

## **THE BOOK THAT NO ONE COULD OPEN**

### Part 2

Last week, I talked briefly about some of the largest books ever printed – some of which weighed several tons. This week I want to note that the world's smallest book, according to the *Guinness Book of World Records*, is entitled "Old King Cole." The book is the size of a pin head, measuring 1/25th of an inch thick. One has to have a magnifying glass to actually read the short text.

How many books do you think have been published in the long history of book publishing? The website of the University of California puts the figure at 65 million. The Bible simply says in Ecclesiastes 12:12, **"Of making many books there is no end...."**

In the long history of writing I can only think of one book that couldn't be opened. I mean, books are meant to be opened; that is what they are all about. And yet in Revelation 5:1-4 we read these words, **"Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll (book) with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?' But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside."**

Last week I talked to you about this book. I noted that in my opinion, the book is the title deed to earth. I pointed out that in the Garden of Eden the first man Adam disobeyed God. As a result of doing so, he lost both his dominion over the earth as well as this title deed. When the brother took a bite of sin, the deed

passed from him back to God who had given it in the first place. He is again seen holding it here in this passage.

I also gave you several reasons why John wept when no one could be found to open the book. I also defined such terms and names as elders, Lion of the tribe of Judah, as well as the Root of David.

This brings me to today's message.

**REVELATION 5:5 STATES, "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." Say with me, "Has triumphed." Say it again.**

Jesus had come up against every thing and every one that Satan and the world could throw at Him:

- The world had no room for Him when He was born,
- Herod had tried to kill Him as a child,
- Satan tempted Him for 40 days while Jesus was in the wilderness,
- The people rejected Him,
- His disciples, for the most part, deserted Him,
- One of His own betrayed Him,
- Then the world hung Him on a cross and watched Him die.
- Finally they placed His body in a borrowed tomb, and said...

There. So much for that.

Jesus was DEAD; no, Jesus WAS dead! The word triumphed as used here in Revelation 5:5 actually means, "prevailed, conquered, gained the victory".

Indeed, He triumphed...

- Over temptation,
- Over rejection,
- Over Satan,
- Over death, hell, and the grave!

To the same extent that Adam had failed, Jesus succeeded. In fact, He triumphed in every way.

As some of you know, one of my all time favorite preachers is a black Baptist pastor by the name of S. M. Lockridge. I want to share with you a few of his thoughts concerning this victorious Christ:

“His promise is sure, His life is matchless, His goodness is limitless, His mercy is everlasting, His love never changes, His word is enough, His grace is sufficient, His reign is righteous, His yoke is easy, His burden is light.

I wish I could describe Him too you, He's indescribable because He's incomprehensible,

He's irresistible because He's invincible.

You can't get Him off your hands, you can't get Him off your mind,

You can't outlive Him and you can't live without Him.

Pilate couldn't find any fault in Him.

Herod couldn't kill Him, death couldn't handle Him and thank God the grave couldn't hold Him.

There was nobody before Him and there will be nobody after Him. He has no predecessor, He'll have no successor, you can't impeach Him and He's not going to resign.”

Saints, I want you to tell me who I am talking about this morning. What is His name? Jesus!

And the elder said of Jesus, He **“HAS TRIUMPHED!”**

- Jesus, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah...
- Jesus, the Root of David...
- Jesus, the Lamb that was slain...

Jesus is and was -- once and for all -- victorious!

What the first Adam lost through sin, Christ won back through His total obedience to His Father's will. Yes, indeed, He has triumphed!

### **NOW ON TO REVELATION 5:6**

**“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.”**

In verse 5 the Lord is seen as a lion, here in verse 6, He is depicted as a lamb. Does this mean that he had dual personalities? That He was some sort of Jekyll and Hyde? Of course not. Rather the passage notes that...

- As the Lamb of God, He is the sacrificial One who served as God's perfect sacrifice while dying on the cross of Calvary. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
- As the Lion, He is the Judge, the king, the one who overcomes his enemies.

At His First Coming, He was the Lamb. At His Second Coming, He will be the Lion.

In the *Weymouth New Testament* this passage is translated: **“I saw in the midst of the throne a lamb that looked as though it had been offered in**

**sacrifice.**” Something about this Lamb reminded John of Calvary: the marks of the cross were still there!

Scripture plainly teaches that all through the eternal ages the Son of God will bear the marks of His death in His glorified body. The songwriter was right to note:

*I shall know Him, I shall know Him,  
As redeemed by His side I shall stand.  
I shall know Him, I shall know Him,  
By the print of the nails in His hand.*

The passage goes on to mention, **“He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.”**

Simply put, the number seven is significant here. It stands for perfection and completion.

- In the Old Testament, horns stood as a symbol of power. Therefore, the seven horns symbolize the perfect power of Christ.
- The seven eyes symbolize the perfect wisdom of Christ.
- The seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth suggest the presence of God – that He is in all places at the same time.

We call these three qualities omnipotence (all power), omniscience (all wisdom), and omnipresence (everywhere present). These three are all found in the perfect and complete Lamb of God, the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ!

### **THIS TAKES US ON TO REVELATION 5:7**

**“He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.”**

How long has it been since Adam and Eve lived on this planet?

- Six thousand years?
- Six million years?

No one knows for sure. Nonetheless, since Adam, all creation has waited for someone – that special someone – to come and redeem that which Adam lost so long ago.

The first Adam was tempted in a beautiful garden, the second Adam – Jesus – was tempted in a barred wilderness.

Creation had lost it's innocence.

Beauty had lost it splendor.

As a lovely lady whose face has been scarred by fire longs for her long, lost beauty, so it is that creation that has been marred by sin longs to have it's former glory restored.

Listen to Romans 8:22-23 (*God's Word* translation), **“We know that all creation has been groaning with the pains of childbirth up to the present time. However, not only creation groans. We... also groan inwardly. We groan as we eagerly wait for our adoption, the freeing of our bodies from sin.”**

Personal opinion. I believe that...

- Earthquakes,
- Tornadoes,
- Hurricanes,
- Volcanoes,

all are symptomatic of a planet that suffers and is struggling to be liberated from the bondage and tyranny of Satan.

As a child I was told that whenever it thundered, God was bowling up in heaven.

Having been raised in Kansas, I thought that the Lord was really into bowling. However, I could never quite figure out if He was throwing a good or a bad game. Some thunder sounded like a strike, some sounded like He had missed a spare and was a little upset. That is the thinking of a child.

- Now I see thunder a bit differently. Whenever I hear the heavens roll and peal, I think of earth groaning.
- Lightning reminds me that creation is striking back trying to be loosed from it's bonds.
- Earthquakes remind me that this planet is trying to shake itself free from the pains of war, pollution, and the violence that mars it's surface.
- Volcanoes and other such phenomena pictures earth throwing up because it is sick nearly to death of the curse of sin that has enslaved it lo all these years.

Yet, a day is coming when earth shall be set free:

- Earth will be new, clean, perfect once again.
- The lion will lay down by the lamb.
- There will be no more night, no more sea, no more weeds, no more storms, no more cold winters and hot summers.
- Then too, a day is coming and is not all that far off when our bodies that age, grow sick, and die will also be redeemed.
- A day is coming when God's children shall be revealed for who they (we) are – sons and daughters of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords; the most high Eternal God!
- A day is coming when John's crying will cease for Jesus is going to step forward, take the book from the hand of God, and He will begin the final

process of taking Planet Earth from paradise lost to paradise regained!

Hear me old earth, you can groan now, but your groaning is about to come to a screeching halt!

Warren Wiersbe in his *Bible Exposition Commentary* writes concerning this: “God’s people are to be redeemed and the evil and corrupt people are to be overthrown and judged. Human history and all matter throughout the universe—all that is corrupt, deteriorating, decaying, and dying—is to be overthrown and consumed. And a new earth and a new heaven are to be created. All the redeemed are to inherit and inhabit the new earth and heavens. This is both the fate and the redemption of the world. This is history written before it happens.”

Look up, dear ones, for the Bible says, **“your redemption draweth nigh”!**

## **NOW TO THE BOOK**

As I noted last week, it is my opinion that the book that God is holding here, the book that Jesus takes from His Father’s hand, in none other than Earth’s Title Deed which Adam forfeited back in the garden. While I am not dogmatic on this, I hold to my position for several reasons. Let me share them with you:

### **1. THE LAW OF THE REDEEMER**

The fact that Jesus was the only one that could open the book leads one to believe that this has to be a deed or something of like importance.

According to the Old Testament law, only a near kinsman could redeem a lost possession, only an appointed heir could open a title deed or will. The Bible goes to great lengths to note that Jesus is our near kinsman therefore He and

He alone would be able as well as worthy to open such an important document as Earth's Title Deed.

Ryrie of the *Ryrie Study Bible* writes, "Jesus paid the redemptive price, which was His own blood, on the Cross, but He has not as yet claimed that which He then purchased. When the time comes for the Redemption of the purchased possession Jesus will do so. That time and the act is described in the scripture we are now considering. The "seven sealed book" is the "title deed" to the redeemed inheritance.

J. Vernon McGee in his *Through The Bible* commentary suggests, "I believe, that what is being handed over to the Lord Jesus is the title deed to this world in which you and I live. He created it, He redeemed it, and it belongs to Him."

Revelation 11:15 concludes the opening of the seven seals and the sounding of the seven trumpet judgments by saying, "**Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices shouting in heaven: 'The whole world HAS NOW BECOME the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever.'**"

## 2. JEREMIAH'S PROPHECY IN JEREMIAH 32

I have often told you that Scripture interprets Scripture. In other words, a question about one thing in the Bible can usually be best answered by studying another part of the Bible. That is the case with this scroll found in Revelation 5.

The key that unlocks the meaning of this chapter and the seven-sealed book is found in a remarkable story recorded in Jeremiah 32. The prophet Jeremiah lived just prior to the fall of Jerusalem, under Nebuchadnezzar. He had been

telling the people of Israel that they were going to be carried captive to Babylon. For seventy years they would be in captivity, but at the end of that time they would be restored to their homeland and they would rebuild that which had been destroyed.

Jeremiah's cousin owned some land. Due to the prophesies of Jeremiah, he knew that his land would soon to be absolutely worthless. After all, what good would his land be if he were in fact a slave in Babylon? Anxious to get it off his hands and realize as much profit as possible, he decided to sell it to his prophet cousin.

In a vision Jeremiah was commanded by God to purchase the land. The Lord promised that the land would regain it's former worth in time. For as surely as God's people were going down to Babylon, so surely they would be coming back again. The land would be worth far more in that day and Jeremiah would have it for his family.

So Jeremiah obeyed the Lord and the business transaction was concluded. To quote the prophet: Jeremiah 32:9-10 (*The New Living Translation*), **“So I bought the field.... I signed and sealed the deed of purchase before witnesses, weighed out the silver, and paid him.”**

Jeremiah purchased the "title deed" to the land gave the scroll to an clerk for safe keeping. He also left behind a document that would later reveal to his heirs the location of this deed.

When the people of Israel came back from Babylon, there would be a man who would go before the court and say, “This deed belongs to me; I am Jeremiah's heir. I have the right to break the seals and lay claim to the property.” And that is exactly what happened in time. The prophet's heir came, took the scroll, broke the seal, and claimed the land.

It is thought that this Old Testament incident symbolizes the laying claim to as well as the opening of the seven-sealed scroll in Revelation.

The point begs to be made here, as with Jeremiah, so it is that one day the Lord is going to step forth and say to His Father, "This deed belongs to me; I am Adam's heir. I have the right to break the seals and lay claim to the property."

### **3. THE SCROLL ITSELF TESTIFIES THAT IT WAS SUCH A DOCUMENT**

In ancient Rome, documents containing money had five seals, but only the most serious documents, those dealing with life and death, wills and deeds for instance, had seven seals.

The wills of both Emperor Vespasian and Caesar Augustus, for example, were secured with seven seals. The seals guaranteed that no one had opened or tampered with the document.

### **LET ME QUICKLY READ THE REST OF THE CHAPTER NOW AND WRAP THIS UP:**

Revelation 5:8-14, **"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. And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.**

**You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."**

**Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands**

**upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"**

**Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing:**

**"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"**

**The four living creatures said, 'Amen,' and the elders fell down and worshiped."**

When the Lamb came and took the scroll, the weeping ended and the praising began.

John looked and he saw a multitude of angels gathered around the throne of God. They joined their voices in harmony with the saints of the ages -- a choir numbering millions, perhaps billions -- myriads of myriads. They were rejoicing over the fact that the book could finally be opened and the seals broken.

Noted author Tim LaHaye writes: In a day when humanistic men are unwilling to acknowledge Jesus Christ as more than a "good man" or a "model example," we should hear what the angels of heaven, who know him best, say of him. They proclaim him worthy to receive seven things--power, riches, wisdom, might, honor, glory, and blessing--which far out shadows any respect or reverence due to mortal men."

Let's briefly look at these seven things that are attributed to Jesus:

**POWER:** He was born in weakness and He died in weakness; but He now reigns in power.

**WEALTH:** He became the poorest of the poor, and yet He owns all the riches of heaven and earth.

**WISDOM:** Men laughed at Him and called Him a fool; yet He is now the very wisdom of God.

**STRENGTH:** While on earth, He hungered, thirsted, and became weary. Today, in glory, He possesses all strength.

**HONOR, GLORY AND PRAISE:** On earth, He experienced humiliation and shame as sinners ridiculed and reviled Him. They laughed at His kingship and attired Him in a mock robe, crown, and scepter. But all of that is changed now! He has received all honor, glory, and praise!

John concludes the chapter by declaring that he heard every creature praise God and His son Jesus.

- Every creature in heaven, under the earth, and on the sea.
- Every creature that is alive or dead.
- Every creature who has been judged, and or will be judged.
- Every creature that ever drew breath will praise him.

This verse parallels Philippians 2:10-11, which promises that every knee will bow at the name of Jesus and every tongue confess Him as Lord.

### **IN CONCLUSION...**

All of heaven's praise came because the Lamb took the scroll from the Father's hand. God's great eternal plan would now be fulfilled and creation would be set free from the bondage of sin and death. One day the Lamb will break the seals, open the book that no one else could open, and set in motion events that will eventually lead to His coming to earth and the establishment of His kingdom.