

The Book of Revelation

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CHAPTER FIVE

THE TITLE DEED

“And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the back side, sealed with seven seals” (Revelation 5:1).

There now comes into view the main purpose for which this throne is set. There is a book in the right hand of the occupant of that throne. The whole interest now centers about the taking of that book and the opening of its seals.

Suppose a man were to buy a farm and pay for it. Possession would not be given until the following April. On the first day of April, he, with title deed in hand, would go to take possession of his property. But he might be met at the gate by the man who had been living there several years and be denied entrance.

He would then go to the court house and later the sheriff and several policemen would come. The tenant might put up a fight during which several windows might be broken, the chicken house burned and other property destroyed.

Finally however, the man would be handcuffed and led away to prison, and the rightful owner come into possession.

The Day of Redemption

This is what we have before us in the book of Revelation. This old world was in bondage to sin. Some nineteen hundred years ago, CHRIST redeemed it not with "**corruptible things, as silver and gold**" - but with his own "**precious blood**" (I Peter 1:19).

He did not immediately take possession of the earth, but permits a usurper (Satan) to wield sway until "April first." When that day arrives, he will take the title deed and come forth to claim His own. He could not have taken possession then for we were not yet born and the church must be completed before He takes over the earth.

When a person takes CHRIST as Saviour, he is sealed "**with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession**" (Ephesians 1:13, 14). This seal of the HOLY SPIRIT is "**unto the day of redemption**," that is,

the day when He returns to earth to take over what He has already purchased (Ephesians 4:30).

"There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time" (I Timothy 2:5, 6). That is, a time is coming when this ransom that CHRIST gave for the world will be testified or affirmed before a judicial tribunal. To do this and to prove His claim, He must have a title deed. This is what the book in the Father's right hand is - the title deed to the redeemed earth.

However, when CHRIST will seek to redeem His purchased possession, He will be met and opposed by Satan. CHRIST will then take steps to oust this usurper and these judgments in Revelation are His efforts by successive stages to cast him out.

Judgments With Purpose

Since the main battle is to gain possession of the human heart, CHRIST will put on His judgments with care. Sometimes the loss of property will turn a person to CHRIST; another might be moved by the loss of a child. Thus in this book CHRIST will put on a judgment that will drive some to fear and serve Him, then a stronger judgment will bring in others. More and stronger judgments will bring in others until finally those that are left will even gnaw their tongue for pain, but will not repent. When the last person is saved, that can be brought to repentance, Satan will be bound and thrown into the bottomless pit and CHRIST will destroy all opposition and set up His kingdom of peace and righteousness.

The Kinsman Redeemer

We must go to the Old Testament to find the meaning of the book. There was in Israel, the year of Jubilee. Every fiftieth year there was a release and everyone returned to his original inheritance. That is, if a man must sell his farm, he must do so with the year of Jubilee in mind. If it were five years to Jubilee he could not get so much as if it were thirty. However if a person waxed poor and had to sell his land and later wished it back before the year of Jubilee, he could have it, providing some rich relative would redeem it for him. This relative was called a **"Kinsman Redeemer."**

There was a famine in Judah. Elimelech took his wife and two sons and moved to Moab. There the two sons married daughters of Moab, Ruth and Orpah.

Later Elimelech and the two sons died. Naomi and one daughter-in-law returned to Bethlehem of Judah.

Ruth gleaned in the fields of Boaz, a rich relative.

In their poverty they had lost their home, but if Boaz would play the part of kinsman redeemer, they could have it back again. Boaz agreed to do so, providing a nearer of kin would not play the part. The man could not do so **"lest I mar mine own inheritance"** (Ruth 4:6). So Boaz **"drew off his shoe"** to confirm the deal, and played the part of kinsman redeemer.

Mankind lost possession of the earth through sin

He was unable to redeem himself, so CHRIST took it upon Himself to play the part of Kinsman Redeemer. He became a kinsman of the human race through the Virgin Birth, and **"redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us"** on the cross (Galatians 3:13).

CHRIST did not come into possession of His purchased property at once, so the title deed was placed in the Father's hand until the day of redemption, when it will be brought forth and **"testified in due time."**

The Sealed Title Deed

Nebuchadnezzar was besieging Jerusalem. Hanameel, Jeremiah's uncle's son had a field in Anathoth. Jeremiah prophesied that **"houses and fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land."** Nebuchadnezzar held the country and it looked doubtful indeed. So Hanameel came to Jeremiah and said, **"Buy thee my field that is in Anathoth; for the right of redemption is thine to buy it"** (Jeremiah 32:7).

Jeremiah was willing to play the part of kinsman redeemer so he **"weighed him the money"** and took the **"evidence of the purchase, both that which was sealed... and that which was open... and put them in an earthen vessel, that they may continue many days."**

Years passed: Nebuchadnezzar's army was gone.

The heirs of Jeremiah might dig up the earthen vessel, break the seal on the title deed and take possession of the land.

CHRIST has purchased this world, but a usurper still holds sway. CHRIST cannot take possession because His purpose in the church is not yet fulfilled. So the title deed was sealed with seven seals and placed in the Father's hand until the day of redemption would come.

When that day comes, He will take the book; break the seals; come down from Heaven, place one foot on the land and one on the sea, and with hand lifted to Heaven, he will utter a shout of victory and declare that delay shall be no longer (ch. 10).

Who Can Open the Book?

"And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 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" (Revelation 5:2,3).

Man would fain ignore the fall, treat sin lightly and claim ability to remove the curse, so he is given opportunity. Let him take the book, break the seals and remove the effects of sin upon creation. Let him bring joy and peace to this sin cursed earth. The proclamation goes out, **"Who is worthy to open the book?"**

- Medical science graduates its hundreds every year, but sickness and death still take their dreadful toll.

- Humanitarianism still seeks in vain to cure the world of its ills.
- Politicians wrangle and argue over ways to bring back prosperity.
- Statesman wrestle with problems beyond their control and would fain stem the fearful flood of hatred and bloodshed that is soon to engulf the world.

"Who is worthy to open the book?" All Heaven is searched.

Might seraphim, cherubim or angels open those seals? Or perchance might Enoch, Abraham, or David present themselves as worthy to fulfill this need? Earth is searched. Might some president, king, or great statesman perform this great deed? The reigns are dropped to the regions **"under the earth."** Might Caesar, Napoleon, or Nero or other of earth's mighty dead make use of a second chance? But every mouth is stopped. **"No man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon."**

Why John Wept

Alas! Alas! what fearful possibilities here. Is our hope in vain? Will we yet miss those gates of pearl? John **"wept much"** (vs. 4) as he realized the fearful issues at stake. And well might we weep if no man is found worthy to take that book and bring salvation's cure.

But John, in his great fear and disappointment, had not noticed another. One of the elders drew his attention, **"Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book"** (vs. 5).

John immediately looks for a Lion and sees a Lamb **"as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes"** (vs. 6). John sees a Lamb with the marks of death upon it. He had seen those wounds before. He had stood by as the Roman soldier had driven in the spikes and pierced that side.

The Victorious Lamb

The Lamb also has seven horns and seven eyes.

Seven is GOD's number of completeness. Horns stand for imperial power. Eyes stand for intelligence. We call him "the wise old owl" because of his big eyes. So here the Lamb has full regal power and all wisdom.

It was when CHRIST **"became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross"** that GOD highly exalted Him and gave Him a **"name which is above every name"** (Philippians 2:8-9).

And here He is, in virtue of His blood bought right of redemption as - **"a Lamb as it had been slain."**

No less qualifications would suffice. It is in virtue of His blood, with all of its sacrificial merit - as a Lamb. It is with all authority **"in heaven and in earth,"** with strength to conquer - the seven horns. It is as **"Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God,"** with perfect intelligence - the seven eyes. It is with all of these virtues that **"he came and took the book out of the right**

hand of him that sat upon the throne" (Revelation 5:7).

This is one of the greatest single acts of all the scriptures.

Instantly all creation in Heaven and earth cry out in adoration to the Lamb. The cherubim and the elders "**fell down before the Lamb**" and sang a new song (vs. 8). Myriads and myriads of angels render honor and glory and blessing while "**every creature**" cries out in "**blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.**"

~ end of chapter 5 ~

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