

Sunday, February 8, 2009
Living Hope EFC

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Jesus Christ, Lion of Judah, Lamb of Go – Alone worthy to bring Judgment and Salvation to Earth. (Rev.5)

ILLUS: Story of a friend whose email account was stolen and a scam email sent out to everyone on his email list asking for \$.

ILLUS: Child molestation case in Loveland.

After thousands of years of existence, the human race has not solved the problems of evil, crime, death, sickness, pain & tears.

- **Wouldn't it be great if we could cut the crime rate to "0"?**
- Where there is no more evil, mourning, tears, pain...death?

Rev: 4-19 is the *Revealing/ Unveiling* of **exactly how** this will happen! For real!

- Chap.4:1 – After this...What must take place after this."
- It starts with a picture of God's throne in heaven, **4:8,11**.
- Unbelievers hide from the throne & its judgment.
- Believers stand before it & rejoice because God reigns! **5:9-14**

God, on His Throne, is proclaimed "worthy by all who are in heaven because as Creator & Owner of creation He fulfills His obligation to rid the world of usurping evil!

Chap.5 – Jesus is the Administrator of coming world events.

- He is in full charge of the events that follow in Revelation.

1 – The Question that made the Universe Speechless! 5:1-5.

Vs.1 – Scroll: Books as we know them (with pages) did not originate until the 2nd century. Before that Papyrus rolls were used for documents. 8" X 10" papyrus sheets were glued together & attached at the ends to sticks. Writing was done in about 3" columns. Jude could be written on 1 page. Romans on a scroll about 11 ½' long. Rev. on a scroll about 15 ' long.

Seven Seals: -Seals were placed on documents to validate the authenticity of a document. They were clay or wax and would be stamped with the identifying mark of a person.

Roman wills were said to have been sealed with 7 seals, by 7 witnesses. Each had to be present (or his rep.) to open a will & dispense the contents of its estate. (Exampl: Vespasian & Augustus)

What is this Scroll?

It includes the judgments of chapter 6, and sets in motion all the events through chapter 19.

- It seems to be God's "**last will & testament**" concerning His goal & consummation of all history!
- **Ironside**: "The title deed to this world."

- **Scott**: The rev/ of God's purpose & counsel concerning world
- **McGee**: God's New Cov't with Israel. –**Jer.31:31,33**; Rom.11:26f
- **When unsealed, the estate of God returns to its rightful heirs.**
 - God is **CREATOR –4:11**. This is His world! It belongs to Him.
 - 6:16** – Ushers in the Great day of Wrath (Matt.24 trib.).
 - 7** – The great awakening of Israel. Day of great evangelism!
 - 10:7** The unfolding of **all the prophetic mysteries** ever foretold
 - 11:15** The k'dom of the world becomes the K'dom of Christ.

POINT: All that is evil is judged and condemned. The Firstborn Son inherits His throne over earth and he gives his new K'dom to the sons & daughters of God who will reign & possess it forever! **Dan.7**

Vs. 2: Question: Who can serve as Executor of God's Will?

- Who has the right to the title to this world?
- Who is worthy to open the seals? To bring evil, crime, death, pain to an end? **Who can execute judgment righteously** and establish a heaven & earth whose essence is salvation?
- Every politician promises he can solve our problems...
- Do we think Democrats or Republicans or the UN can?

"A mighty angel proclaimed with a "μεγαλη φωνη"!"

- The invitation to step forward & bring about history's purposes is given to all!
Everyone could hear it! Who can come, who is qualified? Who has power or authority or wisdom to advance the purposes of history to perfection?

Tenney: Creation was not an end in itself, nor is the universe created to be enjoyed for a while then discarded. Sin has blighted God's purposes. If sin is ignored, God's righteousness could be challenged. If summarily punished, man is utterly doomed. God's solution: judgment & removal of sin while man is preserved. The breaking of the seals executes His redemptive purposes," 126.

POINT: For God not to judge evil is like a father standing by while his children are brutally mistreated, without emotion or response.

Vs.3: Response? The Universe is speechless!

The fact is, many have pretended & promised they could rule earth r'ously. Where are they when presented with the chance?

- **Moses** (Lawgiver) couldn't do it. David, Solomon didn't do it.

Q: Who is worthy to take the scroll from God's hand & bring history to its consummation: an end of evil. Eternal r'ness?

- Silence!

Vs.4: John wept, but needlessly. He views things from earth.

- Is the earth to continue in corruption, sorrow, sin & death?
- Is there no future for the earth? - **Rom.8:22,23**
- **NOTE:** Revelation dispels completely the theory of evolution.
- And the "Church" is not going to save the world either!
- Things are not getting better in this world, nor will they!

Vs.5: The Lion of Judah...can open the seals.

1. **Lion of Judah:** Gen.49:8-10. In Genesis God promised Him
 - a. Vs.8 His brothers will bow down to him = all Israel!
 - b. Vs.10 A Ruler will come, who will rule the nations.

2. **Root of David:** Isaiah 11:1-12

The picture is of a tree, cut down. A stump remains, decaying.

- From the stump a sprout grows in which the life of the tree is renewed and which renews its glory.
- Judah fell to Babylon. The Royal house was destroyed. Zedekiah was the last king. But one day One appointed "a shoot from the stump of Royalty" will appear.
- He will restore the rule of David's house.
- The Messiah will reign over Israel and all the nations.
- Ezek.21:27 Israel will remain a ruin, until He comes.
- **Luke 1:31-33.** One is worthy...to bring in the promised K'dom.
- **When He comes, redemption is applied to people & creation**

2 – By unanimous consent in the Universe, the Lamb of God deserves power, glory, & honor to reign – forever! 5:6-14

Vs.6: John sees a Lamb! Not a Lion!

Legally, Christ reigns because He is qualified as the Messiah!

Yet his worthiness is not ascribed to his legal descent; but to his sacrificial death for mankind & for the universe, vs.9.

Jesus is seen as a "lion" once in Revelation; as a "lamb" 29 times.

- It is not the lion, who by sheer might defeats Satan.
- It is the lamb, humble, meek, slain – who decimates all evil!
- 7 Horns = His power. 7 Eyes = His complete knowledge.
- **Vs.8:** The Lord Jesus now steps forward to take over history!

NOTE – There are three songs in this chapter:

- The first two – sung to Christ; the last to the Father and Son.
- Note also the widening circle of singers.

Vs.9: A new Song (Heaven has it's "Top 10" too.)

Worthy is Christ because of his redemption, sacrificial love.

- All of us will sing in perfect pitch – in heaven, of Redeemer!

ILLUS Robin Hood (Kevin Costner)

He was imprisoned, fighting holy wars. He came home and the land had been overtaken by evil. The Sheriff of Nottingham attempted to usurp the King's throne. IF the king's throne was to rule, peace to be restored along with fairness, order & goodness- this son, whose nobility had been usurped by an evil sheriff, must destroy the usurper.

- He recruited the poor, backward, commoners for his army.
- His bride-to-be, was under constant torment of the evil Sheriff.

- Finally, the son destroyed evil, the King's throne was reasserted and the kingdom rejoiced!

Christ sacrificed himself, upholding the Father's throne, giving himself to destroy the Evil One. Those siding with evil reject the Father's throne and the Son, and will be destroyed.

Those embracing the King's throne, embrace the Son also & live.

He is worthy to rule the Universe for the Father, because He has proven His absolute loyalty to the throne and His limitless love for the subjects of the Kingdom!

Tenney: "The storyline of the book of Revelation is the process by which Christ realizes his eternal authority, which is already His, and has been from the beginning," 119.

Vs.10: Saints Reign on Earth (Millennial K'dom).

NOTE: One day we are going to experience what John sees!

- How do you get to heaven? On earth men worry about getting to heaven by their works. Heaven sings only of one kind of salvation: *By Christ's Blood!*
- The salvation Christ offers men is to take them as sinners and transform them into kings and priests.

Vs.11-14: The "mega phone" again sounds – Vs.12.

- 100,000,000 angels? (10,000 X 10,000)
- **Vs.13: Every Creature** – Phil.2:9-11!

APPLICATIONS

1- History is not on an aimless course set by time & chance & natural selection. Creation has an eternal purpose. God announced it through the Prophets. And He completes it.

2- Today many kings, presidents, alliances attempt to move history according to *their* plans. Every dignitary must decide whether he will side with the Evil Usurper, or the King's Son.

3- Many people talk arrogantly about their own significance, who they do or do not have to answer to, their rights, the fact that no one else can judge their standards.

- One day they will be given the chance to step up and argue their case! To see if they are as sovereign as they claim.
- We are told that when the time comes – all are silent!

4 – The throne of God in heaven is TODAY – "the throne of Grace" for every one who will come to Christ –Heb.4:16.

- When we get to the end of history it becomes a throne of Judgment! It initiates the time of Gods' Wrath.

OVERVIEW OF SEALS, TRUMPETS AND BOWL JUDGMENTS

Three sets of judgments carry us chronologically through the tribulation: Seals-6:1-8:1. Trumpets: 8:2-11:15. Bowls: 16:1-21.

Diagram: Overview of Judgments

6:1-8:1	8:2-11:19	16:1-21
<p><u>7 Seal Judgments</u></p> <p>1-Conquest of earth 2-Peace taken away 3-Severe Famine 4-1/4 Earth killed 5-Many martyrs 6-Great earthquake 7-Silence in heaven</p>	<p><u>7 Trumpet Jmts</u></p> <p>1-1/3 Earth burned 2-1/3 Sea turned to blood 3-1/3 Rivers turned bitter 4-1/3 Sun, moon, stars turned dark 5-Locusts torture people 5 months 6-1/3 Mankind killed 7-Loud voice in heaven</p>	<p><u>7 Bowl Judgments</u></p> <p>1-Painful soars on all people 2-All sea life dies 3-Rivers turn to blood 4-Sun scorches people 5-Darkness on earth 6-Euphrates dies up 7-Worst earthquake in history, 100# hailstones</p>