

*Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context*



## Revelation Backgrounds 14

Worthy to take the scroll  
Selected Cross-references

Revelation 5



1

**5:1 Next I saw in the right hand of the One sitting 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 open the scroll and break its seals?” (3) But no one in heaven, on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or look inside it. (4) I cried and cried, because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or look inside it. (5) One of the elders said to me, “Don’t cry. Look, the Lion of the tribe of Y’hudah, the Root of David, has won the right to open the scroll and its seven seals.” (6) Then I saw standing there with the throne and the four living beings, in the circle of the elders, a Lamb that appeared to have been slaughtered. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the sevenfold Spirit of God sent out into all the earth. (7) He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of the One sitting on the throne.**



2

(8) When he took the scroll, the four living beings and the twenty-four elders fell down in front of the Lamb. Each one held a harp and gold bowls filled with pieces of incense, which are the prayers of God's people; (9) and they sang a new song, "You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals; because you were slaughtered; at the cost of blood you ransomed for God persons from every tribe, language, people and nation. (10) You made them into a kingdom for God to rule, cohanim to serve him; and they will rule over the earth." (11) Then I looked, and I heard the sound of a vast number of angels—thousands and thousands, millions and millions! They were all around the throne, the living beings and the elders; (12) and they shouted out, "Worthy is the slaughtered Lamb to receive power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory and praise!" (13) And I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth and on the sea—yes, everything in them—saying, "To the One sitting on the throne and to the Lamb belong praise, honor, glory and power forever and ever!" (14) The four living beings said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshipped.



3

## One sitting on the throne

Revelation 5:1	References
Next I saw in the right hand of the <b>One sitting on the throne</b> a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals;	<p>Dan 7:9 "As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire.</p> <p>Isa 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple.</p>



4

## Scroll written on both sides

Revelation 5:1	References
Next I saw in the right hand of the One sitting on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals;	Exo 32:15-16 Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand, tablets that were written on both sides; on the front and on the back they were written. (16) The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets.

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## Scroll written on both sides

Revelation 5:1	References
Next I saw in the right hand of the One sitting on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals;	Jer 32:9-15 "And I bought the field at Anathoth from Hanamel my cousin, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver. (10) I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales. (11) Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions and the open copy. (12) And I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch the son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of Hanamel my cousin, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. (13) I charged Baruch in their presence, saying, (14) 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware vessel, that they may last for a long time. (15) For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.'

6

## Scroll written on both sides

Revelation 5:1	References
Next I saw in the right hand of the One sitting on the throne <b>a scroll with writing on both sides</b> and sealed with seven seals;	Ezek 2:9 And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. 10 And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning and woe.



7

## Scroll with Seven Seals

Revelation 5:1	References
Next I saw in the right hand of the One sitting on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and <b>sealed with seven seals</b> ;	Rev 22:18-19 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, (19) and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.



8

## What is the scroll?

Revelation 5:1	References
Next I saw in the right hand of the One sitting on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals;	Exo 32:32-33 But now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written.” (33) But the LORD said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book

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## Who is worthy?

Revelation 5:2-4	References
And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” But no one in heaven, on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or look inside it. I cried and cried, because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or look inside it.	Is 29:1 And the vision of all this has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed. When men give it to one who can read, saying, “Read this,” he says, “I cannot, for it is sealed.” Dan 12:9 He said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end. Rth 2:20 And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “May he be blessed by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!” Naomi also said to her, “The man is a close relative of ours, one of our redeemers.”

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## Sobbed Convulsively

Revelation 5:2-4	References
And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" But no one in heaven, on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or look inside it. <b>I cried and cried</b> , because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or look inside it.	<p>John 11:35 Jesus wept. (shed a tear)</p> <p>Luke 19:41 And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, (sobbed convulsively)</p> <p>Dan 7:28 "Here is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly alarmed me, and my color changed, but I kept the matter in my heart."</p>



11

## Lion of the Tribe of Judah

Revelation 5:5	References
One of the elders said to me, "Don't cry. Look, <b>the Lion of the tribe of Y'hudah</b> , the Root of David, has won the right to open the scroll and its seven seals."	<p>Gen 49:9 Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute (or "Shiloh") comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.</p>



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## Root of David

Revelation 5:5	References
One of the elders said to me, "Don't cry. Look, the Lion of the tribe of Y'hudah, the <b>Root of David</b> , has won the right to open the scroll and its seven seals."	<p>Isaiah 11:1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit</p> <p>Isa 11:10-12 In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations (i.e., "gentiles") inquire, and his resting (or "dwelling") place shall be glorious. (11) In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people (Israel), from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea. (12) He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.</p> <p>Isa 66:8 Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall a land be born in one day? Shall a nation be brought forth in one moment? For as soon as Zion was in labor she brought forth her children.</p>

13

## Root of David

Revelation 5:5	References
One of the elders said to me, "Don't cry. Look, the Lion of the tribe of Y'hudah, the <b>Root of David</b> , has won the right to open the scroll and its seven seals."	<p>Mat 1:1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.</p> <p>Luk 1:31-33 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. (32) He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, (33) and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."</p>

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## Lamb that has been slain

Revelation 5:6	References
Then I saw standing there with (in the midst of) the throne and the four living beings, in the circle of the elders, <b>a Lamb that appeared to have been slaughtered</b> . He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the sevenfold Spirit of God sent out into all the earth.	<p>Exo 12:21 Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go and select lambs for yourselves according to your clans, and kill the Passover lamb.</p> <p>Exo 12:13 The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt</p> <p>Is 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter</p> <p>John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!</p>



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## Lion and the Lamb

Revelation 5	References
<p>5:5 "Don't cry. Look, <b>the Lion of the tribe of Y'hudah</b>,</p> <p>5:6 <b>a Lamb that appeared to have been slaughtered</b>.</p>	<p>ירושלים</p>  



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## Seven Horns / Seven Eyes

Revelation 5:6	References
Then I saw standing there with (in the midst of) the throne and the four living beings, in the circle of the elders, a Lamb that appeared to have been slaughtered. He had <b>seven horns and seven eyes</b> , which are the sevenfold Spirit of God sent out into all the earth.	<p>Psa 75:4-5 I say to the boastful, 'Do not boast,' and to the wicked, 'Do not lift up your horn; (5) do not lift up your horn on high, or speak with haughty neck.'"</p> <p>Mat 28:18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.</p> <p>Zec 3:9 For behold, on the stone that I have set before Joshua (the high priest), on a single stone with seven eyes, I will engrave its inscription, declares the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day.</p> <p>Zec 4:10 For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice, and shall see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. "These seven are the eyes of the LORD, which range through the whole earth."</p>

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## One worthy to take the scroll

Revelation 5:7-8	References
He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of the One sitting on the throne. When <b>he took the scroll</b> , the four living beings and the twenty-four elders fell down in front of the Lamb. Each one held a harp and gold bowls filled with pieces of incense, which are the prayers of God's people;	<p>Dan 7:13-14 "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. (14) And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.</p> <p>Psa 141:2 Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!</p>

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## New Song / Blood

Revelation 5:9-10	References
and they sang a new song, "You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals; because you were slaughtered; at the cost of blood you ransomed for God persons from every tribe, language, people and nation. You made them into a kingdom for God to rule, cohanim to serve him; and they will rule over the earth."	Isa 42:9-12 Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them." (10) Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise from the end of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that fills it, the coastlands and their inhabitants. (11) Let the desert and its cities lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar inhabits; let the habitants of Sela sing for joy, let them shout from the top of the mountains. (12) Let them give glory to the LORD, and declare his praise in the coastlands. Psa 33:3 Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

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## Kingdom and Priesthood

Revelation 5:9-10	References
and they sang a new song, "You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals; because you were slaughtered; at the cost of blood you ransomed for God persons from every tribe, language, people and nation. You made them into a kingdom for God to rule, cohanim to serve him; and they will rule over the earth."	Exo 19:4-6 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. (5) Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; (6) and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel." Daniel 7:18 But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.' Daniel 7:27 And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven. 1 Pe 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

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## Kingdom and Priesthood

Revelation 5:11-12	References
Then I looked, and I heard the sound of a vast number of angels—thousands and thousands, millions and millions! They were all around the throne, the living beings, and the elders; and they shouted out, “Worthy is the slaughtered Lamb to receive power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and praise!”	<p>Deut 33:2 He said, “The LORD came from Sinai and dawned from Seir upon us; he shone forth from Mount Paran; he came from the ten thousands of holy ones, with flaming fire at his right hand.</p> <p>Daniel 7:14 “all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him”</p> <p>Note the group of seven praises in verse 12.</p>



21

## Every knee bows / The אָמֵן

Revelation 5:13-14	References
And I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth and on the sea—yes, everything in them—saying, “To the One sitting on the throne and to the Lamb belong praise, honor, glory and power forever and ever!” The four living beings said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshipped.	<p>Isa 45:23 By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: ‘To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.’</p>



22

## Conclusion

- Paul exhorts us to remember Jesus in His glorified state described in Revelation 4-5!
- Php 2:5-11 **Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, (6) who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, (7) but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (8) And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (9) Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, (10) so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, (11) and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**



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## Conclusion

- Where is "your" Jesus?
  - Still hanging on a cross?
  - The ONLY ONE worthy to take the scroll?
- How Big is your God?



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