

Chapter 5:1: *'And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.'*

God, the Father, sitting on His Throne, surrounded by the 24 Elders and 4 Seraphim with a sea of glass, like crystal, all surrounded by a deep green rainbow. In the Father's right hand is a Scroll which is sealed with 7 seals. It would be rolled up with one seal showing; when that seal is broken, the scroll can then be unrolled enough to read the first 'page' of print which would then reveal the second seal and so on.

Verse 2: *'And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the Book, and to loose the seals thereof? ³ And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the Book, neither to look thereon.'*

This 'strong angel' is not named, so there is no use in speculation but he definitely holds an important office; he is called 'strong;' he stands in the throne room of God Almighty. He is not one of the Seraphim, or, 'Living Creatures,' and he is definitely masculine; never, in Scripture, is any angel ever referred to as *she*. Every picture, painting, statue, etc. of an angelic woman is false advertising and, in fact, we can assume that Satan is behind every one in an effort to cause us to disbelieve the strength and power of God's angels who will all be part of the '*Armies of Heaven*' which will accompany the Lord Jesus Christ at His 2nd Coming at Armageddon; we, His Bride, will also be with Him.

Notice that John lists all three places where humans are: the righteous who've died are **in Heaven**; all living, mortal humans are **on the Earth** and all unsaved humans, who've died, are all down **under the Earth**, in Sheol/Hades, awaiting the Final Judgment.

Angels are not included here; John makes the point of saying, 'no man.' Angels are not men; they are eternal beings who, for the time being, are of a 'little higher' order than we humans: *'Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?'* Heb 1:14

Most lost, rebellious angels are in the air or on the Earth, working to thwart God's plan and do as much damage to as many humans as possible. At least one fallen angel, Lucifer, still has access to Heaven, but even then, it may be that John, in Rev. 12, is referring to the fallen angels simply still having had access to the 1st and 2nd Heavens, the air around the Earth and then the space above the Earth but not, necessarily the 3rd Heaven where God is.

'And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, ⁸ And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. ⁹ And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. ¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. ¹² Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.' Rev 12:7

Satan could be accusing us before God without being allowed up into the 3rd Heaven since God is everywhere. There are, also, fallen angels under the Earth... not in Hades, torturing humans, that is a false understanding of spiritual reality and warfare. Those under the Earth are those who, in Gen 6, 'left their first estate' and married human women: *'For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell (Tartarus, a different place than Hades, where humans are) and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment...'* 2 Pet 2:4

No one, alive in Heaven, on Earth or under the Earth could be found worthy to break the seals on the Scroll, open it or even to look at it.

Verse 4: *'And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look*

thereon. ⁵ And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.'

The Lion of Judah, the King of kings and Lord of lords, the Root of David: long before David existed, 'I AM.' He is worthy to loose the seals. But then... instead of seeing a Lion...

Verse 6: 'And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. ⁷ And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.'

This is why the Scroll is in the Right Hand of God on His Throne: the Lord Jesus Christ is seated at His Right Hand. A Lamb as if slain, yet filled with and covered by the 7-fold Spirit of God is there to receive the scroll.

Adam sinned and, so, all humanity sinned 'in Adam;' his sin nature came down to every human with a human father. When God spoke His curse upon Adam, Eve, humanity and Satan, He said, 'And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and **between thy seed and her seed**; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.' Gen 3:15

God differentiated between the seed of Adam, of which we all are, and the seed of the woman, of which only Jesus is: He is the only human ever born without the 'seed of Adam,' through which has come the sin nature we all share.

Since half of His DNA came from His mother, through whom the sin nature is not passed on, and the other half of the DNA in His human Body came through the Holy Spirit, Jesus has no sin nature and is, yet, fully human as well as fully God.

Since the first Adam sinned, plunging all humanity and all Creation under God's curse, and since God is the Holy, Just and Righteous Judge, it had to be a Holy and Righteous, sinless human, not in need of forgiveness, to be able to pay the full penalty for our sin and to reverse the curse by having lived a Holy and Righteous Life, under the Law, and then to willingly suffer the punishment of all our sin.

Therefore, the Lord Jesus Christ, in His absolute sinlessness, was, first, in His humanity, the only one worthy to reverse the curse for God's Elect... but then, in His Deity, He is the One, to Whom it also falls, to commence the Wrath of God upon rebellious humanity since it was upon Him that God's Wrath, undeserved by Him, fell.

God, in the form of the submissive, slain 'Lamb of God,' seeming to the World of lost humans, the least of humans, is the One, chosen by God, the Father, to satisfy His Wrath by unleashing it on those whose hatred and rejection He, Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, willingly bore.

The Lamb of God willingly accepted God's Wrath for us, His Elect, in His own Body. He, alone, conquered sin, death and Hell for us; not only did He die in our place, but He was victorious in our place. His death satisfied our deserved sentence and His Victory became ours. That is how God, now, sees us: holy, righteous and victorious because we are in the Lord Jesus Christ. That's what the Lamb of God has done for us.

On the other hand, the Lion of the tribe of Judah will rule and reign for 1000 years with a rod of iron and we will rule and reign with Him; that is what the Lion of Judah has done for us: we will rule and reign forever.

It's a difficult thing for us to comprehend: that God would, in His Love for us, adopt us as His own sons and daughters, that we would be fellow-heirs with the Lord Jesus Christ, that we would inherit ALL things... ALL things... nothing will be held back from us. We can imagine giving our faithful spouse or faithful child all that we have... but God has chosen to do that **for us**... in all our unfaithfulness; He fully receives and accepts us, holding nothing back. Many of us know what it feels like to have family, or in-law family, withhold love, affection, acceptance... but God is not like any of them; 'There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus... For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. ¹⁵ For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. ¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: ¹⁷ And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together... And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them

who are the called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. ³¹ What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? ³² He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, **how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?**' Rom 8

That is what the Lamb of God has done for us! And if that could be quantified, so, then, could Eternity.

'Adam's sin nature came down to every human with a human father.' Jesus alone had no human father, He was the only 'Seed of the Woman' with no sin nature.

Satan heard God pronounce the curse on Adam, Eve, the serpent and all creation and he understood it, to a degree; that is one of the reasons, some fallen angels mated with human women to produce their wicked, demonic, half human and half fallen angel progeny. He was attempting to counterfeit and prevent what God promised.

Because the Lord Jesus Christ's humanity had a human mother, through whom came no sin nature, and also God, by His Holy Spirit, as Father, He is fully God and fully Human.

As God, He possesses all that is human; as human, He possesses all that is God.

He fills two important offices; He is the King Who brings God down to man and He is the Priest Who lifts man up to God.

This scene we see described, in Heaven, will happen very soon from now; it has been 2000 years since His Resurrection and Glorification, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, God Almighty... why, then, do we see Him as a Lamb that was slain? Why not the Lion Who is ready to pounce and destroy?

He has two crucial functions; He is the God Who sacrificed Himself to offer God's forgiveness, redemption and salvation to those who would come to Him in humility and repentance, the only One worthy to do so.

He is also, the only human, filled and covered by the Spirit of God, who is worthy to unleash God's Wrath and retribution on all who will come to Him in pride and arrogance.

Everyone will come to Him in one way or the other.

Realize, when the lost stand before Him, they will not be humbly pleading and repenting. When Jesus said, '*Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*' Matt 7:22... those saying that are saying it in pride and arrogance: 'Look at all my wonderful good works; obviously, I deserve to enter in!'

Many others will say to Him, 'I've been as good as the next guy! I reigned as king or priest or president! I fed the homeless! I gave out cookies to teenagers! I helped dig a well in Africa! I led worship! I gave money to charities.'

Then, He will say to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me into the Lake of Fire, and outer darkness!'

No other human could do that... no other human could be worthy to do so; every one of us would be filled with the shame, of knowledge, that we were just as bad as all of those people but not, so, the Lord Jesus Christ. Only the Lamb that was slain, He is the only One worthy to 'pull that lever.'

Verse 8: '*And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.*'

All these who inhabit the throne room of God Almighty, the Four Living Creatures, the 24 Elders and who knows who else... over and over and over again they cry Holy! Holy! Holy is the Lord God Almighty Who is and was and is to come! Alpha and Omega, Beginning and the End! You alone are Holy; you are Righteous; You are the Matchless Son of God. All things are created for Your Glory! You alone deserve all Might, Majesty, Riches, Glory and Honor forever and ever and evermore! Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lamb of God!

We might be tempted to think... what a boring job! What a boring existence!!! But to one who knows God, one who truly enjoys a precious fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ and His Holy Spirit... nothing could be more rewarding, more fulfilling, more satisfying than being within a glorified, sinless body, soul and spirit, worshipping and glorifying the One Who chose to die on a cross to give you Eternal Life, eternal joy, eternal everything! How could one ever repay the slightest fraction of what God has done for him through His Love, Grace, Mercy, Patience and Forgiveness... God and God alone is fit to sit upon the Throne of all Creation and He has chosen us to be with Him and enjoy Him and all His Creation throughout all Eternity without end.

Verse 9: *'And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;'¹⁰ And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.'*

Only the Lamb of God is worthy to begin the pouring out of God's Wrath on the World that hated, rejected and crucified His Only Begotten Son. This verse says it all:

Verse 11: *'And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, 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 strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.'*

Now we see that there are, in fact, many, many more around God's throne than just the four Seraphim and the 24 Elders: 100 million and many millions more: crying out praise, glory and honor to the Lamb of God. We will always be with Him because of what He did as the Lamb of God; we will rule and reign with Him, the Lion of Judah.

We will be, and have, because of the Lamb. We will do, because of the Lion.

Verse 13: *'And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever.'*

This is interesting; everyone, every creature, everywhere, even 'under the Earth:' this must include every human and angel, elect and lost, alive or physically dead, every one will, whether willingly or forcedly, give glory to the Lord Jesus Christ in His office as Lamb of God. In this 'moment,' and, of course, we don't know if it's once or always, all Creation will give glory to God, the Father and to God, the Son, the Lamb of God.

Verse 14: *'And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.'*

Fortunately, these 'Elders' are not living within 'old man' type bodies; they are strong and fit: fit to glorify God throughout all Eternity forevermore.

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