

Book of Revelation, part 52

- I.** While the fourth chapter occurs just before Mid-Tribulation, the fifth chapter transpires just after the Rapture and before the beginning of judgment.
1. The Seal Judgments have not yet begun.
 2. The Tribulation begins with the Seal Judgments.
 3. In Revelation, numerous times, John will describe a major event then go back in time to fill in the detail regarding how the event happened—flashback, e.g., Satan banished from Heaven due to the Seventh Seal Judgment. Chapter four contains the banishment and five goes back in time to describe how the Seal Judgments came into effect.
- II.** John's vision of activities around the Throne in Heaven continue in chapter five ("throne" vv. 1, 6, 7, 11, 13).
1. In a vision (9:17) John see a book/scroll (v. 1).
 - 1) In the right hand of One seated on the Throne.
 - 2) Written on both sides.
 - 3) Sealed with seven seals (wax).
 - 4) Will be progressively opened by someone of authority.
 - 5) What is on the back side—? future conjecture.
 - 6) The scroll is a proclamation of judgment.
 2. John hears a strong angel who asks, "Who is worthy...?"
 - 1) He lacks full knowledge of the exalted Christ.
 - 2) He lacks knowledge that the elder will display (cf. Matt. 28:18).
 3. None in heaven, on earth ... can open it or even glance at it.
 4. John weeps:
 - 1) Because he knows it must be opened to reveal future judgment to the churches.
 - 2) Because judgment must come upon the earth to recompense the church's suffering (2 Thess. 1:5-7).

III. One of the 24 elders identifies the One who is able to open the scroll.

1. The “Lion of the tribe of Judah.”
2. The “root of David, the ruling lineage.”
 - 1) Fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant (Is. 11:1; Jer. 23:5-6; Eze. 34:23-24; Lu. 1:32-33).
 - 2) David will rule Israel under Christ.
 - 3) Christ will rule all the world (1 Tim. 6:15).
3. Christ alone has the authority to begin the judgment upon the earth and it will be a prelude to His reign.
4. The elder has spiritual insight not possessed by the spirit beings who are also present.
5. Christ is shown, revealing to spirit beings, characteristics of His glorified state as human, yet deity (cf. 1 Jn. 3:2).

IV. The standing Lamb cf. sitting One (5:6 cf. 5:1).

1. Having just been sacrificed—fresh blood.
2. Living vs. sacrificed, seems contradictory.
3. Incorruptible blood (1 Pet. 1:18-19).
4. His humanity entered into Heaven by His blood (Heb 9:12).
5. His present ministry with His blood (1 Jn. 1:7, 9).
6. His blood at His return (Rev. 19:13).

V. The Seven horns, seven eyes—composite figure.

1. All three Persons of the Godhead share the same essence (Jn. 10:28-30).
2. Horns imply power.
3. “Having been sent”:
 - 1) The Holy Spirit became resident on earth Pentecost (Jn. 16:7-11; Acts 2:1-4).
 - 2) Which means His residency in Heaven in this chapter places it after the Rapture (2 Thes. 2:6-7).
 - 3) He was sent by the Father (Jn. 14:26).
 - 4) He was sent by the Son (Jn. 15:26; 16:7).