



# WORTHY IS THE LAMB

There are four series of sevens in Revelation: 7 churches, 7 seals, 7 trumpets and 7 plagues.

The chapters 4 and 5 are the introduction to the second one, the seven seals.

The most important questions are:  
What does the sealed book say?  
Why is opening it so important?  
Why is the Lamb the only One worthy of opening it?



**The vision of the throne. Revelation 4:1-3, 5, 9-11**



**The 24 elders. Revelation 4:4**



**The 4 living creatures. Revelation 4:6-8**



**The sealed book. Revelation 5:1-4**



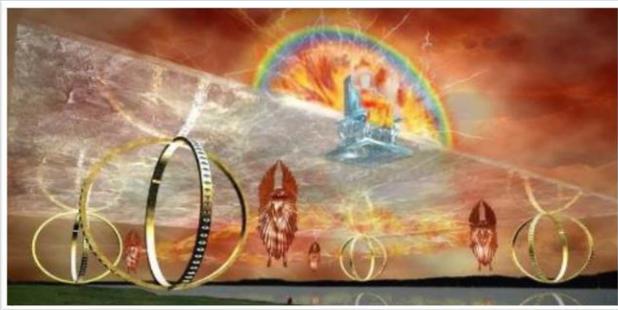
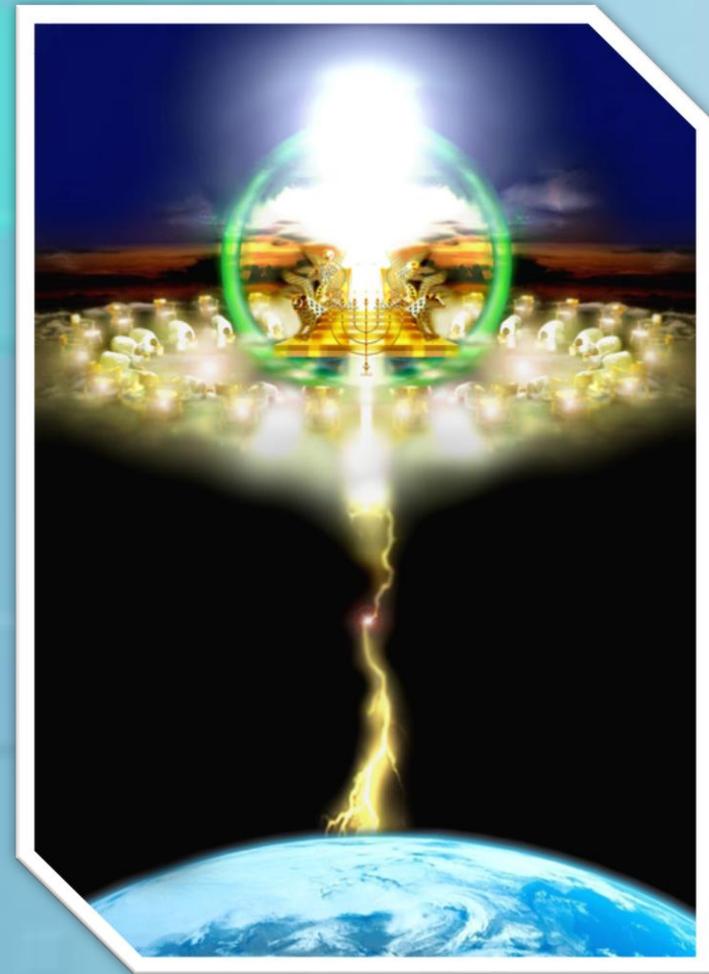
**The Lamb is worthy. Revelation 5:5-14**

# THE VISION OF THE THRONE

“And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.” (Revelation 4:5)

John’s vision of the throne of God is similar to Moses’ (Exodus 24:9-10), Isaiah’s (Isaiah 6:1-4) and Ezekiel’s (Ezekiel 1:22, 26-28).

The rainbow around the throne is a reminder of God’s promises and protection (Genesis 9:9-17). We can come boldly to the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16).



The Father receives a triple praise and His sustaining and creative power is acknowledged (v. 11).



In this vision, the Father is praised for His power to govern the universe that He has created.



# THE 24 ELDERS

“Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.” (Revelation 4:4)



They are not elders because of their age but because of their position. They represent a group of people. **White robes:** Righteousness. **Crowns of gold:** Royalty or victory.



They could be the first fruits that resurrected with Jesus and live in Heaven, representing mankind (Matthew 27:52-53)



They could represent the people of God in the old and the new covenant: 12 patriarchs and 12 apostles (Matthew 19:28)



They could be representatives from the unfallen created worlds, acting as the 24 priest orders before God (Revelation 5:8)

# THE 24 ELDERS



"Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints." (Revelation 5:8)

**As C. Mervyn Maxwell explains in his book "God Cares. The Message of Revelation", John saw those heavenly elders as priests with censers who offer incense while people are praying (Rev. 5:8). The King James version tells that the 24 elders were saying: "Thou ... hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred ... and nation; ... and hast made us ... priests." (Rev. 5:9, 10)... The Bible scholars agree that the 24 elders actually say that Christ has redeemed "men" (not "us"), and Christ has made "them" (not "us") priests for God. The Greek manuscripts of Revelation support the opinion of the scholars, and that's how this passage is translated in modern versions. The 24 elders are not necessarily humans, but they're still our friends. They help us when we pray. John saw them offering symbolic incense as we pray. We should be grateful to each one of them.**

# THE 4 LIVING CREATURES

“The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle.” (Revelation 4:7)

The appearance of these creatures and the fact that there are four links them to Earth.



**Lion:** Wild animals



**Calf:** Domestic animals



**Man:** Mankind



**Eagle:** Flying animals



They aren't men, they're called "cherubim" (Ezekiel 10:2)

They represent the angels that work in favor of mankind (Matthew 18:10)

# THE SEALED BOOK

**"And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals." (Revelation 5:1)**



**The Bible explains that God keeps records of the human history (Ex. 32:33; Ps. 40:7-9; 56:8; 69:28; 139:16; Dan. 7:10; 12: 1; Phil. 4:3; Rev. 3:5).**

**However, John was going to see the future, "things which must take place after this" (4:1). That knowledge is sealed (veiled, hidden) for everyone except He who is worthy to unveil it.**

**Only Jesus can open that book, because He is the Lion (He has overcome) and the Lamb (He has died to save us).**



**The content of the book is related to the history of our salvation. It contains "the history of God's providences, the prophetic history of nations and the church" (E.G.W., Manuscript Releases, vol. 9, MR No. 667).**



**“Thus the Jewish leaders made their choice [i.e. to kill Jesus]. Their decision was registered in the book which John saw in the hand of Him that sat upon the throne, the book which no man could open.**

**In all its vindictiveness this decision will appear before them in the day when this book is unsealed by the Lion of the tribe of Judah.”**

# THE LAMB IS WORTHY

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation." (Revelation 5:9 NIV)

The Lamb (Jesus) is worthy because He was sacrificed. Because of that sacrifice, He's been given all power and authority (Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:20-22).

The great heavenly choir sings a septuplet of praise, proclaiming that Jesus is worthy to receive:

1. Power
2. Riches
3. Wisdom
4. Strength
5. Honor
6. Glory
7. Blessing



At the cross, Jesus overcame and recovered what Adam had lost in Eden. He introduces us to the Father and intercedes for us (Hebrews 7:25).

**“Never can the cost of our redemption be realized until the redeemed shall stand with the Redeemer before the throne of God. Then as the glories of the eternal home burst upon our enraptured senses we shall remember that Jesus left all this for us, that He not only became an exile from the heavenly courts, but for us took the risk of failure and eternal loss. Then we shall cast our crowns at His feet, and raise the song, ‘Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing.’”**

E.G.W. (The Desire of Ages, cp. 13, p. 131)