

Note: These are outline notes that are not intended to be used apart from the spoken sermon. Please follow the sermon on Sermonaudio. God bless.

We read all of Revelation 5 a few moments ago so I will not read it again. The book of Revelation gives us in highly symbolic form the end of the Gospel, the triumph of the Lamb of God, that is nowhere better expressed than in Chapters five and six. I hold to a realistic interpretation of Revelation, which means that I think it is prophesy about events from the resurrection of Christ to the end of the world, written in language that describes things that we cannot discern with the senses of the body, but that are seen by faith. It unpacks in symbolic form what Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 15:21-28: let us turn and read:

- 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.
- 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
- 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.
- 24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.
- 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.
- 26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.
- 27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.
- 28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

So, I want to make two points from chapter five of Revelation in terms of the Conquest and Triumph of Christ and one point from chapters six and following, which I will make next week, the Lord Willing. They are simple points: **I. The Rich Inheritance of Man; II. The Rightful Heir; III. The Redemption.** I hope you will take my remarks this morning as not at all complete in themselves, but think in terms of the message of the angels that first Christmas: “Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

- I. The Rich Inheritance of Man: Rev. 5:1-3
 - A. John had been caught up into Heaven to be shown the things which must be hereafter. 4:1.
 - B. He sees the throne of God.
 1. Twenty Four elders: The entire church of God, Old and New Testaments.
 2. The Seven Spirits of God, the Four Mighty Angels, The sea of Glass. The immanent works of God throughout all of History which are known perfectly and clearly to Him. All of History is under the perfect power and authority of God by the perfection of His Spirit, his foreknowledge, and the ministry of the Holy Angels, as we will see in the rest of Revelation.
 3. Praise of God: He is worthy to receive glory and honor and power, for He created all things for His pleasure.
 - C. He sees a scroll sealed with seven seals. Written on both sides. Rolled up and sealed seven times. When each seal is opened, certain things are revealed until all are open. Then the scroll is flipped over and the other side read. This gives us an outline of the Book of Revelation, I think.
 - D. What is the scroll? 5:9-10. It is the book of redemption: the things that must be done before man can enter into his inheritance that was lost in Adam. I have preached on this before. This inheritance is outlined in Hebrews 2:5: the world to come under the authority of man. This was the reason God created man—to put all things under his feet, as described in Psalm 8. What Adam lost, Jesus wins. This scroll is His inheritance and ours in Christ. We do not yet see all things put under His feet. Luke 19:13ff Parable of the pounds.
 1. Nobleman goes on a long journey to get his kingdom.
 2. Gives his ten servants each one pound—different from the talents.
 3. It was a long time before he returned with the kingdom. This is the point. It was going to be a long time, and He would be doing many things before He returned. This is revealed in Rev. 5ff, what Christ is doing. He is opening the seven seals, with all that is implied.
 4. The servants were not to destroy the opposition and bring in the kingdom before the nobleman returned. What were they to do? They were to do what the New Testament tells us to do. Bear witness of Christ and preach the gospel and endure tribulation and persecution.
 5. He destroys His enemies when He returns.
 - E. They are the claims against the inheritance. It is a title deed to the inheritance that has many liens against it. The liens must be resolved before the inheritance can be claimed. Jesus is warning the church that there is a long conflict ahead, and we do not know how long. This is indicated in a number of ways in Christ's teaching.
 1. The wise and foolish Virgins. The foolish did not have enough oil for the long wait.
 2. Luke 12:36ff. It might be a long time, before the coming of the kingdom. We pray for it and it will come, but not yet.
 3. That it would be a long and difficult conflict is foreshadowed by the slaughter of the babies by Herod. The usurpers will not yield their domain lightly

4. The claims are sealed, because our knowledge is not yet matured and things are hidden from us. They are also sealed because no one is worthy to redeem and deliver the earth except the Last Adam, He to whom the inheritance falls
5. Suffering and tribulations await the people of God during the long wait; and the church has been tempted to try to establish the kingdom before its time, in order to escape tribulation and trials, but this is not in the purpose and plan of God, as we shall see.

F. There is much sorrow, for no one is worthy—no one has the right to open the seals, to remove the liens against the inheritance.

1. How many have tried in the history of the world: from the ungodly before the flood; Nimrod and the rebels at Babel; the pagan kingdoms of the ancient world; Christian usurpers throughout the ages of the church; promising liberty, prosperity, and peace, but they all came to nothing.
2. But comfort is given to the church. There is One worthy to open the seals, to remove the curse, to take away the liens on the inheritance. When all that is accomplished, when we have used our pound faithfully during the time allotted to us, then we will rest in the grave until the time appointed of the Father and Christ will return and we will see Him revealed as the rightful heir and Lord of all.
3. No one else is worthy; this word means that He is equal to the inheritance. He has personal worth that is equal to the worth of the inheritance and can satisfy the liens, throw out the usurpers and put every enemy under His feet.
4. But be warned, it will take a long time, John is being told.
5. But there is no question that it will be done: Guaranteed by God’s providence: the sea of Glass; the Perfection of the work of the Spirit—the immanence of God in the world; the work of the mighty angels: Some in the fierceness of the Lion; some in the patience and meekness of a Calf; some in the wisdom and power of a true man; some with the swiftness of a flying eagle.
6. But the inheritance will be claimed and every curse against it removed.
7. But there is only One who is worthy to do this.

II. The Rightful Heir. The Lamb that was slain. Vs. 5-14.

A. The Lamb takes the book out of the hand of God.

1. The debt is owed to God. It is God with whom the Lamb deals. It is God who must be satisfied
2. The earth lies under a curse, the curse of sin and death because of Adam’s sin.
3. Isaiah 23 and 24, judgment on the ancient kingdoms, but describing the whole earth. See and read 24:6ff.
4. God is educating the world and humanity. To teach us that Christ is our only hope and we look for His kingdom and His restitution of all things.

B. He is worthy: The song of the elders, the church of all ages:

1. The prayers of the church rise constantly to the Lamb who was slain.
2. He was slain, and redeemed the church out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.
3. His kingdom he inherits for us: making us kings and priests, and we shall reign with Him
4. The angels and the Mighty Living Creatures join in this hymn of praise to God; they join in the prayers and praises of the saints. And this is the song:
 - a. Worthy is the Lamb that was slain.
 - b. Worthy of power:
 - c. Worthy of riches
 - d. Worthy of wisdom
 - e. Worthy of Strength
 - f. Worthy of honor
 - g. Worthy of glory
 - h. Worthy of blessing
5. Only His character is worthy of the inheritance. There is great worth to the things He is worthy of.
 - a. God is worthy of these things.
 - b. Man as he was created was worthy of these things, but he lost them by the fall. He pretends that all men are worthy of these things and seeks to level all men, in defiance of God. But no man is worthy, and the blessings are only by grace.
 - c. Christ is worthy of these things, and this shows His Deity.
 - (1). He is both God and man. He is the mediator forever, and was considered such from before the world was made.
 - (2). Man tried to take the inheritance for himself and did not obey God and wait for Him. This always brings the curse, and it continues to this day, for man has still not learned the lesson. Power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing belong to God alone and to whom He chooses in Jesus Christ.
 - (3). The earthly gifts of power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing are symbols of the heavenly gifts, the things which cannot be seen, which are given to the people of God now and sustain them through the tribulations and trials that come with the redemption of the earth, as Christ opens the seven seals.

- (4). I do not think the seven seal represent seven stages of redemption, but as each one is opened there is anticipation of the redemption that each represents, but that the hidden events go on throughout all the times from the resurrection of Christ until the end of the world and the revelation of the eternal kingdom of Christ.
- (5). The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death; then the resurrection comes and the fullness of the Kingdom of Christ forever and ever.

Application

1. We are not to grow weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not.
2. The labor may be long and difficult, as we have been warned.
3. We must not be ashamed of our King, but must always speak of His worthiness to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing
4. We must pray, “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”
5. We must live our own lives under the power and authority of our great king who is in Heaven and who will come to judge the living and the dead.
6. It is not for us to know the times and the seasons, which God has put in His own hands.
7. We are to use our pound faithfully, and wait and endure faithfully, until the coming of the Lord and the revelation of the power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing. We have entered into the beginning of these things now, and will see His glory

2Thess. 1:

- 7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,
- 8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:
- 9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;
- 10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

Next week, the Lord willing, we shall look at the seals, or at least the first six.
May God bless you.