jesus. The Lamb is now located in a place of honor, the center of the throne.

7 He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.

The scene in this passage is beautiful. In the previous verse, the Lion-Lamb is standing at the center of the throne. In this verse, Lion-Lamb is said to approach the throne and take a scroll from Father's right hand. As discussed earlier, the scene in this chapter is God's courtroom. The trial has ended, judgment is pronounced and now preparations will be made to execute that judgement.

In line with the warnings of Christ in the Gospels, Israel has been pronounced guilty and judgment has been documented - established by eternal decree and is about to be executed.

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8 And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people.

What happened after Jesus took the scroll from Father's right hand? The text reveals that the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb. A worship service ensues. The elders each had a harp and were holding golden bowls full of incense. The bowls of incense represent the prayer of God's people.

9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

How did the four creatures and the 24 elders respond to the activity of Jesus? The text reveals they sang a new song. The object of the song was Jesus himself. The 4 creatures and 24 elders acknowledged the worthiness of Jesus to take the scroll and open its seals. The song reveals the price paid by Jesus – He was slain. The song unveils the results of the work of Jesus – His blood purchased the following for God: individuals from every tribe, language, people and nation.

Verse 10 reveals that outcome of the work of Jesus. Those purchased by him were made a kingdom and priests to serve God. According to this text, those purchased by Jesus will reign on earth.

11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.

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In this verse, John reports that he both saw and heard the voice of millions of angels. They surrounded the throne, the creatures and the 24 elders.

12 In a loud voice they were saying: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

What were the multitudes in this verse saying in a loud voice. Their words focused on the Lamb who was slain. The multitudes declared that Jesus, the Lamb, was worthy to receive power, wealth, wisdom, strength, honor glory and praise!"

13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

In verse 13, John reveals that the whole of creation declared a message in unison. John reveals the content of their song. All creation acknowledged and worshipped both Him who sat on the throne and the Lamb. All creation worshipped by giving praise, honor, glory and power to both Father and Son. Both Father and Son are worthy of worship for ever and ever.

14 The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders prostrated themselves and worshiped.

The four living creatures confirmed the message of the song by saying "Amen." The elders fell and worshiped both the Father and His Son.