

The Closing!

Revelation 5; Daniel 7:13-14

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Buying and closing on our house in New Jersey
- Not all closings on homes go without a hitch

The Closing!

- Revelation 5:1-3-- *“And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals? And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.’”*

A. The SEQUENCE in the context of the Book of Revelation

1. Revelation 1-3 begins with Christ as being LORD over the church and life itself.

a. The vision of Christ in Revelation 1

- Revelation 1:12-18-- *“Then I turned to see the voice that spoke to me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace and His voice as the sound of many waters; He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance like the sun shining in its strength. And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying, to me, ‘Don’t be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I live forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.’”*

b. Jesus Christ is clothed in High Priestly garments.

- Hebrews 4:14-- *“Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the son of God, let us hold fast our confession.”*

c. Jesus Christ is holding “seven stars” and “seven lampstands”

- Revelation 1:20--*“the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches; and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.”*

d. His role as Head of the Church illustrated in Revelation 2-3

- 1) Seven letters to seven historical churches in Asia Minor
- 2) Jesus’ ‘hands-on’ evaluations of each church

e. Jesus holds the keys of hades and death, and thus is LORD over LIFE!

2. Revelation 4, John is caught up to heaven, a foretaste of the rapture of the church.

- Revelation 4:1-2-- *“After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, ‘Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.’ Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.”*
- Revelation 4:11-- *“You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things.”*

3. The scene in Revelation 5 occurs after the rapture of the church and prior to the beginning of the tribulation period. In other words, during the current intermission period.

- a. God’s 490-year plan to spiritually prepare the Jewish people for their Messiah and Kingdom
- b. The plan stopped after 483 years. We are now in the intermission.
 - 1) The Messiah would be cut off.

- 2) The temple in Jerusalem would be destroyed
- 3) Gentile nations will trample underfoot Jerusalem
- 4) Jesus Christ will build His church
- 5) Jews return to the land in unbelief
- 6) Jesus Christ raptures His bride, the church and takes us to heaven.
- 7) Russia and her Islamic allies invade Israel but are destroyed by God.
- 8) The Jews can then rebuild the temple on the temple mount without starting World War 3.
- 9) The Antichrist rises to power out of the West, and makes a covenant with Israel.
- 10) The Closing takes place in heaven!

B. The **SCROLL** What kind was it?

- Revelation 5:1-- *"And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals."*
1. **Roman's wills were sealed with seven seals.**
 2. **But so were deeds or land contracts**
 - Jeremiah 32:9-15-- *"So I bought the field from Hanamel, the son of my uncle who was in Anathoth, and weighed out to him the money—seventeen shekels of silver. And I signed the deed and sealed it, took witnesses and weighed the money on the scales. So I took the purchased deed, both that which is sealed according to the law and custom, and that which was open; and I gave the purchased deed to Baruch the son of Neriah, son of Mahseiah, in the presence of Hanamel my uncle's son, and in the presence of the witnesses who signed the purchase deed, before all the Jews who sat in the court of the prison. Then I charged Baruch before them, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; "Take these deeds, both this purchase deed which is sealed and this deed which is open, and put them in an earthen vessel, that they may last many days." For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Houses and fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land."'"*

C. The **SEARCH** for someone worthy.

1. **FUTILE at first.**
 - Revelation 5:2-4-- *"Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?' And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. So I wept much because no one was found worthy to pen and read the scroll or to look at it."*
 - a. No one initially was found worthy to take the scroll and open it.
 - b. John weeps, overwhelmed with grief and dismay at not suitable candidates.
 - 1) Only time tears are mentioned as being shed in heaven.
 - 2) Why John cries?
2. **FOUND at last!**
 - a. **Identity of the Worthy One**
 - Revelation 5:5-- *"But one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll, and to loose its seven seals.'"*
 - 1) **The "Lion of Judah"**
 - Genesis 49:8-10-- *"Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's children shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion,*

who shall rouse him? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people."

- 2) **The "Root of David"**
 - Isaiah 11:1-- *"There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots."*
- b. **Jesus Christ is worthy because He "has prevailed" or "overcome".**
 - 1) **He defeated sin on the cross.**
 - Romans 8:3-- *For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh."*
 - 2) **He defeated the one who had the power of death, Satan himself.**
 - Hebrews 2:14-15-- *"Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."*
 - 3) **He defeated all of the forces of hell.**
 - Colossians 2:15-- *"Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it."*
- c. **Revelation of the Worthy One as a Lamb.**
 - Revelation 5:6-- *"And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth."*
 - John 1:29-- *"Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."*
 - Isaiah 53:7-- *"who was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth. He was led as a Lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth."*
 - 1) **A Lamb standing on his feet even though He appears to have been slain.**
 - 2) **A Lamb with "seven horns and seven eyes".**
 - a) **The "horns" symbolize strength and power.**
 - Psalm 18:2-- *"The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom will I trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."*
 - b) **The "seven eyes" refers to the fullness of the Holy Spirit.**
 - Isaiah 11:2-- *"The Spirit of the LORD shall rest on Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord."*
- d. **Jesus Christ takes the scroll from His Father as the rightful heir**
 - Revelation 5:7-- *"Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne."*
 - 1) **Jesus Christ receives His inheritance promised by the Father.**
 - Psalm 2:7-- *"The LORD has said to Me, You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give you the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession."*
 - 2) **Jesus Christ appears before the Ancient of Days and receives the kingdom**
 - Daniel 7:13-14-- *"I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near*

before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed."

D. The **SNAFU**: The presence of a **SQUATTER** who needs to be evicted.

1. **Satan is the "god of this world" and controls the kingdoms of this world.**
2. **The Scroll contains the blueprint, a step-by-step plans as to how Jesus Christ will reclaim what is rightfully His.**
 - a. With the opening of the seals, Jesus judges mankind and Satan.
 - b. The opening of the seventh seal reveals seven more judgments known as the "trumpet" judgments.
 - c. With the sounding of the Seventh trumpet...
 - 1) Seven more judgments, known as the "bowl judgments", are poured out in rapid succession.
 - 2) The seventh trumpet announces the completion of Christ's reclamation.
 - Revelation 11:15-- *"Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever.'"*
 - d. The Antichrist and the kingdoms of this world will gather at Armageddon to do battle with the returning Christ where they will be defeated and judged.
 - e. Jesus Christ will establish His kingdom here on earth and rule for 1,000 years but only after severe judgment here on earth.

E. The **SONGS** of praise and worship.

- Revelation 5:9-10-- *"sang a new song, saying, 'You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; For you were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.'"*
- Revelation 5:11-12-- *"voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: 'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing.'"*
- Revelation 5:13-- *"every creature which is in heaven and on earth and under the earth and as are in the sea, and all that are in them,...saying, 'Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb, forever and ever.'"*