



EXCHANGING LIFE PUBLISHING
P. O. Box 71 | Sterling, KS 67579

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

THE FINAL BATTLE BETWEEN ISHMAEL & ISAAC

#16: The Seven Seals of the Book

Revelation 5:1-7

“I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?’ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it. Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it; and one of the elders said to me, ‘Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.’ And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.”

The Secret of the Remaining Chapters

It is critical that we rightly divide this section of Scripture. Many theologians believe this passage contains the secret of the remaining chapters and is the key that opens the entire book of Revelation. In conclusion of my study—I agree!

This little book is so significant that it will help us understand the Truth contained in the entire book of Revelation. The Greek word used here for “book” is actually translated “scroll.” Why is this so important? A book is in pages and a scroll is in a Hebrew cylindrical format. Books are classically post-Hebrew era. God is making it evident (again) that His life, manners, customs, and operations are pure Hebrew—for He is Hebrew.

A bold and strong angel comes forth to proclaim with a loud voice, *“Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?”* Now get this—no one in heaven, or on the earth, or under the earth was able to open this book, or even look into it. That means no one, my friend! John becomes so overwhelmed by the fact the book cannot be opened that he weeps a sorrow of regret. About that time, one of the 24-elders tells him to *stop weeping* because the *Lion of Judah* (son of Jacob who saves Joseph—the Christ figure) and the *root of David* (coming from David's loins) has overcome the evil one so as to open the scroll by breaking the SEVEN seals.

The scroll sealed with SEVEN seals contains the contracting redemptive terms for the earth.

There are three primary Hebrew laws of redemption (concerning a wife, a slave, and land).

1. *The law of redemption concerning a wife.* If a husband died, leaving no children, the husband's brother was to take his widow. This was so the name of the patriarch would not die. Likewise, Jesus with His own blood (Acts 20:28), redeemed His Bride (us—the Church). He killed off the old man (past “husband”) and took us under His Name.
2. *The law of redemption concerning a slave.* If a man lost all he had and could not pay his debt, his creditors could take him as their slave. The same thing happened with Adam and Eve. They created a debt they could not pay—their master became Satan, the Beast, and the False Prophet. Christ came to pay that ransom (debt) in order to take us as His Own.
3. *The law of redemption concerning land.* God makes a BIG deal about land. Why, you might ask? Because He created it and that makes it His. Plus, we were taken from that dirt, and all that is taken from what was created belongs to Him as well.

God's premium property is the land of Israel. The Garden of Eden was God's first prime real estate property that He made a big deal about. The fact is that if we measure out the cubits of Eden (1,500 square miles—same measurements of the New Jerusalem), we will discover that Israel sits on this prime real estate. Many believe Israel is where the Tree of Life was located (most likely Jerusalem). By closely studying the *continuous history* of the Babylonians, the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil was probably located in or around the old city of Babylon. Many Christian teachers make it sound like the two trees were side-by-side. But, we simply don't know for sure and it may not matter to us where the two trees were exactly located. BUT, I am certain it matters to God. The redemptive process that God is taking regarding His Land started in the Garden and it WILL finish there, as well.

Special Note: When God removed Adam and Eve from the Garden, He closed the gate and placed an angel with a flaming sword to guard that gate. There is no mention anywhere in Scripture that God let Satan out of the Garden. It is my belief that he is still bound to the 1,500 square mile territory delineated by God. Satan would be free to run from border to border, but could not step through that gate. Roughly speaking (with Jerusalem at its center), the Garden covers old Rome, the Roman Catholic Nation, Greece, Turkey (the SEVEN churches), Armenia, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Sudan, and Libya. Satan has limited freedom to roam around these domains, which is why we have always seen him move his throne from place to place within these parameters. Not once does God talk about Satan “hanging his hat” anywhere outside of these parameters. Now his demons, on the other hand, are a different story. For the purpose of God accomplishing the end-times events, He granted the demons the ability to roam worldwide, BUT not Satan. So contrary to popular opinion with radical Muslims, America is not the “great” Satan. Actually, the Muslims have him in their front yard.

By the way, I believe the gate is on the eastern side of the Garden, which puts Iran in a significant power position with Israel. Keep your eyes on Iran—they believe “god” has called them to remove the existence of Israel. They aren't big enough to do the job on their own, but with nine other kings (horns) they will be able to give it a serious attempt. Although, I do believe that the hatred Syria, Iraq, and Iran have with Israel will be used to fuel and kick off the final battle.

Verses 6 and 7: We now have the scene of the throne, the four creatures, the twenty-four elders, and the Lamb having SEVEN horns and SEVEN eyes. To start with, it is very unusual

for a lamb to have horns, especially seven of them. These horns are symbolic of the power of Christ, His dominion and government, and a demonstration of His power as The King and One in authority. Traditionally, horns are symbolic of kings of nations (Dan. 8:20), and now Christ Himself is called the horn of David, and the horn of Salvation (Psalm 132:17). Here, God is revealing the significance of the horns of power and dominion. The number **SEVEN** signifies the fullness and perfection of His power and authority over the SEVEN churches; *“For the husband is head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church”* (Eph. 5:23). Being the Mediator, all power in heaven and on earth is given to Him. This status is what gives Him the pure prerogative to *open the book and break its seals*

The SEVEN eyes, which are the SEVEN Spirits of God, are sent into all the earth to accomplish the works of God the Father. Some teachers interpret these SEVEN Spirits to be angels—I will not classify them as such. If the Lord says they are Spirits—then they are exactly that.

Note: Spirits are living extensions of an authority figure. **Angels** are workers for the Spirits, belong to Christ, are at His command to do His will, and are sent by Him to go into the parts of the earth, to execute His Divine will.

The Spirits spoken of here are facial representations of the Spirit of God and His Gifts (Spirits), which Christ received without measure--in His human nature, at His incarnation, and after His resurrection from the dead. During His ascension, He imparted these Gifts (Spirits) to His apostles and ministering servants, whom He *“sent out into all the earth.”* This dichotomy is much like the Bride of Christ being of many parts, but still one Body. So are these Spirits—multiple, but being a facial representation of One Spirit. These "SEVEN eyes" are the seven points of perfect knowledge of Christ. They are what watch and supervise in all directions--past, present, and future. To keep it simple: they are the eyes of the Father that report, reveal, explain, and fulfill all of prophecy.

In verse 7, we see Christ coming to take the book out of the Hands of God the Father, who has been holding it close to His bosom throughout all of eternity. Big moment here, since Christ had been given permission and obvious authority to approach His *Abba* and take from Him the book of eternal secrets!

Revelation 5:8

“When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.”

Now with the scroll in His hands, all of heaven comes to attention and time stops to embrace this eternal moment of Revelation. All present (the four creatures, the twenty-four elders, God the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, the Seven Spirits of Christ, and all the heavenly angels) are at the altar of sacrifice and thanksgiving. Much has been sacrificed for this moment and there is much for all of eternity to be thankful. Each of the creatures and elders has a harp in hand and ready to fall down before the Lamb of God to *sing a new song*. Before we talk about this new song, we need to make special mention of a little clip in this scene. Note the last two phrases in this verse: *golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints*.

These **golden bowls of incense** are repetitive of the sweet smelling *odors* of the beloved prayers of the Bride of Christ. The idea comes to us from God's requirement to have the *shewbread table*, in which incense was put upon bread that was housed in golden vials. This bowl (being full of incense) is clearly revealing that the prayers of the Saints are compared to "odours" or "incense." Because smells travel upward, so do the prayers of the Bridal members travel directly up to God and are received, I might add—as long as they were *put in the Name and Faith of Jesus*. True prayer is birthed in the soul and comes from the heart, even from a *heart of gold*. It is purified by the trials and persecutions endured by the beloved Saints of old through the blood of Christ. Obtaining the heart of our Groom requires us to ask from a purified heart, ask in faith (not wavering), as well as forever being focused on praying for others. How full is your vial? A dependent prayer life is one of the greatest challenges for all Christians. It is my goal to fill my vial before I depart this earth.

Revelation 5:9-10

“And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.’ ”

Verse 9 shows us the eternal bursting forth of singing a “new song.” This song will reveal the complete worthiness of Christ and His ability and prerogative to open the SEVEN seals. He is worthy for the following four reasons:

1. He was slain for the sake of our transgressions (sins).
2. He has redeemed us and restored us back to a proper relationship with God.
3. He paid a price for this redemption that only He could pay—His own blood.
4. This price covered only those who choose the way of the Lamb

This “new song” could not be sung over God or Christ until the seals were ready to be opened. Now is the time, the words can be shouted out and the song can be sung: *“Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.”*

The song is *not* being sung by the angels; but rather, the elders and the four creatures. The song is the song of Moses (Rev. 15:3). This song celebrates all of what God has done for Israel through the ages—for this is the song of redemption.

This song also reveals the doctrines of past, present, and future. I call this “doctrinal singing.” First, we see the statement of the worthiness of the Lamb; secondly, we see the price God paid for this moment; thirdly, we see God taking from every tribe, language (culture), people, and nation for His own; and lastly, we see God revealing the future positioning of His people on this New Earth ruling the nations of this New Earth.

What are the four positions found in 1 Peter 2:9?

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (NKJV).

1. **Chosen Generation**--The people of God (Christians) are often represented as His chosen or elected people. There is a balance between sovereignty and responsibility. God grants only His children to understand the balance or unity of the two.
2. **A Royal Priesthood**--The meaning of the word *royal* is used only to denote the dignity of the priestly office of a royal family. In our case, the royal family is God's. The order of the priesthood was swapped out after the Cross. Christ became the High Priest, Christians became the priests, and the unsaved world became the people who needed redemption and forgiveness. This is why the Roman Catholic Church is in direct opposition of this Truth. This "church" has the priesthood set up like this: the Pope (high priest), Cardinals, etc. (priests), and the church members (in need of redemption and forgiveness). Thus, members must go through the Catholic priest in order to have redemption and forgiveness of sins. This model is not only false, but it removes the foundational Truths of our new identity in Christ!
3. **A Holy Nation**—(from Exodus 19:6). The Hebrews were regarded as a nation consecrated to God. When they were cast off (or rejected) for their disobedience, the same language was properly applied to the people whom God had chosen in their place--the Christian Church. True believers, those who accepted Christ into their lives, are the new and final nation of God. This is a Truth that Satan despises! He is all about setting up his nation as the one and only nation. We will speak more about this later, but it is called "One World Government." Christians are hated by him due to the fact that we are God's holy and chosen nation.
4. **A Peculiar People**--The word "peculiar" (in its common definition now) would mean that the Christians are distinguished from others, or were singular. Another meaning is "a people for a possession"--as pertaining to being children of the living God. They are a people whom He has secured as a possession, or as his own; a people, therefore, which belong to Him, and to no other. In this sense, they are special as being His; and, being such, it may be inferred that they should be special in the sense of being unlike others (unique) in their manner of life. Once we embrace the redemptive work of Christ and we are made new--we are prepared as a special and particular people to lead in the New Earth He has prepared for us.

This Truth is foundational for us as believers. If you do not embrace these four positions, you will suffer with defeat until your death. Once you become born-again, you are a priest of the royal family of God. Believe it or not--if you are truly born-again, you are a chosen child of God. You did not choose Him, He chose you. You are also a selected person of a holy nation. We will be given positions on the New Earth that match the qualifications stated in these Scriptures. In fact, you are hidden with Christ in God and sit with Him in heavenly places right now (Col. 3:1)! Can you think of a better or safer place to be?

Because the One has been granted permission to open the seals, He now reveals the conditions and benefits of redemption. John shows us that we will be given positions of ruling

on this earth. We will be assisting Christ in His reign while He sits on the throne of David in Jerusalem; YES, we will reign with Him.

The earth belongs to Christ. Satan has ruthlessly and relentlessly attempted to steal what belongs to Him. Soon and very soon, Christ will come and take back what has always belonged to Him. The earth was actually created by Him and for His divine pleasure (Rev. 4:11). Once His knowledge covers the earth (much like the sea covers it now), we will share in the crown of glory. This means that we will lead (reign) with Him during the thousand year reign. Depending upon our level of faithfulness to Christ, some will rule over cities or nations, and many will assist in the leadership of such domains. Because God placed a curse on the earth (Gen. 3), the earth presently groans for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:22).

Continuous Historical Note: Jerusalem will become the headquarters of government during the period called the *thousand year reign*. The Jews who are alive during this time most likely will be the rulers of nations (Ezek. 48:15-35, Isaiah 52:1-10, and Psalm 47). Israel, along with the Messianic Jews and the engrafted body members (Gentiles), will be given special privileges during this *Millennium*. All the Christians who died and ascended into the arms of Jesus will sit at the right hand of the Most High during this period of earthly government. We will not be under this government structure; we will be ruling over the entire earth with Christ. Our only ruler will be Christ Himself, as our Groom. We will act much like a queen who sits on the right side of her husband and king.

Needless to say, we have so much to look forward to. The best is yet to come. This existence we call life today is not life, my dear friend—it's the pre-show of things to come. We should eagerly look forward to our life in heaven and on the earth to come.

Verses 11-14: *“Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, ‘Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.’ And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, ‘To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.’ And the four living creatures kept saying, ‘Amen.’ And the elders fell down and worshiped.”*

This is another scene impossible for us to be able to embrace without the interpretation of the Holy Spirit. We are being introduced to a new layer of worshippers at this point—angels, many angels—myriads of myriads of them. The Greek word used here for *myriads* is *so many that they cannot be counted*. They will be all around the throne of God, joining with the four creatures and the elders, crying out with a loud voice a new statement of doctrinal proclamation. These angels are listing the SEVEN attributes given to Christ:

1. Power—authority to rule over all things. *Dunamis*: the meaning here is that of Christ being given the ability and competence to exercise dominion and authority of the throne of God to lead and rule over all things in heaven, on earth, under the earth, and everything in between. This is a universal power and cannot be associated with any definition of earthly power whatsoever. It's the type of power that buckles knees and bows hearts.

2. **Riches**—all wealth. This statement reveals two things. First, He has all things of value placed in His hands. Secondly, He is the original owner of all things. Since He paid the price for the reward, He has the right and prerogative to manage the riches and inheritance of the heavenly Father. These riches are not spoken of as mere gold and silver—but rather, anything that has value to the Father (visible and invisible).

3. **Wisdom**—He is the keeper of the knowledge of God. All thoughts, desires, and insight belonging to the Father are in His hands. He has been given proven Truth to use as He sees fit. With this gift, He has the ability to choose the best solutions and means to accomplish God’s eternal objectives. With this wisdom. He will show mercy and condemnation. Judgment will be in His hands and He will make the judgment seat the pivotal point of eternity.

4. **Might**—supernatural ability to accomplish His purposes. This type of “might” is not just a ruler over people, but of overcoming the great enemy of man and God (Satan). In His hands will be full control of winds; storms; diseases; demons; nations; and full triumph over death, in saving His chosen people.

5. **Honor**—earned respect by way of payment. Worthy is the Lamb because He was slain. Jesus is given honor by His Father because He paid the price for it.

6. **Glory**—radiance of the heavenly Father. *Doxa* means *bearing the reputation*. Jesus is to receive glory because He carries the reputation of His Father. He radiates or shines forth the face of God.

7. **Blessing**—approval by the Father. *Eulogia* is to *declare as indwelt by God and therefore be fully satisfied*. God is completely satisfied and content with the formation of His Son, because God is satisfied with Himself. Christ received this blessing because the Father indwells Him. Verse 13 introduces yet another layer of worship. “*Every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them*” are ready to join in the celebration. Let’s try to embrace this! We are not talking about created beings that have voices—we are talking fish, birds, trees, mountains, rocks, etc. All things created say:

“To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.”

One new dimension is being added at this point—dominion. *Kratos* literally means to *use force to manifest the blows and severe punishments which He sends and which man cannot escape*. This is a part of God’s terrifying power that mankind typically doesn’t like to spend much time talking about. It would be much easier to talk about the fun parts of heaven. But to embrace and accept the dominion force of Jesus—well, that’s another thing. Hell is referenced.

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