

Week 40

The Lion-Lamb

Hymns: E1092

Scripture Reading: Rev. 5:5-10

- Rev. 5:5 And one of the elders said to me, Do not weep; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so that He may open the scroll and its seven seals.
- Rev. 5:6 And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a Lamb standing as having just been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.
- Rev. 5:7 And He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sits upon the throne.
- Rev. 5:8 And when He took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each having a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which bowls are the prayers of the saints.
- Rev. 5:9 And they sing a new song, saying: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain and have purchased for God by Your blood men out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
- Rev. 5:10 And have made them a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign on the earth.

§ Day 1

I. The book of Revelation is a picture of Jesus Christ; the twenty-two chapters of this book are a single portrait portraying and depicting Jesus—1:1-2, 5.

II. "Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome"—5:5a:

- A. The lion is a symbol of Christ, portraying Him as a strong fighter against the enemy, as revealed in Genesis 49:8-9.
- B. Christ's overcoming qualifies Him to open the scroll and its seven seals—Rev. 5:5-10.

C. The title Root of David signifies that Christ is the source of David; therefore, David, His forefather, called Him "Lord"—Matt. 22:42-45.

D. As the Lion of the tribe of Judah, Christ overcame and defeated the rebellious Satan, the enemy of God, and as the redeeming Lamb, He took away the sin of fallen man:

1. By so doing, He removed the hindrances to the fulfillment of God's purpose.
2. The result is that He is worthy to open the scroll concerning God's economy.

§ Day 2

III. "I saw in the midst of the throne...a Lamb standing as having just been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth"—Rev. 5:6; 1:4; 3:1:

A. In chapter 5 is the scene in the heavens after Christ ascended there:

1. He was recommended to the apostle John as the Lion of the tribe of Judah, but He appeared to John as the Lamb.
2. As the Lion, He is the Fighter against the enemy; as the Lamb, He is the Redeemer for us.
3. He fought to redeem us, and He won the battle over the enemy and accomplished redemption for us.
4. To the enemy He is a Lion, and to us He is a Lamb; hence, He is the Lion-Lamb.

B. As far as redemption is concerned, Christ sat down at the right hand of God in the heavens after His ascension (Heb. 1:3; 10:12), whereas regarding the carrying out of God's administration, He is still standing in His ascension.

C. Having just been slain indicates that the Lamb had just been slain and also

that the scene in the heavens that is depicted in Revelation 5 took place immediately after Christ's ascension into the heavens.

§ Day 3 & Day 4

D. The Lord has seven horns—v. 6b:

1. Horns signify strength in fighting—Deut. 33:17.
2. Christ is the redeeming Lamb, yet He has horns for fighting.
3. He is the fighting Redeemer; His fighting is complete in God's move, as signified by the number seven.

E. Eyes are for observing and searching:

1. Christ as the redeeming Lamb has seven observing and searching eyes for executing God's judgment upon the universe to fulfill God's eternal purpose, which will consummate in the building up of the New Jerusalem.
2. In Zechariah 3:9 Christ is prophesied as the stone, the topstone (4:7) with seven eyes for God's building.
3. These seven eyes are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth, and they run to and fro through the whole earth—v. 10.
4. According to Greek grammar, the antecedent of which is seven eyes—Rev. 5:6.
5. The seven Spirits of God refer only to the seven eyes of the Lamb, and not to His seven horns.

§ Day 5

IV. "The seven Spirits of God"—1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6b:

A. Revelation 1:4 speaks of "the seven Spirits who are before His throne":

1. The seven Spirits are undoubtedly the Spirit of God because They are ranked among the Triune God in Revelation 1:4-5.

2. As seven is the number for completion in God's operation, so the seven Spirits must be for God's move on the earth.
3. In essence and existence God's Spirit is one; in the intensified function and work of God's operation, God's Spirit is sevenfold:
 - a. This is similar to the lampstand in Zechariah 4:2.
 - b. In its existence it is one lampstand, but in its function it is seven lamps.
4. At the time that the book of Revelation was written, the church had become degraded:
 - a. The age was dark.
 - b. The sevenfold intensified Spirit of God was needed for God's move and work on the earth.

B. In Matthew 28:19 the sequence of the Triune God is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; in Revelation 1:4-5 the sequence is changed:

1. The seven Spirits of God are listed in the second place instead of the third.
2. This reveals the importance of the intensified function of the sevenfold Spirit of God.
3. This point is confirmed by the repeated emphasis on the Spirit's speaking in 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22; 14:13; and 22:17.

C. At the opening of the other Epistles, only the Father and the Son are mentioned:

1. From the Father and the Son grace and peace are given to the receivers.
2. In Revelation 1:4-5 the Spirit is included; from Him grace and peace are imparted to the churches.
3. This indicates the crucial need of the Spirit to counteract the degradation of the church for God's move.

- D. The seven Spirits are working in the churches, so the churches will surely go forward.
- E. Today we need to see and experience the sevenfold Spirit, the intensified Spirit, the Spirit of recovery—vv. 4-5.

§ Day 6

V. "They sing a new song, saying: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain and have purchased for God by Your blood men out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation"—5:9:

- A. The song here is new because the Lamb whom it praises had just been slain.
- B. In the whole universe no one is worthy to open the mystery of God's economy but Christ, the overcoming Lion and the redeeming Lamb:
 1. As the overcoming Lion, He defeated Satan for God.
 2. As the redeeming Lamb, He put sin away for us.
 3. Christ is the only One qualified to unveil and carry out the mystery of God's economy.
 4. We need to realize that Christ is worthy to open the seals of the secret of the divine economy; this aspect of the Lord's worthiness is universal and immeasurable.
 5. Christ is worthy of our praises; He is worthy even of our lives.

WEEK 40 — DAY 1

Morning Nourishment

Rev. 1:1 The revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave to Him to show to His slaves the things that must quickly take place; and He made it known by signs, sending it by His angel to His slave John.

5:5 And one of the elders said to me, Do not weep; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so that He may open the scroll and its seven seals.

As the Lion of the tribe of Judah [Rev. 5:5], Christ overcame and defeated the rebellious Satan, the enemy of God, and as the redeeming Lamb, He took away the sin of fallen man. By doing so, He removed the hindrances to the fulfillment of God's purpose. Therefore, He is worthy to open the scroll concerning God's economy. (The Conclusion of the New Testament, p. 4235)

Today's Reading

The lion is a symbol of Christ, portraying Him as a strong fighter against the enemy, as prophesied in Genesis 49:8-9. Christ's overcoming qualifies Him to open the scroll and its seven seals.

[Revelation is] a single portrait, a "painting" portraying and depicting Jesus...[All the] chapters of Revelation are a good painting of the Lion of the tribe of Judah, but they also show an environment. Besides the Lion, there are beasts with horns and even a dragon (13:1-2, 11; 12:3). When John saw the situation in heaven, he wept, but when the Lion of the tribe of Judah came, there was great rejoicing (5:3-4, 8-14). Eventually, the Lion as the Lamb marries a bride, the bride becomes a square city, and the Lamb sits on the throne with God (19:7; 21:16; 22:1). The Lion is enthroned in the center of the New Jerusalem as the King of kings and Lord of lords. Then out of this throne flows a river of water of life, bright as crystal, and in the river the

tree of life is growing. This is the "painting" of the divine Lion in the book of Revelation, the revelation of Jesus Christ.

In the book of Revelation we should see only one figure, Jesus Christ, because this book is the revelation and unveiling of Jesus Christ. The main figure in the book of Revelation is Christ as the Lion of the tribe of Judah (5:5)...We must turn our eyes away from the frogs, the beasts, the locusts, the dragon, and the serpent; instead, we must turn our eyes upon this Lion... All the smaller items mentioned in Revelation are the background and environment of the main picture, which is Christ as the Lion of the tribe of Judah...To us, the Lion is the redeeming Lamb, but to the enemy, the Lamb is the overcoming Lion. Moreover, He is fully expressed in the lampstands (ch. 1), the great multitude of the redeemed (ch. 7), the bright woman with her man-child (ch. 12), the harvest with its firstfruits (ch. 14), the overcomers on the sea of glass (ch. 15), the bride ready for marriage (ch. 19), the armies (ch. 19), and the New Jerusalem (chs. 21—22).

Christ is the Lion-Lamb in His ascension...While John was weeping because "no one was found worthy to open the scroll or look into it" (5:4), one of the elders said to him, "Do not weep; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so that He may open the scroll and its seven seals" (v. 5). Before the crucifixion, there might have been reason for John to weep. But it was foolish for him to weep after the ascension. Are you weeping today? If you are still weeping, it means that you have not seen the vision of the ascended Christ in Revelation 5. We need to behold the Lion of the tribe of Judah.

Genesis 49:8-9 prophesies concerning Christ as the Lion of Judah, but only in Revelation are we told that Christ is the Lion of the tribe of Judah. The title the Lion of the tribe of Judah signifies Christ as the triumphant King. All living creatures are under Him. None can subdue Him; rather, He subdues everything. (The Conclusion of the New Testament, pp. 4226-4228)

Further Reading: The Conclusion of the New Testament, msgs. 415, 77

WEEK 40 — DAY 2

Morning Nourishment

Rev. 5:6-7 And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a Lamb standing as having just been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sits upon the throne.

In Revelation 5:5-10 we see that we may experience and enjoy Christ as the Lion-Lamb. From 5:1 through 6:1, we see the vision of Him as the Lion-Lamb in the midst of God's throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the twenty-four elders of the universe, opening the seven seals of God's universal administration...To the enemy, He is the Lion; to us, the redeemed ones, He is the dear, precious Lamb [Rev. 5:5-6]. Christ is the Lamb accomplishing God's redemption and the Lion fighting for God's kingdom. For God's redemption, He is a Lamb; for God's kingdom, He is a fighting Lion, the Lion of the tribe of Judah. He fought to redeem us, and He won the battle over the enemy and accomplished redemption for us. (The Conclusion of the New Testament, p. 4225)

Today's Reading

In the Gospel of John, John the Baptist said, "Behold, the Lamb of God" (1:29), but in Revelation one of the elders said, "Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah" (5:5). In the Gospel of John we see that Christ came in the flesh as the Lamb of God mainly to take away the sin of the world, but in Revelation we see that Christ is the Lion-Lamb not only to take away sin but also to overcome and defeat His enemies.

As the Lamb, Christ has accomplished redemption, having cleansed us from our sins. As the Lion, He has dealt with Satan. He is adequate to meet our needs and to solve our problems. Now sin is over, Satan has been terminated, and we have been redeemed and rescued from the usurping hand of the enemy.

If we love the Lord, He is the Lamb to us, but to those who do not love Him, He is the Lion. He is the Lamb to us and the Lion to the enemy, the world, and the sinful things. Since we do love Him and He is the Lamb to us, why must He also be a Lion? This is because there are still many negative things in us. He died on the cross as the Lamb of God to redeem us, but even after being redeemed, we are still mixed with many negative things. Therefore, He must also be the Lion to deal with these things.

The expression having just been slain in verse 6 indicates that the Lamb had just been slain and also that the scene in the heavens that is depicted in this chapter took place immediately after Christ's ascension into the heavens. After Christ passed through death, resurrection, and ascension, He stood in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures. There was a resurrected Lamb standing before the throne in heaven. This Lion-Lamb was standing, not sitting, and His seven eyes were flashing. This indicates that His work was not finished...As far as redemption is concerned, Christ sat down at the right hand of God in the heavens after His ascension (Heb. 1:3; 10:12); however, regarding the carrying out of God's administration, He is still standing in His ascension.

The redeeming Lamb is now standing at the center of the universe, before God's throne. This reveals that the Redeemer is now in God's administration. He is the Administrator of the universe, executing God's economy...The whole universe is watching this scene. The four living creatures, the twenty-four elders, myriads of angels, and all other creatures are wide-awake, alert, and observing. These are the circumstances in which they proclaim, "To Him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb be the blessing and the honor and the glory and the might forever and ever" (Rev. 5:13). There is a Lion-Lamb standing in the center of the universe with seven flashing, burning eyes. He saves us from our silence, coldness, and laziness. Our vision must be uplifted to see this Lamb accomplishing a work of eternally vast dimensions. (The Conclusion of the New Testament, pp. 4225-4226, 4236-4237)

Further Reading: The Conclusion of the New Testament, msg. 416

WEEK 40 — DAY 3

Morning Nourishment

Deut. 33:17 ...And his horns are the horns of the wild ox; with them he shall drive peoples to the ends of the earth together...

Rev. 3:1 ...These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God...

In Revelation 5:6 John says that the Lamb has seven horns. Horns signify strength in fighting (Deut. 33:17). Christ is the redeeming Lamb, yet He has horns for fighting. He is the fighting Redeemer. His fighting is complete (perfect and complete) in God's move, as signified by the number seven. Revelation 5:6 also says that the Lamb has "seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth." Eyes are for observing and searching...Christ as the redeeming Lamb has seven observing and searching eyes for executing God's judgment upon the universe to fulfill God's eternal purpose, which will consummate in the building up of the New Jerusalem. Therefore, in Zechariah 3:9 He is prophesied as the stone, the topstone (4:7) with seven eyes for God's building...The seven eyes of Christ are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth, and they run to and fro through the whole earth (Zech. 4:10). (The Conclusion of the New Testament, p. 4238)

Today's Reading

When we attend a church meeting, we are under a special kind of observation...Before we attend the meeting, we may speak freely, but after the meeting Christ regulates our speaking. In the evening some kind of inner voice within us may urge us to go to a meeting. It may not be our natural preference to go, but we cannot avoid going. Then when we arrive at the meeting, we touch the living Christ. The burning, searching, enlightening, and observing reality of Christ as the life-giving Spirit is in the churches.

The seven Spirits are the seven eyes by which Christ expresses Himself... Whenever the Lord looks at us with His eyes, we can understand if He is happy or unhappy...By looking at us, He transfuses all that He is into our being. His seven eyes are gazing at us to infuse God into us.

The seven eyes of the Lamb as the Executor of God's New Testament economy are the seven lamps upheld by the seven lampstands, the seven churches, shining and enlightening as the testimony of Jesus (Rev. 1:9b, 11-12). This burning, judging, purifying, refining, and producing Spirit is the lamps upheld by the lampstands, the churches. This means that the churches shine through the lamps and that these lamps are the Spirit, the real testimony. The seven Spirits today are judging, purifying, refining, and bringing forth the churches...If we do not allow the seven Spirits to refine us, the seven Spirits have no way to shine, and there is no testimony. The shining of the seven Spirits is the testimony. The more we let the Spirit purify us and refine us, the more He shines through us, and this shining is the testimony of the churches. This is why we need to open ourselves and welcome Him every day to enter into our being to refine, judge, purge, and purify us. Then He will shine through us, and this shining is the testimony of the church, the testimony of Jesus. The testimony of Jesus is the shining of the seven Spirits from within all the believers in the churches.

We should pray, "Dear divine Flame, come and judge! Come and purify! Come and refine that You may produce the golden lampstand." By His mercy, we need to be open to Him. Every day we need to tell the Lord, "Come. I am open to You. I open every avenue of my being to You. Enlighten me, search me within, and expose me. I want to be enlightened by You and exposed in Your light." Instead of shutting ourselves up and hiding from Him, we need to pray, "Lord, we are open. Come and shine upon us, and shine from within us and enlighten every avenue and every corner of our being. We desire to be exposed, purged, and purified." (The Conclusion of the New Testament, pp. 4243-4245)

Further Reading: The Conclusion of the New Testament, msg. 416

WEEK 40 — DAY 4

Morning Nourishment

Zech. 3:9 ...Here is the stone that I have set before Joshua—upon one stone are seven eyes. I will engrave its engraving, declares Jehovah of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.

4:10 ...These seven rejoice when they see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel; they are the eyes of Jehovah running to and fro on the whole earth.

The reference to engraving the stone in Zechariah 3:9 indicates that this stone is Christ. The Lord Jesus, as the building stone, was engraved, dealt with, by God on the cross for the iniquity of God's people. In one day, by that engraving on the cross, the Lord Jesus took away all the sins of God's people. This corresponds to John 1:29, which says, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"...In short, the stone with seven eyes in Zechariah 3:9 is the Lamb with seven eyes in Revelation 5:6. (The Conclusion of the New Testament, p. 4246)

Today's Reading

Zechariah 4:2 says, "There is a lampstand all of gold, with its bowl on top of it and its seven lamps upon it..." In 3:9 the building stone has seven eyes, and in this verse the lampstand has seven lamps. This reveals that the lampstand equals the stone. Both the stone and the lampstand are Christ. The stone is for the building, and the lampstand is for light, for enlightening. On the stone there are seven eyes, and on the lampstand there are seven lamps. Hence, the seven lamps of the lampstand must be the seven eyes on the stone.

The seven eyes on the stone are the "eyes of Jehovah running to and fro on the whole earth" [Zech. 4:10]. This verse corresponds to Revelation 5:6, which speaks of the seven eyes of the Lamb, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. This indicates that the seven eyes of God

are the seven Spirits of God. Zechariah 4:4-6 also implies that the seven eyes, which are the seven lamps, are related to the Spirit. After speaking of seven lamps upon a golden lampstand in verse 2, Zechariah asked an angel in verse 4, "What are these?" Here, in effect, Zechariah was asking what the significance of the one lampstand with seven lamps is. In verse 6 the angel answered, "This is the word of Jehovah to Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says Jehovah of hosts." This clearly indicates the one lampstand with seven lamps is "My Spirit," the Spirit of God. Here the seven lamps signify the seven Spirits of God. This is because the book of Revelation indicates that the seven eyes of God, which are the seven lamps, are the seven Spirits of God...Zechariah reveals that the seven eyes of God, which are the seven lamps on the lampstand, are also the seven eyes of the stone. By means of the seven eyes, Christ as the Lion and the Lamb unveiled in Revelation 5 is connected to the stone spoken of in Zechariah 3. Therefore, the One with the seven eyes is not only the Lion-Lamb but also the stone. He is the Lion-Lamb-stone; the Lion to destroy the enemy, the Lamb to redeem us, and the stone to build God's house. After His death and resurrection, the age became the age of the church, which is God's building. For the building of the church, Christ is the rock [cf. Matt. 16:18].

The accomplishment of God's building requires His judgment. God's judgment is carried out by Christ's being the One with seven flaming eyes to burn, enlighten, search, purify, and refine us. Eventually, these flaming eyes infuse us with all that He is, metabolically transforming us into His being. The whole city of New Jerusalem will have the same essence and appearance as God. The appearance of God sitting on the throne in Revelation 4 is of jasper (v. 3), and the appearance of the New Jerusalem, especially its wall,...is also of jasper (21:11, 18-19). Thus, the essence and appearance of God and of the city are the same. This can be accomplished by having God wrought into us by means of transfusion. (The Conclusion of the New Testament, pp. 4246-4248)

Further Reading: The Conclusion of the New Testament, msg. 417

WEEK 40 — DAY 5

Morning Nourishment

Rev. 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is coming, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne.

4:5 And out of the throne come forth lightnings and voices and thunders. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

In Revelation, the sequence of the Triune God is different from that found in Matthew. In Matthew 28:19 the sequence of the Triune God is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. But in Revelation 1:4 and 5 the sequence is changed. The seven Spirits of God are listed in the second place instead of the third. This reveals the importance of the intensified function of the sevenfold Spirit of God. This point is confirmed by the repeated emphasis on the Spirit's speaking in 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22; 14:13; and 22:17. At the opening of the Epistles, only the Father and the Son are mentioned, from whom grace and peace are given to the receivers. Here, however, the Spirit is also included, from whom grace and peace are imparted to the churches. This also signifies the crucial need of the Spirit for God's move to counteract the degradation of the church. (Life-study of Revelation, p. 37)

Today's Reading

In Revelation the Spirit occupies the second place in the sequence of the Divine Trinity...because in this book the age has been changed from the Son to the Spirit... The age is the age of the Spirit, and in this age the Spirit has been intensified.

Because the Spirit in 1:4 is the intensified Spirit of God, He is called the seven Spirits. The seven Spirits are undoubtedly the Spirit of God because They are ranked among the Triune God in verses 4 and 5...The number seven here does not refer to seven different spirits but to one sevenfold Spirit.

Seven is the number of completion in God's dispensational move, whereas twelve is the number of completion in God's eternal administration. For example, God created the earth in six days plus one Sabbath day...For God's move today, the church has the number seven. In the book of Revelation the seven seals, the seven trumpets, and the seven bowls are all for God's dispensational move. Thus, the sevenfold Spirit is the intensified Spirit in God's move today.

In substance and existence, God's Spirit is one; in the intensified function and work of God's operation, God's Spirit is sevenfold. It is like the lampstand in Zechariah 4:2. In existence it is one lampstand, but in function it is seven lamps. At the time the book of Revelation was written, the church had become degraded, and the age had become dark. Therefore, the sevenfold intensified Spirit of God was needed for God's move and work on the earth. We all are familiar with three-way bulbs, light bulbs that can be switched to three successive degrees of illumination...In like manner, the seven lamps on the lampstand were the sevenfold intensified light. In the four Gospels the Spirit of God was onefold because at that time there was not the need for so much light. However, after the church had been degraded and the age had become exceedingly dark, there was the need for the Holy Spirit to be intensified sevenfold. In this way the one Spirit of God has become the sevenfold Spirit. In existence the Holy Spirit, like the lampstand in Zechariah, is one, but in function the Holy Spirit is seven.

The seven Spirits of God are the seven eyes of the Lamb (Rev. 5:6; Zech. 3:9; 4:10). Our eyes are for our moving. If we are blind, it is very difficult to move. In God's move today, Christ as the Lamb of God has seven eyes. The seven eyes of the Lamb are also for watching, observing, and transfusing...How can you realize that someone loves you? Love is transfused through the eyes... When Christ looks at us with His seven eyes, we may be terrified at first. Eventually, however, these seven eyes will transfuse Christ's element into us. (Life-study of Revelation, pp. 37-39)

Further Reading: Life-study of Revelation, msg. 4

WEEK 40 — DAY 6

Morning Nourishment

Rev. 5:9-10 And they sing a new song, saying: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain and have purchased for God by Your blood men out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made them a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign on the earth.

In Revelation 5:9-10 we see the elders singing a new song of praise to the Lamb...The song here is new because the Lamb whom it praises had just been slain. This new song praises the worthiness of the Lamb...In the whole universe no one is worthy to open the mystery of God's economy but Christ, the overcoming Lion and the redeeming Lamb. As the overcoming Lion, He has defeated Satan for God, and as the redeeming Lamb, He has put away sin for us. He is the only One qualified to unveil and carry out the mystery of God's economy. (Life-study of Revelation, p. 224)

Today's Reading

Our Savior is the Lamb as well as the Lion. This One is worthy to open the scroll. Apart from Him, no one in the universe is worthy to open the secret, the mystery, of God's economy. But the Lion-Lamb is worthy because He has accomplished redemption and has won the victory over Satan. As the One who has brought God's authority to the earth, He is the victorious, overcoming Lion of the tribe of Judah and the Lamb who has accomplished a full redemption for God's chosen people. Therefore, He is completely qualified and positioned to open the mystery of God's economy...Most Christians fail to realize that He is worthy to open the seals of the secret of God's economy. This aspect of the Lord's worthiness is universal and immeasurable. Of course, Christ is worthy of our praises; He is worthy even of our lives. Nevertheless, we must realize that, according to Revelation 5, Christ's worthiness is a matter of His being

qualified to open the secret of God's economy. The universe is a mystery which the scientists cannot unravel. They simply do not know the meaning or the purpose of the universe because it is a secret kept from them. But Christ is worthy to open this secret, for He is worthy to open the seals of God's economy.

A scroll is a roll of parchment paper or other material. Because a scroll is rolled up, it is difficult to determine just how long it is. The scroll in Revelation 5 is eternally long. Only Christ is worthy to open this eternally-long scroll...We will need eternity to see all that is included in it. When we are in the New Jerusalem, we will still be reading the contents of the scroll. For eternity we will say, "Now I see something more."...When we are in eternity, we may say, "The Lord's surprise [of the opening of the scroll] is eternal. Although we are now in eternity, we still cannot see the end."

Christ has received from God the authority to administrate the entire universe (vv. 1, 6-7). Christ is the real Administrator of the heavens and all the nations on earth. In Matthew 28:18 the Lord told the disciples that all authority had been given to Him in heaven and on earth. In Revelation 5 Christ as the Lamb of God was standing in the midst of the four living creatures and the elders. The One who was sitting on the throne was holding a scroll sealed with seven seals. God was sitting on the throne holding this scroll, the schedule of His administration in the entire universe. This scroll is like a timetable of what will take place from the ascension of Christ to the New Jerusalem. The seven seals with which the scroll is sealed are actually its contents. These seven seals are the seven secrets of the universe, which are the mystery of God's economy. Christ as the Lion-Lamb is qualified to open the scroll, that is, to open the mystery of God's economy and to carry it out. This indicates that Christ is the One who has received the authority to administrate the entire universe. We all must worship Christ as the Administrator, as the One in the heavens administering all things for the fulfillment of God's economy. (The Conclusion of the New Testament, pp. 4252-4253)

Further Reading: Life-study of Revelation, msg. 2

