

Pastor Mark Mikels - April 5, 2020
"DISCOVERING HOPE IN THE REVELATIONS OF
SCRIPTURE"

"THE REVELATION OF THE LAMB"

(Revelation 5:1-12)

Intro ... Today as we prepare for a very unique and Spirit-Enabled Communion Service, I want to walk you through what might well be the most Hope-Generating Revelation found anywhere in the Scripture!

HOPE-GENERATING REVELATION FOUR:
"THE REVELATION OF THE LAMB"

(Revelation 5: 1-12)

This revelation begins with the reporting of ...

AN INCREDIBLY ARRESTING IMAGE ...

Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. (vs. 1)

After being completely captivated by the 'Revelation of the Creator Himself,' John now sees that the Almighty God - the Creator of Heaven and earth and everything in them - is holding something in His Hand.

It's a rolled up and sealed scroll ... It has writing on it. It contains things that up until that time had been known only by the Father ... Things concerning His Plans for Man and for All things ... Things that John himself had once asked Jesus about when they walked together on the earth. Were these '**Things**' about to be revealed? Great Hope, no doubt, began to stir in John's heart.

Afterall, hadn't the voice that had given John the invitation to 'Come up here' (Revelation 4:1) said:

"And I will show you what must take place after this."?

This must be the moment!

And there, so tantalizingly close, is the Scroll that will reveal it all. It's right there in the Creator's Hand ...

But then thundering out from the mouth of a mighty angel comes this:

INCREDIBLY CHALLENGING QUESTION ...
"Who is WORTHY?"

*And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice,
"Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" (vs. 2)*

Indeed ... Who is worthy to walk right up to the Throne of the Almighty **CREATOR** of All and take this **SCROLL** from His Hand and **BREAK** the Seal and **REVEAL** the sequence of events that will bring GOD'S **PLAN** for Man to **COMPLETION**?

This was not the task, as my mother used to say, for just any 'Tom, Dick or Harry' ... it would have to be someone incredibly special, for the Creator had waited eons for this moment ...

How many great saints had already come and gone ... Abraham and Moses and David and Isaiah and Jeremiah and John the Baptist and all the Apostles chosen by Jesus Himself ... Who indeed, of all of the Creator's Marvelous Creation, would be found worthy for this vital task?

And with the asking of that ***Incredibly Challenging Question*** there soon came the realization of this:

INCREDIBLY DEVASTATING REALITY ...

No ***CREATED BEING*** anywhere was found ***WORTHY.***

*"But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth
could open the scroll or even look inside it. (vs. 3)*

The 'No One' in that verse included even those who were yet unborn. It includes you and me.

Oh, my friend ... Do not think that your good deeds, do not think that your good intentions, do not think that all the very best parts of you taken together can make you worthy to approach the Almighty God, the Creator himself, on His Throne.

No Created Being is worthy!

That Incredible Reality leaves man in absolute despair ...

Completely **Hopeless** in the Presence of God's **Holiness**.

The Apostle John was **not worthy** - the Mightiest of the Angels were **not worthy** ... No Created Being was worthy to '*break the seals and to open the scroll*' and yet it seemed that somehow the fate of all mankind hung in the balance.

John felt the full weight of the moment ...

The Spirit of God would have each of us feel the weight as well. If our standing with God relies upon our personal worthiness, then we are truly without hope in this fallen world. Can you feel it?

John was devastated ... He says: "***I wept and I wept.***"

The repeating of that phrase suggests to me that some time passed. John's anguish took possession of the deepest parts of his soul. ***He wept and he wept*** ...

And then something extraordinary happened ...

Into John's '***Agony of Soul***' intruded one of the Elders - One of those who sat so close to the Throne that any of them could have easily reached out and taken the scroll had ***they*** been worthy - and this Elder made:

AN INCREDIBLY TRIUMPHANT ANNOUNCEMENT

*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.
He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals." (vs. 5)*

"Do not weep" in other words, '*Stop Weeping ... the reality that has devastated you does not tell the whole story ...*'

*'There **is** ONE who is worthy ...
He's the Lion of the tribe of Judah ...'*

That was a title John had never heard before - Perhaps it was a common expression in heaven but not on earth. But surely that announcement put a picture in John's mind ... (and in ours as well).

Something like this perhaps ...



Here indeed is a mighty one ... King of Beasts ... He is the worthy one!

What a wondrous revelation ... Here is the one who acts on our behalf. The Lion of the Tribe of Judah. A powerful Leader of the Jews. The fruit and the root of the Great King David himself. This was a vision that John could carry in his mind and heart forever!

But when John wiped his eyes and cleared his vision, it was not a vision of a mighty lion that He saw.

What John saw was Today's Hope-Generating Revelation:

THE REVELATION OF THE LAMB

Here's exactly how John recorded it...

Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain ...



This was indeed a sacrificial lamb - John had seen many of those in his lifetime ... but this '*sacrificial lamb*' was different.

Death did not end its ministry as it had for all the 1000's of lambs that had preceded it, because John then says that ...

'This Sacrificial Lamb' was ...

"... standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders ...

He (this sacrificial lamb) went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb ...

And they sang a new song, saying:

*"**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
(one hundred million). They encircled the throne and the living creatures
and the elders.*

In a loud voice they were saying:

*Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!"*

O what a Hope-Generating Revelation:

"The Revelation of The Lamb of God!"

He was (As John the Baptist once said):

"The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

He stands **alone** ...

He **alone** can lift our hearts from despair to delight ...

He **alone** is worthy to open the scroll and reveal
the further Plans God has for man ...

He **alone** can '**Purchase men for God.**'

His shed blood freely given is the only medium of exchange that
God the Father will recognize.

Long years ago now, the Holy Spirit inspired the writer of the Book
of Hebrews to write these words:

*'And without the shedding of blood
there is no remission for sins.'
(Hebrews 9:22)*

But '**with** the shedding of blood' much can be accomplished.

According to the Awesome Revelation we receive today, the '**Purchase of men for God**' can be accomplished.

Men and women, boys and girls, can be bought back from sin and death, from judgment and Hell.

Jesus has already purchased an untold number by His Own Shed Blood - the only acceptable currency.

What a marvelous provision is the freely given and then legally received '**Blood of Jesus**' - **The Lamb of God!**

The purchase has been made - all those who have been purchased have been already named!

And so, we come to:

AN INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT QUESTION ...
HAS HE PURCHASED YOU?
DO YOU BELONG TO HIM?

That is not only an **important** Two-Part Question; it's a **scary** question.

Its answer determines '*relief*' or '*grief*' ... heaven or hell ... salvation or condemnation.

So, we look at it again using the '*Language of this Revelation*' ...

Has He Purchased You? - Do you Belong to Him?

It's a kind of unusual way to put it in our day and age when people are generally given the impression that this '*Salvation Thing*' is all up to them - as though the choice is all theirs to make.

Our modern version of salvation kind of pictures Jesus as the schoolboy on the sideline hoping that those who are picking the teams will '*Pick Him.*'

And if they do '*pick him*,' He will be forever grateful.

However, that's **NOT** the Jesus of the Book of Revelation ...
That's **NOT** the Jesus of the New Testament ... period.

According to the Bible that I read -
According to the Revelations that it contains and proclaims ...
Jesus is the one who '**Picks**' ...
Jesus is the one who '**Purchases**' men for God!

The **Apostle Paul** knew that ... The **Apostle Paul** taught that.

Listen to these straightforward words he wrote to the born-again believers
in the Church at Corinth:

**"You are not your own -
You were bought at a price."
(1Cor. 6:19-20)**

There is no more wonderful situation to be in than that - nothing
better than to know that you belong to The Exalted Lord Jesus Christ -
The Lamb of God Himself!

But how do I know if He has, in fact, purchased **ME**?

Let me share with you this morning what I am calling ...

AN INCREDIBLY EASY ANSWER ...

When you see **The Lamb of God** as we have seen Him
in Today's Revelation ...

(When you '*see Him*' as ONE that all the Hosts of Heaven adore;
when you '*see Him*' as the ONLY ONE who has provided payment
for your sins and your soul; when you see Him as the ONLY ONE
who can approach the Father on your behalf)

Do you find yourself **BOWING** in **REVERENCE** before Him?
Do you find yourself **SURRENDERING** yourself to Him?

Only a **PURCHASED PERSON** does that!

And a '***Purchased Person***' does that because with the ***Purchase*** comes a ***Person*** ... the Person of the ***Holy Spirit*** Himself whom the Lord Jesus sends to everyone He ***Purchases***.

And that Holy Spirit brings New Life and New Perspective to every ***Purchased Person***.

Today's Final Thot suggests a way to 'Keep in Step' with what the Lord's Spirit would do in your life.

Final Thot ...

CONFESS The Lord Jesus Christ every day as the '*Lamb of God*' who **PURCHASED** you **FOR** God by His Own **BLOOD**.
BOW yourself before Him for **HE** is **WORTHY!**