

The Scroll

Revelation 5

“Throughout history there have been many pretenders to earth’s throne who have sought to conquer and rule the world. The first and most powerful and notorious usurper was Satan. After his rebellion against God was crushed, he and his angelic followers were thrown out of heaven (Luke 10:18; Rev. 12:3-4), and he became the ‘god of this world’ (2 Cor. 4:4). He inspired a host of humans to try their hand at conquest, men such as Nebuchadnezzar, Darius, Alexander the Great, the emperors of Rome, Attila the Hun, Genghis Khan, Napoleon, Lenin, Stalin, and Hitler. In the future will come the most powerful Satan-possessed human conqueror of all, the final Antichrist.

All of those men, and a host of lesser lights, have one thing in common: they failed. Only one individual has the right, the power, and the authority to rule the earth: the Lord Jesus Christ. He will one day take back what is rightfully His from Satan the usurper, and all the rebels, demonic and human. No one else is worthy or capable of ruling the world—no evil man, no good man, no demon, and no holy angel. Revelation 5 introduces Jesus Christ, earth’s rightful ruler, who is pictured about to return to redeem the world from sin, Satan, death, and the curse. He is the central theme of John’s second vision.” MacArthur

- I. God, by whose will all things were created and have their being, holds the title deed to his creation. It is a scroll that not only contains the title deed of rightful ownership, but also God’s final plan of judgment and redemption. To be worthy to open it means that it must be given to one who has the authority, honor, status, and power to fulfill what is written within. The only one worthy to take it from God’s right hand is His Son, Jesus Christ. He is the only one who can redeem or emancipate the world from the usurper, Satan, along with the rulers, authorities, and powers of this dark world and spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms who have collaborated with him to usurp God’s will from the time of Adam and Eve’s fall.

Rev. 5:1-4

Ezek. 2:9-10

There was no answer to the strong angel’s challenge because the creation is utterly incapable of deciding or effecting its own destiny. Someone above the order of created beings must determine the course of history — only God can unfold this plan. Guzik

- II. God's redemptive plan had to be done in a way that would prevent Satan from having any kind of legal authority to keep his control over the world (1 Jn. 5:19; 2 Cor. 4:4). He never did have rightful ownership, but instead stole it when he deceived God's first couple into believing him over their Creator, which brought sin and his evil control to the world. Consequently, there has been a mighty spiritual battle going on for the souls of mankind ever since. The only way for Satan to be defeated was for God the Son to come as a Warrior, a King, and a Sacrificial Lamb who by His willing sacrifice, defeated sin and death so that he could reclaim His legal right to rule the world in perfect righteousness.

Rev. 5:5-7
Gen. 3:15
Col. 2:15
Isa. 31:4
Gen. 49:9-10
Isa. 11:1
Isa. 53:7
Acts. 7:55-56
Zech. 4:2
Dan. 7:13-14

- III. The four living creatures, the 24 elders and the angels celebrate the Lamb taking the scroll from the Father's hand knowing that the curse of the fall will finally be dealt with. They worship knowing that the defeat of sin, death, and Satan is about to take place with the Lord Jesus Christ returning to the earth in triumph to establish His wonderful millennial reign. They worship the power of His blood, His redemptive work on the cross, His supremacy, wealth, wisdom, strength and honor, the saving of souls, and the priestly role of the saints and their authority to co-reign with Christ as His servants eager to do what is good (Titus 2:14). Their worship speaks of a deep understanding and sincere gratitude toward what it means to know Him.

Rev. 5:8-14
Heb 12:2
Ps 141:2
Rev. 1:5b-6
1 Peter 1:9
Romans 8:18-25