

“The Throne of God: Part 2”
Revelation 5:1-14

Introduction: Chapters four and five of Revelation changes scenes from the earth to heaven. The focus is on the throne of God which is mentioned twelve times in chapter four and five times in chapter five. Chapter four reveals God’s throne of government while chapter five reveals His throne of grace. What is interesting about this chapter, and others in Revelation, is all of the created beings that are round about the throne of God praising Him. Notice the assembly that is there worshipping the Almighty.

1. The Almighty

a. God the Father

- (1) Revelation 3:21- *“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”*
- (2) Revelation 4:2- *“And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.”*
- (3) Revelation 5:1- *“...him that sat on the throne...”*
- (4) Revelation 5:7- *“And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.”*
- (5) Revelation 7:10- *“And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.”*
- (6) Revelation 22:1- *“...the throne of God and of the Lamb.”*
- (7) Revelation 22:3- *“...the throne of God and of the Lamb...”*

b. God the Son

- (1) Revelation 5:6- *“...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...”*
- (2) Revelation 7:17- *“For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne...”*
- (3) Revelation 12:5- *“And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.”*

c. God the Spirit

- (1) Revelation 1:4- *“...and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;”*
- (2) Revelation 4:5- *“...and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.”*
- (3) Revelation 5:6- *“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.”*

2. The Assembly

a. The Four and Twenty Elders

- (1) Revelation 4:4- *“And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.”*
- (2) Revelation 4:10- *“The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne...”*

- (3) Revelation 5:6- *“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.”*
 - (4) Revelation 5:8- *“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.”*
 - (5) Revelation 5:11- *“And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders...”*
 - (6) Revelation 5:14- *“And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.”*
 - (7) Revelation 7:11- *“And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,”*
 - (8) Revelation 11:16- *“And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,”*
 - (9) Revelation 14:3- *“And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.”*
 - (10) Revelation 19:4- *“And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.”*
 - (11) Revelation 20:4- *“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them...”*
- b. The Four Beasts
- (1) Revelation 4:6- *“...and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.”*
 - (2) Revelation 4:8-9- *“And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,”*
 - (3) Revelation 5:6- *“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.”*
 - (4) Revelation 5:8- *“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.”*
 - (5) Revelation 5:11- *“And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders...”*
 - (6) Revelation 5:14- *“And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.”*
 - (7) Revelation 6:1- *“And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.”*

- (8) Revelation 6:6- *“And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.”*
- (9) Revelation 7:11- *“And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,”*
- (10) Revelation 14:3- *“And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.”*
- (11) Revelation 15:7- *“And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever.”*
- (12) Revelation 19:4- *“And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.”*
- c. The Angels
- (1) Revelation 5:11- *“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;”*
- (2) Revelation 7:11- *“And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,”*
- d. A Great Multitude
- (1) Revelation 7:9- *“After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;”*
- e. The Hundred and Forty and Four Thousand
- (1) Revelation 14:1-3- *“And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.”*

Introduction (Continued): Not only is there an assembly round about the throne of God praising Him, but there are other things there as well. Notice a listing of these.

1. A Rainbow Revelation 4:3- *“...there was a rainbow round about the throne...”*
2. Four and Twenty Seats Revelation 4:4- *“And round about the throne were four and twenty seats...”*
3. Lightnings Revelation 4:5- *“And out of the throne proceeded lightnings...”*
4. Thunderings Revelation 4:5- *“And out of the throne proceeded...thunderings...”*
5. Voices Revelation 4:5- *“And out of the throne proceeded...voices...”*
 - a. Revelation 16:17- *“And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.”*
 - b. Revelation 19:5- *“And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.”*

6. Seven Lamps of Fire Revelation 4:5- *“...and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.”*
7. A Sea of Glass Revelation 4:6- *“And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal...”*
8. Crowns Revelation 4:10- *“...and cast their crowns before the throne...”*
9. A Book Revelation 5:1- *“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.”*
10. The Golden Altar Revelation 8:3- *“And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.”*
11. A Temple Revelation 16:17- *“And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.”*
12. The Earth Revelation 20:11- *“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.”*
13. The Heaven Revelation 20:11- *“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.”*
14. A Pure River of Water Revelation 22:1- *“And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.”*

Body: As we look at chapter five of Revelation, the focal point is still the throne of God. There are three items of importance in this chapter: the book, beloved, and blessings.

- I. The Book at the Throne Revelation 5:1-4
 - A. The Place of the Book Revelation 5:1- *“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.”*
 1. Jesus is on the right hand. Hebrews 1:3- *“...when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;”*
 2. The book is in the right hand. Revelation 5:1
 3. This book is not in Satan’s hand, the sinner’s hand, or the saint’s hand, but the Sovereign’s hand. (Simpson)
 4. The book could not be opened and read to reveal its contents, because it was sealed. The seals of the book had to be broken. (Butler)
 - B. The Proclamation about the Book Revelation 5:2- *“And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?”*
 1. The question was not who is willing, but who is worthy. (Phillips)
 2. A deep silence descends upon the scene, as every voice is hushed and the angels themselves cease to sing. Not a voice is raised to say, “Here am I, Lord, I am worthy to open the book”. (Phillips)
 - C. The Purity of the Book Revelation 5:3-4- *“And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.”*
 1. Everything comes to a standstill in heaven while diligent search is made to find someone who can break the seals and open the book. Until that man is found there can be no further revelation. (DeHann)

2. We move from the scroll to the silence to the sadness. This is probably the first time a man had sobbed within the walls of heaven. (Phillips)
3. Not a single man of all the billions who have lived on earth, not one fit to open the book. (Phillips)

II. The Beloved before the Throne Revelation 5:5-8

- A. The Release of the Beloved Revelation 5:5- *“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.”*
1. One of the four and twenty elders made the announcement to John that the problem had been solved. (Butler)
 2. The angels did not make the announcement, but an elder. Some of the elders represented the church. The good news of the gospel is likewise spread, not by angels, but by men. (Butler)
 3. Judah is represented as a lion three times in Genesis. Genesis 49:9-10- *“Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.”*
 4. God never meant for Saul to establish a kingdom, because he came from the tribe of Benjamin. God used him to discipline Israel because the people asked for a king; then He gave them David from the tribe of Judah. (Wiersbe)
 5. Jesus is presented as a root in Isaiah. Isaiah 11:1- *“And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:”*
 6. Isaiah 11:10- *“And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.”*
 7. Jesus came from the tribe of Judah, particularly from the root of David. (Buter)
 - a. Revelation 5:5- *“...the Root of David...”*
 - b. Revelation 22:16- *“...I am the root and the offspring of David...”*
 - c. As far as His humanity is concerned, Jesus had His roots in David, but as far as His deity is concerned, Jesus is the Root of David. (Wiersbe)
 8. Notice the synopsis of Judah and the root:
 - a. Jesus is David's Son—Judah—His Human Side
 - b. Jesus is David's Saviour—Root—His Heavenly Side (Jesus was before David and born of David) (Simpson)
 9. Notice the representation of Jesus:
 - a. He is a Lion—This Speaks of His Right to Rule Revelation 5:5
 - b. He is a Lamb—This Speaks of His Right to Redeem Revelation 5:6
 10. The Lion and the Lamb also represent the comings of Christ.
 - a. As a Lamb—His First Coming As Saviour—Man
 - b. As a Lion—His Second Coming As Sovereign—King
 11. Jesus has prevailed over the trials of life, the temptations in the wilderness, the agonies in the garden, the terrors of death, the bonds of the grave, and the gates of hell. (Simpson)

- B. The Redemption of the Beloved Revelation 5:6- *“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.”*
1. John turned to behold a Lion, but instead he saw a Lamb. The Lion was none other but the Lamb. (Phillips)
 2. In the Revelation, Satan is depicted as a dragon, the Anti-Christ is viewed as a beast, but Jesus is seen as a Lamb. (Phillips)
 3. This Lamb is:
 - a. Slain
 - b. Standing
 4. John saw the Lamb on whose body will be for all eternity the marks that tell of our redemption. (Ironsides)
 5. This Lamb is not lying down in a tomb as a dead man, but standing as a living man. It reveals His power over death. (Butler)
 6. Notice the theme of the Lamb in the Bible:
 - a. Where is the Lamb Genesis 22:7
 - b. Behold the Lamb John 1:29
 - c. Worthy is the Lamb Revelation 5:12 (Wiersbe)
 7. Notice the provision of the Lamb in the Bible:
 - a. A Lamb for an Individual Genesis 22
 - b. A Lamb for a Family Exodus 12
 - c. A Lamb for a Nation Isaiah 53
 - d. A Lamb for a World John 1 (Wiersbe)
 8. In the Revelation, we see the:
 - a. Blood of the Lamb Revelation 1:5- *“...Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,”*
 - b. Book of the Lamb Revelation 5:7- *“And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.”*
 - c. Bride of the Lamb Revelation 21:9- *“And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.”*
 9. This is no ordinary Lamb, for this Lamb has the seven horns of omnipotence, and the seven eyes of omniscience. (Phillips)
 10. Since seven is the number of perfection, we have here perfect power (seven horns), perfect wisdom (seven eyes), and perfect presence (seven Spirits in all the earth). The qualities would be omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence; and all three are attributes of God. (Wiersbe)
 11. Our Lord has:
 - a. Perfect Sovereignty Revelation 5:6- *“...seven horns...”*
 - b. Perfect Sight Revelation 5:6- *“...seven eyes...”*
 12. Notice the horns and eyes.
 - a. Seven Horns
 - (1) Daniel 7:24- *“And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.”*

- (2) Revelation 13:1- *“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.”*
- b. Seven Eyes
- (1) Zechariah 3:9- *“For behold the stone that I have laid before Joshua; upon one stone shall be seven eyes: behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.”*
- (2) Zechariah 4:10- *“For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth.”*
- C. The Removal of the Beloved Revelation 5:7- *“And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.”*
1. God surrendered the book to Christ which acknowledged that Jesus was worthy of receiving and reading the book. (Butler)
 2. This book of the earth belonged to the Lamb because of creation, for He made it; because of Calvary, for He redeemed it; and because of conquest, for He is coming back to claim the world in war. (Phillips)
 3. Daniel 7:13-14- *“I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.”*
- D. The Reverence of the Beloved Revelation 5:8- *“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.”*
1. Harps would accompany their singing, for their singing would not be acappela. (Butler)
 2. Apart from the trumpet, the harp is the only instrument mentioned in heavenly worship and was employed commonly in the worship of the Old Testament. (Walvoord)
 3. The golden vials or bowls filled with sacred perfume or incense represent the prayers of the saints. (Walvoord)
 4. Psalms 141:2- *“Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.”*
 5. The prayers of the saints is the aroma of heaven.
 - a. Revelation 5:8- *“...and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.”*
 - b. Revelation 8:3- *“And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.”*
 - c. Revelation 8:4- *“And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.”*

III. The Blessings around the Throne Revelation 5:9-14

- A. Because of His Salvation Revelation 5:9-10- *“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; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.”*
1. What kind of song did they sing? To begin with, it was a worship hymn, for they said, “Thou art worthy!” To worship means to ascribe worth, and Jesus alone is worthy. (Wiersbe)
 2. The question in Revelation 5:2 was, “Who is worthy to open the book?”
 3. Jesus is worthy because of His:
 - a. Creation Revelation 4:11- *“Thou art worthy... for thou hast created all things...”*
 - (1) John 1:1-3- *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”*
 - (2) Ephesians 3:9- *“And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:”*
 - (3) Colossians 1:16- *“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:”*
 - (4) Colossians 1:17- *“And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”*
 - b. Crucifixion
 - (1) Revelation 5:9- *“...Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain...”*
 - (2) Revelation 5:12- *“...Worthy is the Lamb that was slain...”*
 4. Does this mean that the four beasts and the four and twenty elders are literal persons that have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb? Compare Revelation 5:8 to Revelation 5:9.
 5. There is only one place in the Bible where angels sing.
 - a. Job 38:1-3- *“Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.”*
 - b. Job 38:7- *“When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”*
 6. Kindred refers to a common ancestor and tongue to a common language. People means a common race, and nation a common rule or government. (Wiersbe)
 7. We shall reign with Him. Revelation 20:1-6
- B. Because of His Suffering Revelation 5:11-12- *“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; 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.”

1. Notice the repetition of phrases in Revelation:
 - a. I Beheld- 7 Times in Revelation
 - b. I Saw- 35 Times in Revelation
 - c. I Heard- 23 Times in Revelation
 2. Praise provokes praise.
 3. The angels join the praise (5:11) when the beasts and elders begin to worship God (5:8-9).
 4. It was the beasts that began to praise God (4:9) that provoked the elders to worship Him as well (4:10).
 5. Now the beasts and elders (5:8-9) provoke the angels (5:11).
 6. The sevenfold attributes ascribed to the Lamb sum up their worship and adoration. (Walvoord)
- C. Because of His Seat Revelation 5:13- *“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.”*
1. The beasts (4:9) that provoked the elders (4:10) that provoked the angels (5:11) now provoke the entire creation to praise God (5:13).
 2. God has placed into the hands of men the decision as to whether or not they will accept Christ as Savior, but the decision as to whether or not they will acknowledge Him as Lord is not theirs to decide. (Phillips)
 3. Philippians 2:9-11- *“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*
 4. This praise (5:13) is directed toward two individuals:
 - a. The One Seated Revelation 5:13- *“...Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne...”*
 - b. The One Slain Revelation 5:13- *“...and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.”*
 5. The praise for God is eternal. The ACLU will not be able to stop it, the Supreme Court cannot stop it, and no legislature of man will stop it. It will continue forever. (Butler)
- D. Because of His Succession Revelation 5:14- *“And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.”*

Conclusion: The beauty and wonder of the scene in chapter five are in startling contrast to the dark clouds of divine judgment portrayed as falling upon the earth in the tribulation as revealed in the chapters which follow. The scenes of earth are always dark in comparison to the glory of heaven. The Christian engulfed by temptation, persecution, and trial can take heart in the fact that our Lord also suffered and was tried, and that He in triumph ascended on high having completed His earthly work. Those who follow in His steps while in the world may endure many

afflictions, but they are assured that they will share with the Lord His glory and His grace throughout eternity. (Walvoord)