

Revelation 5: The Seven-Sealed Scroll

Revelation 5:1–6 | Sunday, March 8 | Revelation Series

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OVERVIEW

God never allows anything to happen on earth, Hal says, before it is settled in heaven — and Revelation 5 is where it gets settled. John sees a scroll in the right hand of the one who sits on the throne, sealed with seven seals, and a strong angel asking who is worthy to open it. No one is, and John weeps. Hal reads the scroll against a legal custom in the nation of Israel: land could never be permanently taken from a family, and the terms of a sale were kept in a scroll with seven seals. This scroll is the title deed to the earth — forfeited to Satan by Adam, whom Hal calls the quisling of the universe, and reclaimable only by a man perfect enough to die for the sins of mankind. He traces it through Job, where Satan brags of roaming about on the earth he owns, and through John 5, where authority to execute judgment is given to the Son of Man. Then the answer comes: the lion of Judah, who turns out to be a Lamb standing, as if slain.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Revelation 5:1–4 — The seven-sealed scroll; no one is worthy to open it, and John weeps greatly

Revelation 5:5 — Stop weeping — the lion from the tribe of Judah, the root of David, has overcome

Revelation 5:6 — A Lamb standing, as if slain, with seven horns and seven eyes

Job 1:6 — The bene ha Elohim present themselves before the Lord, and Satan comes among them

Genesis 6 — The sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful

John 5:25 — The dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; the Father gave the Son life in himself

John 5:27 — He gave him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man

Genesis 49:9 — Judah is a lion's whelp; the scepter shall not depart from Judah until Shiloh comes

1 Chronicles 17:11–14 — A descendant of David whose house and throne are established forever

KEY TERMS

The seven-sealed scroll — the title deed to the earth, and God's decree to reclaim it from Satan and take it over

Quisling — Hal's word for Adam, who forfeited the title deed of the earth to Satan

Bene ha Elohim — "the sons of God" in Hebrew — a phrase Hal says cannot mean men or humans, but angels

The Son of Man — the title Jesus loved to use, and the ground of his authority to execute judgment

Shiloh — "the one to whom it belongs" — the Hebrew word in Jacob's prophecy over Judah

The root of David — the title identifying the one who opens the scroll as the promised descendant of David

The lion of Judah — out of Genesis 49 — Judah is a lion's whelp, the son of a lion

A Lamb standing, as if slain — he was dead and is now alive, and he still carries the marks and the scars of his death

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Answer from the message itself. Every answer is in the teaching.

1. What principle does Hal open with?

2. What does John see in the right hand of the one on the throne, and what does Hal correct about the wording?

3. What does this scroll contain, beyond the judgments that fall on the world?

4. How did Satan come to hold the title deed to the earth?

5. What does Job 1:6 show about Satan's claim, and what is the point of the book of Job?

6. What does bene ha Elohim mean, and where else is it used?

7. What is one reason Hal gives for why God allows good people to suffer?

8. What does John's weeping represent?

9. What does the elder tell John, and what does Genesis 49 add to it?

10. What does the prophecy in 1 Chronicles 17 add?

11. Why did the redemption of the title deed require a man, and why could God not simply take it back?

12. The price was paid almost 2,000 years ago. Why has Christ not yet taken up what he purchased?

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

1. Hal opens by saying nothing happens on earth before it is settled in heaven. What difference would believing that make on a day when nothing looks settled by anyone?

2. The scene turns on a legal right rather than on raw power. Why do you think God insists on doing it legally, even with Satan?

3. Hal says God sometimes lets an unexplainable trouble into a mature believer's life so that the angels can watch him trust God anyway. How does that sit with you?

4. John weeps for all mankind because no one is found worthy. When have you felt the weight of something no one could fix?

5. God endures the evil in the world so that more people may come to Christ. Is that an answer you could give to someone asking why God allows suffering?

6. Jesus will carry the scars forever, and Hal says he is glad, because he never wants to forget. What would you not want to forget?

MEMORY VERSE

"Behold, the lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the root of David, has overcome so as to open the scroll and its seven seals."

— Revelation 5:5, as Hal reads it in this message