

“The Root of David Has Overcome – Part 1”
(Rev 5:2-7)



Truth Matters Church, Inc.

Brief Recap of Last Week



- ❧ We covered Rev 5:1
- ❧ We looked closely at the book/scroll sealed with 7 seals in the Father's right hand
- ❧ We learned that the contents written in the sealed book/scroll was lamentations/mourning/woe
- ❧ We also learned that the Father is the One who wrote such judgments in that book and is final and cannot be revoked
- ❧ We will be picking it up in verse 2 where the scene continues to unfold with an angel's pronouncement and we're introduced to a very very Special Figure Who had many designations and one of them being, The Root of David, hence the title of our study
- ❧ Let's read the entire chapter then pick it up in verse 2...

Scripture Reading



Revelation 5:1-10 (NASB)

1 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. 2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it. 4 Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it; 5 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."

6 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.

Scripture Reading



7 And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. 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. 9 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.

10 “You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.”

Scripture Reading



11 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, 12 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.”

13 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.”

14 And the four living creatures kept saying, “Amen.” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

Exposit Rev 5:2



2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?”

- ❧ “And I saw” – John’s vision is progressive and is to be understood chronologically
- ❧ “a strong angel” is *ischurós aggelos*
 - ❧ Again support that the 7 letters to the 7 churches was also written to an angel assigned over each church
 - ❧ The angelic activity picks up significantly from this point forward



Exposit Rev 5:2



2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?”

- ☞ Strong (ischurós) means mighty strong, when it is used to describe a person or angel, it also has the idea of being a valiant in war
- ☞ This particular angel was proclaiming (kērussō) which also means to be a herald, preach, as a preacher
- ☞ This strong angel was a preacher!
- ☞ More on kērussō ...



1Peter 3



Kērussō is the same word used to describe what Jesus did after He died:
18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; 19 in which also He went and **made proclamation (kērussō)** to the spirits now in prison, 20 who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.

- ✧ Jesus too like the strong angel were preachers!
- ✧ Perhaps the strong angel in Rev 5:2 was a Baptist preaching angel 😊
- ✧ And this strong angel's proclamation and message was "Who is Worthy to open the book and to break its seals?" ... onto v.3...

Exposit Rev 5:3



3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it.

- ☞ This verse gives us the scope of this proclamation and it covered 3 extremities
 - ☞ “in heaven”
 - ☞ “on the earth”
 - ☞ “under the earth”
- ☞ I'd like to ask us some questions
 - ☞ What side of heaven was this proclamation made? In the heavenlies, or on this side of heaven, or both?
 - ☞ Hint: John is there in this vision



CONJECTURE



- ❧ SIDE TRUTH: there are unseen living beings presently:
 - ❧ “in heaven” – where John is
 - ❧ “on the earth” – our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against...
 - ❧ “under the earth” – I believe is also known as the abyss
 - ❧ Romans 10:6 But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: “DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, ‘WHO WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN?’ (that is, to bring Christ down), 7 or ‘WHO WILL **DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS?**’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).”
 - ❧ Jude 1:6 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, **He has kept in eternal bonds** under darkness for the judgment of the great day, (later we will see there is an angel over the abyss named Abaddon/ Apollyon
- ❧ BROWNIE POINTS: Which of the above places did Jesus go to proclaim to the angels who sinned in the days of Noah are being held? Hint: The spirits are in prison

Exposit Rev 5:4



After no one was found in all 3 places:
4 Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it;

- ✧ John began to “weep greatly” (klaíō polus)
- ✧ John did not just shed a tear, but the Greek denotes deep wailing, lament
- ✧ IMPLIES: If no one was found worthy to break open the book or look into it, then all of creation is doomed, hence, John’s initial reaction

Then I began to
weep greatly
because
no one was
found worthy
to open the
book or to
look in it



Exposit Rev 5:5



Someone encourages John:

5 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.”

❧ 1 of the 24 Elders spoke up and encouraged John

❧ Proof that the 24 Elders are not spiritual or symbolic, but 24 literal living beings, likely redeemed as part of Christ’s resurrection



Exposit Rev 5:5



Also in v. 5, there were several descriptions of a Special Figure:

- ☞ "Lion from Judah"
 - ☞ "Root of David"
 - ☞ "has overcome"
- } More on these

☞ Rather than telling you the obvious answer on Who this is, I'd like to show you through Scripture



“Lion from Judah”



Genesis 49:9-10 (Israel's dying words)

9 “Judah is a lion's whelp;

From the prey, my son, you have gone up.

He couches, he lies down as a lion,

And as a lion, who dares rouse him up?

10 “The scepter shall not depart from Judah,

Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,

Until Shiloh comes,

And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

∞ “Shiloh” is a Messianic title that means “he whose it is”

“Lion from Judah”



Hosea 5:14-15 (the priests along with the house of Israel are being rebuked for their disobedience and warned of impending judgment)

14 For **I will be like a lion** to Ephraim

And **like a young lion to the house of Judah.**

I, even I, will tear to pieces and go away,

I will carry away, and there will be none to deliver.

15 I will go away and return to My place

Until they acknowledge their guilt and seek My face;

In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.

∞ **PROPHETIC TRUTH w/END TIMES IMPLICATIONS:** This young Lion from Judah will pay a visit to His people cause affliction then return to His place until they repent and acknowledge their guilt and seek His face

“Lion from Judah”



☞ Also speaks of Jesus actual genealogy. Jesus was in fact from the line of Judah:

Matthew 1: (Forward from Abraham → Joseph/Mary)

1 The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham: 2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob **the father of Judah** and his brothers....

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

Luke 3: (Backwards from Adam → Joseph/Mary)

23 When He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age, being, as was supposed, the son of Joseph, the son of Eli,

33 the son of Amminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, 34 the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, ...

38 the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

“Lion from Judah”



- ✧ Thus the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah has its roots and origin the OT:
 - ✧ Beginning in Genesis with Israel's parting words
 - ✧ Affirmed by Hosea's prophecy against the house of Israel
 - ✧ Confirmed by lineage as recorded by both Matthew and Luke
- ✧ Let's look at the next description of this Special Figure, “Root of David”

“Root of David”



- ❧ Another way to say “Root of David” is “Son of David” or “descendant of David”
- ❧ I’m not going to belabor the point too much because we just touched on the genealogies that demonstrates Jesus is from the line of David
- ❧ I will remind us that this term too has its roots from the OT, in particular, the Davidic Covenant recorded for us in 2Samuel chapter 7
- ❧ And I’d like for us to see that yet again...

Davidic Covenant



2 Samuel 7:8-17 (David desired to build a temple, and in response to that God sent Nathan to him and deliver a message)

8 “Now therefore, thus you shall say to My servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, “I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people Israel. 9 I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the names of the great men who are on the earth. 10 I will also appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will the wicked afflict them any more as formerly, 11 even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also declares to you that **the LORD will make a house for you.**

Davidic Covenant



12 When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, 15 but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever." 17 In accordance with all these words and all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

“Root of David”



- ✧ Just like the Lion from the tribe of Judah was prophesied and rooted in the OT
- ✧ So too the Root of David was prophesied in rooted in the OT, beginning with the Davidic Covenant in 2Samuel chapter 7 up to and including Revelation
- ✧ Let's look at the last piece of Rev 5:5...

“has overcome”



- ❧ One of the 24 elders proclaimed “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”
- ❧ “has overcome” is packed with truth
- ❧ For starters, “overcome” is nikaō which means to conquer, prevail over
- ❧ Thus, this Lion from Judah, this Root of David already conquered and prevailed over something
- ❧ Meaning, this happened BEFORE the penning of this book, BEFORE 95/96AD
- ❧ I’d like to ask us a couple of questions about this
 - ❧ What did Jesus overcome? (answer this now)
 - ❧ How do we share in it? (answer this at the end of our study)

“has overcome”



❧ What did Jesus overcome?

❧ Hint: just before Jesus's High Priestly prayer, he told His disciples

John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the **XXXXX**."

“has overcome”



- ❧ What did Jesus overcome?
- ❧ Hint: just before Jesus's High Priestly prayer, he told His disciples
John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the **WORLD**."
- ❧ And because Jesus overcame the world, He alone was found worthy as to open the book and its seven seals! And because of this John can stop weeping!
- ❧ Meaning, there is/was no other Person or being in all of creation who is/was found worthy – not even the holy angels who did NOT join the rebellion
- ❧ There was only One, the Blessed One, the Favored One, the Lion from Judah, the Root of David, the One the OT/NT authors have written about!
- ❧ We'll answer 2nd question at the end, for now let's continue with our text in v6

Exposit Rev 5:6



6 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.

☞ “as if slain” [more on this]

☞ “seven horns and seven eyes” [more on this]



“as if slain”



- ☞ In v.6 we are finally introduced to a very important and key figure, a Lamb as if slain
- ☞ “as if slain” is an indication that this Lamb was killed, but is alive
- ☞ And for this I’d like to cross reference when John saw Him earlier in chapter 1 as the glorified Son of Man, John wrote there...



“as if slain”



Rev 1:17 When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, “Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, 18 **and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore**, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

☞ If we take the truth in that vision and apply that to the Lamb in this vision, it can be said that the Lamb as if slain, is the living One, Who was dead, but behold is alive forevermore!

☞ This Lamb is not only raised alive, but has seven horns and seven eyes



“seven horns and seven eyes”



- ✧ I know at first this can seem mysterious, but hopefully our disciplines are helping
- ✧ “seven” means 7 (1,2,3,4,5,6,7)
- ✧ The Lamb as if slain had 7 horns and 7 eyes
- ✧ Earlier in chapter 1 John saw other sets of 7:
 - ✧ 7 golden lampstands
 - ✧ 7 stars in Jesus’s right hand
- ✧ The passage told us that the 7 golden lampstands represents the 7 churches and the 7 stars in Jesus’s right hand represents the 7 angels over those 7 churches



“seven horns and seven eyes”



☞ Thankfully our passage too tells us what those 7 horns and 7 eyes represents:

6 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.

☞ “seven Spirits” as we learned previously does NOT mean the Holy Spirit or symbolic to mean completeness or anything along those lines

☞ How can we be certain of that? Because we’re allowing Scripture to tell us



“seven horns and seven eyes”



- ❧ Just as the
 - ❧ 7 stars = 7 angels over the 7 churches
 - ❧ 7 seals = 7 seals
- ❧ So too are the 7 Spirits of God = 7 angels sent out into all the earth
- ❧ We can't say 7 stars means 7 angels in one place, then turn around and say that 7 Spirits of God = 1 Holy Spirit or we can't say the 7 sealed book only has 1 seal
- ❧ This is NOT solid biblical hermeneutics
 - ❧ And of course this adds to the madness
- ❧ Which is why we laid our ROEs before our study to keep us from doing things like that



“seven horns and seven eyes”



- ☞ Since the text says the “seven horns and seven eyes” = 7 Spirits of God, that’s what I’m going to accept
- ☞ It means what it says, the 7 Spirits of God are 7 angels who were sent by the Lamb into all the earth
 - ☞ Again, not the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit was already sent at Pentecost
 - ☞ Here it’s not speaking of Him, but 7 angels



CONJECTURE



- ☞ But why 7 horns + 7 eyes?
- ☞ SPOILER: It so happens that 7 Angels will be given 7 trumpets when the 7th Seal is broken. Could this vision of the 7 horns and 7 eyes be speaking of those 7 angels being given 7 trumpets - I must say it sure looks that way. I will hold this view for now unless of course the Scripture corrects me or tells me otherwise



Exposit Rev 5:7



Let's continue on:

7 And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

☞ "He came" - the Lamb approached the throne and "took the book (sealed with 7 seals)" out of the Father's right hand

☞ THIS IS SIGNIFICANT

☞ Remember John wept and wailed earlier because no one was found worthy and one of the elders comforted him

☞ THIS IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE this means that this Lamb is the True Lamb Who takes away the sins of the world!



Exposit Rev 5:7



- THIS IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE this means that this Lamb is the only Being in all creation, in heaven, on earth, and under the earth who is worthy before the Father in heaven!
- To borrow the words of John the Baptist: He is the True Lamb Who takes away the sins of the world!
- But before He takes away sin, the lamentations, mourning and woes must come first.
- Next week we'll pick it up in v.8 and Pt 2

