

The Scroll

Revelation 5:1-8

The Scroll and the Lamb

5 Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. **2** And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" **3** But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. **4** I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. **5** Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

6 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 the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. **7** He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. **8** And when he had taken it, 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.

I. The Scroll



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A. Written and Sealed

Written on both sides, could mean the whole of history and creation. **Completeness.**

It was the 1st century tradition to validate and secure scrolls and books with a clay or wax seal imprinted with the special mark of the sender. **The** seal had to be removed in order for the document to be read. It was not uncommon to have more than one seal on a document. **The** seal was considered the personal property of the sender.

B. Who Is Worthy (**NO One**)

1. In Heaven
2. On Earth
3. Under the Earth

“Under the Earth” would have been understood by the listener of the 1st century as the realm of death and even possibly the realm of punishment, Hades. (then There was WEEPING!)

What is the profound significance of the scroll? **The** scroll answers the questions that have been asked throughout time and history – **“What is the meaning of life, My past, My Present, My Future? What is the meaning of the world?”** and **“Why do I want to live? Where am I going?”** Knowing the answers are contained therein, and yet the scroll cannot be opened, John breaks down.

II. The Messiah

A. The Lion

The noblest of animals. The symbol of dignity and great strength. It has been said that - In His lion-like character He crushes every opposing force, and establishes His kingdom . Here worth and might are combined.

B. The Root (Isa 11:1-5)

C. The Lamb (little lamb)

1. With the Marks of Death
2. Yet Alive

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The very prayers of the saints are a fragrant perfume in the presence of Christ.
v.8

III. The Central Theme

The theological importance of this part of John's vision cannot be overemphasized. It is the expressed conviction of the NT writers that the whole of human history finds its meaning, in the Lion-Lamb who is Jesus Christ. He is the critical center from which all the parts make sense.

Karl Barth shows the theological, philosophical, political and ethical implications of Jesus Christ as the true convergence point in his commentary on the Apostle's Creed.



**No one can be saved -
in virtue of what he can
do. Everyone can be
saved - in virtue of what
God can do.**

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Karl Barth
Swiss Theologian

"Tell me how it stands with your Christology, and I shall tell you who you are." "The world was lost, but Christ was born, rejoice O Christendom!"

The Scroll Revelation 5:1-8

(Eph 1.9-10) (Heb 1.1-2)

18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. **20** He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

I Peter 1.18-20

When we study the Book of Revelation are now at the theological center of the book. **This** little Lamb has the scroll! **Not** the devil, not an emperor, earthly king, or princess, not even a player in history — none of these make sense of the scroll of Creation. **It** is Jesus Christ who holds history in his hand and whatever fear the reader has about life or death must be radically refocused. The one to fear is the Lamb.

31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? **32** He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? **33** Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. **34** Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. **35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? **36** As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38** For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, **39** neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8.31-39