

The Revelation – The Book with Seven Seals

Today as we continue our study on the Revelation of Jesus Christ we transition once again. Revelation 5 reads:

- (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.
- (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.
- (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 Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.
- (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.
- (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.
- (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.
- (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.
- (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 for ever and ever.
- (14) And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four *and* twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

Let's take a few moments to talk about this book. First of all we find that the book is in the right hand of the one who is on the throne, God the Father. Now the book is not a book in the sense that we think of one today. It was a scroll with seven pages rolled up together. The writing on the scroll was on both sides rather than just on the inside. John

could see that the book was important, but the contents of the book could not be revealed unless someone was found worthy to open the seals.

The seals on this book were legal seals. They couldn't be broken except by the individual who was found to be the rightful owner. If the owner could not be found then the contents would go unopened. This saddened John because he knew that there was much importance to this book.

The key here is to understand that no MAN was found worthy to open the book. No man in heaven, no man on earth, or no man in hell. This, though, didn't mean that the book could not be opened. You see, the requirements for ownership of this book were beyond what any mere man could obtain. God, though, would be worthy. This is where Jesus Christ, the Lamb, God in the Flesh, comes in. You see, the book is a representation of the Revelation, and as we saw in Revelation 1, it is the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

Now as we prepare to get into the opening of the seals in next week's lesson let's take a few moments to talk about the contents of the book. A sealed book is referred to in other Scriptures, and I think that there is an indication that this may be the same book. Isaiah 29:10-14 says:

- (10) For the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.
- (11) And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which *men* deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it *is* sealed:
- (12) And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned.
- (13) Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near *me* with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:
- (14) Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, *even* a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise *men* shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent *men* shall be hid.

Notice that this book is sealed and no man is found worthy to open it. Furthermore, we see that God has blinded the people to the things which are written in the book. He does say, though, that he is going to do a marvelous work. This marvelous work is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the work that makes man able to come before God. It is a work that changes the stony heart to a heart of flesh. It is, then, the completion of this marvelous work that makes the opening of the book possible.

Next we see a seal put on prophecy in the book of Daniel. In Daniel 8:26-27 we read:

- (26) And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told *is* true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it *shall be* for many days.

- (27) And I Daniel fainted, and was sick *certain* days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood *it*.

Here we see that a vision was shut up or sealed, and nobody was found who was able to understand it. This is reiterated in Daniel 12, which say:

- (1) And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation *even* to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.
- (2) And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.
- (3) And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.
- (4) But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, *even* to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.
- (5) Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river.
- (6) And *one* said to the man clothed in linen, which *was* upon the waters of the river, How long *shall it be* to the end of these wonders?
- (7) And I heard the man clothed in linen, which *was* upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that *it shall be* for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these *things* shall be finished.
- (8) And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what *shall be* the end of these *things*?
- (9) And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words *are* closed up and sealed till the time of the end.
- (10) Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.
- (11) And from the time *that* the daily *sacrifice* shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, *there shall be* a thousand two hundred and ninety days.
- (12) Blessed *is* he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.
- (13) But go thou thy way till the end *be*: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.

Now I do not believe that it is a coincidence that a book was sealed in Daniel and opened in the Revelation. I think that this is God's way of showing us that those things which were not for Daniel were given to us. You see, these things did not apply to the Law. They applied to the Church. These things were given to the Church Age.

So as we begin the opening of the seals in next week's lesson let's remember that these things were sealed up to the Jews which are by nature but opened up to the Jews which are by Spirit. These things are important for us to know because they are for our age and our time.

Yours in Christ,

Bro. John Rich