

“Heavenly Music”

(Rev. 5:1-14)

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I. Introduction

A. The Importance of Revelation 5

1. My words do not do it justice
2. One of the most exquisite chapters in the entire Bible
3. Key to the rest of the Bible
 - a. Sets the stage for it all
 - b. Explains redemption
 - c. Tells of coming judgments
4. A continuation of Chapter 4
 - a. No “verses” or “chapters” in original
 - b. John continues his breathtaking tour of Heaven

B. Review of Chapter 4

1. Old Apostle John looks and beholds Heaven
2. Sees sights beyond description
 - a. The Throne
 - b. The 24 elders
 - c. The Four Living Creatures
3. Sees God—
 - a. The Father

- b. The Holy Spirit
- 4. But where is Jesus???
- 5. Hears words of praise
 - a. “Holy, Holy, Holy—”
 - b. “Thou art worthy—”
- 6. He notices something in the right hand of God

III. Text

A. The Scroll (v.1)

- 1. God has a scroll in His right hand
- 2. A form of book
 - a. Would unroll to read it
 - b. Made of sheepskin or papyrus paper
- 3. It is sealed with 7 seals
 - a. To keep its contents private
 - b. Roman wills
 - Had seven seals
 - Contained the will of the writer re: who inherits their property
- 4. The scroll contains God’s Will for this earth
- 5. The Title-Deed to this earth
 - a. Can only be opened by the legitimate heir
- 6. Jeremiah 32:8-15
 - a. Jeremiah warned Judah of coming fall
 - Nobody listened

- b. Jerusalem was under siege from Nebuchadnezzar and about to fall
- c. Babylonians already occupied land of his cousin Hanamel
- d. About to take Jews into captivity
- e. Hanamel offered Jeremiah a deal
 - 1. Fire-sale price
 - 2. Surprise – he bought it
 - He was the legitimate next of kin
- f. Drew up a title deed
 - 1. On a scroll
 - 2. Signed
 - 3. Sealed
 - 4. Witnessed
 - 5. Buried in an earthen jar for safety
- g. Why was Jeremiah so foolish?
 - “For thus says the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel. ‘Houses and fields, and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land’”
- h. God had made a promise (Jeremiah 29:10)

“For thus says the Lord: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place.”
- i. One day in the future, Jeremiah’s rightful heir would return and claim the title deed.
 - 1. Deed written on inside
 - 2. Instructions re: who was worthy to open the seals written in the back (outside) of scroll

- h. Land was occupied until the rightful heir could be found and restored
 - 1. The land had already been paid for in full
 - 2. The present occupant is not the owner
- i. Back to Revelation 5

B. The Strong Angel (v. 2-4)

- 1. The search for the worthy heir
 - a. For the 7-sealed deed
 - b. Held in the right hand of the Father
 - 1. Will only release it to the worthy heir who has paid for it
- 2. The Strong Angel
 - a. *“And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?’”.....v.2*
- 3. No one was worthy to even look at the scroll
 - a. *“But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it.”....v.3*
- 4. John wept much
 - a. *“I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.”....v.4*
 - b. Scroll contained God’s plan to redeem creation
 - 1. From the fall
 - 2. (Rom 8:22) –“For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.”
 - c. John knew of God’s promise to reverse the curse
 - 1. Jesus taught them to pray, “Thy Kingdom Come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven”
- 5. Daniel saw the same scroll 700 years earlier

(Daniel 12:8-9)—“Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, “My lord, what shall be the end of these things?”⁹ And he said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.”

C. The Slain Lamb (v. 5-7)

- a. One of the 24 elders said ***“Do not weep”***
- b. ***“See!”***v.5
 1. Look....over there!!!
 2. ***“The Lion of the Tribe of Judah”***....v.5
 - a. They knew that the Savior would come out of the tribe of Judah
 - b. Gen. 49:9-10
 1. (v. 10)—“The scepter shall not depart from Judah—until Shiloh (the Messiah) comes”
 - c. Shiloh – “The One whose right it is!”
 2. ***“The Root of David”***v.5
 - a. (Rev. 22:16)—***“I Jesus—am the Root and the offspring of David, the bright Morning Star”***
- c. Here comes Jesus and He ***“has triumphed”***.....v.5
 1. ...and is worthy
- d. John turns and sees the Lamb of God....v.6
 1. ***“Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.”*** v.6
 2. Might have expected to see Jesus as a Lion
 3. Instead he saw as a “Bleeding Lamb”
- e. Used the word for “pet lamb”
 1. Used the Greek – “arnias”

2. For Passover they took a spotless baby lamb
 - a. Put it in the bosom of the family for four days
 - b. To prove it pure
 - c. Became like a pet
3. Had to slay it
 - a. “Ripped and torn”
 - b. Blood on the doorposts and lintel of home
4. The Death Angel passed over because of the blood of the lamb
- f. The 1st Passover in Egypt prior to the Exodus
 1. The last of the ten plagues
- g. Celebrated every year henceforth
- h. The 1st Communion
 1. Jesus
 - a. “I am the Lamb!”
 - b. “My blood will cover your sins!”
 2. Remember!!
- i. He paid for this earth with His blood
 1. The enemy has been occupying it
 2. ...but it belongs to Jesus
 - a. And some day soon He’ll take it back
 - b. Like Jeremiah’s title deed
- j. The greatest of passages....v.7
 1. ***“He came and took the scroll from the right hand of Him who sat on the***

throne”...v.7

2. God would only give it to the worthy heir

(Daniel 7:13 & 14) *“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power, all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.”*

D. The Song of the Redeemed (v. 8-14)

1. *“And when he had taken it”...v.8*

2. Heaven breaks out in praise

“the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song:”...v.8-9

3. The new song....v.9-10

“You are worthy to take the scroll and open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”

4. The angels join the choir....v.11-12

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”

5. Then every creature in heaven joins the choir...v.13

“Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: ‘To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!’”

6. The close of the praise service....v.14

“The four living creatures said, ‘Amen,’ and the elders fell down and worshiped.”

IV. Heavenly Music

A. The importance of “praise and worship”

1. Why we sing what we sing
2. Music in the Bible

B. The dedication of the Temple (II Chron. 5)

1. The splendor of the Temple
 - a. 40 acres
 - b. 38,000 workers to build it
2. All 24 major choirs there at once
 - a. 150 people per choir
 - b. normally each was there for two weeks
 1. All 24 (3,600 singers) there for Passover
 - c. 120 trumpets!
3. When they sang and played....the glory of the Lord came!

II Chron. 5:11-14 *“And it came to pass when the priests came out of the Most Holy Place (for all the priests who were present had sanctified themselves without keeping to their divisions), and the Levites who were the singers, all those of Asaph and Heman and Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, stood at the east end of the altar, clothed in white linen, having cymbals, stringed instruments and harps, and with them 120 priests sounding with trumpets...indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the Lord, saying: ‘For He is good, for His mercy endures forever,’ that the house, the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.”*

C. The Book of Psalms

1. The really old stuff
2. Directly quoted in so much modern praise music
3. Why so different...

- a. Sung to God
 - 1. “Hear my cry O Lord” (Psm. 28:2)
- b. Words written by God
 - 1. Inspired as well as inspiring

D. Ephesians 5:19

- 1. Describes the music of worship

“Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord.”v.19

- 2. Reveals 9 characteristics of Christian music

V. The Music of Worship

#1 One of the first evidences of being filled by the Holy Spirit

- a. Eph. 5:18

(18) Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. “Speak (sing) to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord.”v.19

- b. Like a dam overflowing

#2 It is sung “to the Lord”...not to people

- a. Not to the person in front of you
- b. The key to new “praise music”
 - 1. “O Lord you’re Beautiful”
 - 2. “I love you Lord”
- c. God “tunes” it on the way up!

#3 Can take several forms

- a. v.19.... “psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs”
- b. defined....

1. Psalms

- a. to God
- b. the Book of Psalms
- c. being rediscovered today
 - *”As the deer pants for the water” Psalm 42:1
 - *”Thou O Lord are a shield about me” Psm. 3:3
- d. This is one of the greatest periods of Christian music

2. Hymns

- a. trying to define...
 - 1. more than 50 years old
 - 2. in the hymn book
 - 3. accompanied by an organ
- b. wrong..... “about God”
 - 1. “psalms” are to God
- c. singing doctrine
- d. examples in the Bible
 - *Phil. 2:5-11
 - *Rev. 4:11
- e. “Immortal, invisible, God only wise...”
- f. “Praise to the Lord the Almighty the King of Creation”
- g. “We believe in God the Father...”

3. Spiritual Songs

- a. To each other
- b. A personal testimony
- c. “It is well with my soul”
- c. We all have a different taste in music
 - 1. Their music was dynamic
 - a. Used their bodies
 - b. Play the fast music fast and the slow music slow
 - 2. I love high energy

#4 Is not supposed to be a spectator sport

- a. “Sing to ourselves.....sing to one another”
- b. It used to be that only the priests sang
 - 1. During the Middle Ages only the priests allowed to sing
- c. Martin Luther changed that too!
 - 1. Wrote 37 hymns
- d. Take every opportunity to sing praises to God
 - 1. The devil hates it!

#5 Can be a real encouragement to others

- a. “sing to one another”
- b. Use your talents and gifts to encourage other believers
- c. Songs that touch my heart
- d. The key is the heart of the singer
 - 1. it shows

2. the Holy Spirit multiplies the impact

#6. *Should be a reflection of what's going on in your heart*

- a. "singing and make music in your heart"
- b. When the joy of the Lord is overflowing!

"O Lord you're beautiful. Your face is all I seek. And when your eyes are on this child, your grace abides with me."

VI. Amazing Grace

A. Visiting an old church in Olney, England

1. Pastor of 43 years buried there
2. In a run down graveyard

B. Spent the first 40 years of his life in debauchery

1. Had been the captain of a slave ship
 - a. Caught in a terrible storm
2. Remembered the words of his saintly mother
3. Overwhelmed by God's mercy and grace
 - a. Gloriously saved

C. Left the slave trade and spent the last 43 years pastoring a small church

1. At 82 John Newton said, "My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things, that I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Savior."
 - a. He never forgot what a "wretch" he was
2. He wrote his "spiritual song"

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind but now I see*