

The Voice of Truth # 487

The Year of Redemption

With your Bibles, open to the fifth chapter of Revelation.

In the fourth chapter of Revelation, we saw the throne and him that sat on the throne surrounded with the four living creatures and the 24 elders. This throne is set in heaven and there is a readiness and a preparedness for a great event that is about to take place. As James says, the judge standeth at the door. The church age has closed, and the believers have been taken out of the world by force. And we are now face to face with the time of judgment which must take place to liberate this earth from the hands of Satan and the Antichrist; that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdoms of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Blinded religionists have taught in the last years that the church, through the preaching of the gospel, would usher in or bring in the kingdom. The kingdom is to be given to the Lord Jesus Christ by His Father, and He is to take it by force according to Psalms 2:8,9. Therefore, the fifth chapter of Revelation is one of the most important chapters in the entire book. It has to do with Christ, the kinsman-redeemer, stepping forth to lay claim to, and by a series of judgments dethrone the usurper Satan, and occupy the throne that the Father gave him by right of redemption. As the deliverance of the Jews from Egypt was by judgment, power, and blood, so the deliverance of this earth from Satan and his demon spirits and fallen man, will be by power, blood, and judgments. The judgments that fell on Egypt were miniatures of the judgments that will fall upon this world in God's vengeance upon Satan and all his associates. He said, Vengeance is mine, and I will repay.

Now let us read that fifth chapter, will you? Listen;

And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four *and* twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, *be* unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four *and* twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

What a chapter! What scripture! Let's look at the first verse of the fifth chapter. And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within, and on the back side sealed with seven seals. We have come now to the climax

and the crisis of human history. We see, in the hand of Jehovah, the seven-sealed book, which is the title deed to the redeemed inheritance. It is written within and on the backside and sealed with seven seals. The time of liberation has come. In Jewish history, as recorded in Leviticus 25:8-11, it was called the year of jubilee. It was the year when all property went back to its rightful owner. When the year of jubilee came, it was announced with a trumpet. The title deeds were brought, which had been sealed and secured, waiting this day of restitution when the property would be restored to those from whom it had been confiscated. Someone of the heir's kin could appear for the estate on the behalf of the heirs, according to Leviticus 25:48, "**and one of his brethren may redeem him**". Adam sold us into slavery of Satan. But the Lord God of heaven, listen now, has held the title deed to our inheritance. When this day of jubilee shall come, our Lord, our Redeemer, will step forth as our **kinsman Redeemer** to deliver our inheritance, that was sold by Adam, for the meek shall inherit the earth. So, in this second verse we see the year of jubilee is ready to be proclaimed. John said, And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, **Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?** Yes, we see the throne of justice set, and the judge on the throne, and the books are ready, and the angel proclaims, the time has come to break the seals and to lay claim to the inheritance. Yes, this is an hour of crisis in the unfolding of the purpose of God for his people. Then in the third verse John says, **And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.** Here is the title deed to this earth, but no one is found in heaven, or on earth, or in hell, who is able to open the book, or to look thereon, or to read it, or to legally lay hold of it, because this is a legal transaction, and none may trifle with it. We see that this book of the title deed is sealed. None dare touch such a document without authority and legal right. Never before in the history of the universe has there ever been asked such an important question as this. Who's worthy to open the book and to loose the seals thereof? Which means, where is the kinsman redeemer? Throughout ages, the church has been praying, thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. Every born-again believer has looked forward to this kingdom on earth. The Jewish nation has looked forward to this kingdom, and now the time has struck for this kingdom to be set up, and the angel is proclaiming throughout the universe, where is the kinsman redeemer? Let him step forward, one who is able to take the title deed out of the hand of Jehovah God, who sitteth on the throne, and to

break the seals thereof, and lay claim to the inheritance, dethrone the usurper, and take over the kingdoms of this earth. No one steps forward. No man can be found. In view of that fact, John says in the fourth verse, **And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.** I understand that the word wept means wept loudly. It has the same force as when the Lord Jesus sat on Mount Olivet and wept over the city of Jerusalem.

Why did John weep? The culmination of all ages has come. The desire of every born-again believer is now ready to be fulfilled, in the setting up of the kingdom of God on earth and no kinsman redeemer can be found. Is everything to be lost in this crucial hour? Has everything been focused on this one moment? Will all the promises of God throughout his word referring to such an hour come to this moment and then not be fulfilled? Just at this moment we find, in the fifth verse, one of the elders steps up to John touches him on the shoulder, no doubt, and says, Weep not. Wipe away your tears, John. Lift up your head and look. And then he says, Behold, look yonder at the bosom of the Father. Look there seated on the throne with Jehovah God, **the Lion of the tribe of Judah**, the root of David, has prevailed to open the book and to loosen the seals thereof. Hallelujah!

Let me call your attention to four facts, as set forth in the Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. In Matthew, Christ is set forth as the son of David. As the son of David, he has title to the throne of David. In the Gospel of Mark, he is set forth as the son of Abraham. As the son of Abraham, he has title to the land of Palestine. In the Gospel of Luke, he is set forth as the son of man. As the son of man, he has title to the earth, and to the world. In the gospel of John, he is set forth as the Son of God. As the Son of God, he is heir of all things, and every born-again believer is a joint heir with him. Since God is dealing with the Jews here, he is spoken of as the Son of David, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David.

I want to call your attention to this word, **prevailed**, translated in other parts of the book as overcome. This elder said, don't weep, John, look, look, behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, the heir to the throne of David, has prevailed, or has overcome for us. When this elder announced that the kinsman-redeemer has been found, and that he's the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of

David, John says, I beheld and lo, in the midst of the throne, and of the four living creatures in the midst of the elders, the Lamb as it had been slain. When John looks for the Lion to appear, behold, a Lamb steps forth as it had been slain, that is, with the marks of sacrifice upon Him, showing that He's prevailed. Yes, a Lion, for the Lord Jesus Christ, now steps forth to assume his title as **the Lion of the tribe of Judah**, and to reign and rule in kingly power as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. But as he steps forth, he appears and bears the marks of sacrifice, which makes him the legal, rightful, kinsman-redeemer. He is the Lamb that has prevailed. He is a King, yet a Lamb. He's the king-priest! Praise God for it. We are reminded of those words of John the Baptist, in John 1:29, **Behold, the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world**. In Colossians 2:15, **and having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it**. Here we are told that the cross was Jesus' seal of triumph. There he fought, conquered, and prevailed. The cross was Christ's triumphal chariot in which he rode, where he led captivity captive and received gifts for men. There is no tribunal so magnificent, no throne so stately, no chariot so elevated as the cross on which Christ has subdued death, Satan the prince of death, sin and hell, and trampled him under his feet and prevailed. No one but a born-again believer with an eye of faith can discern and see and know the greatness of the victory our Lord won in his death on the cross when he prevailed. Satan, leagued with sin and death, has made this world a home of woe. Satan, the prince of the power of the air, is the usurper, man is Satan's slave, but thank God in the fullness of time the deliverer came, born of a woman, lay in a manger in swaddling clothes, but thank God he is our kinsman redeemer who is one day to bind the old dragon, Satan, spoil him forever, and cast him into the bottomless pit and set a seal upon him.

My friend, If you'll read carefully the life of our Lord from the day of his birth until he hanged up on the cross, you'll find that Satan did his best to kill him. But the Lord's answer was always, **my hour is not yet come**. Finally, a voice in heaven was heard, This is your hour and the power of darkness. Now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

Let's notice now our Redeemer as he goes forth to battle. He leaves the table of communion. It is midnight. How dreadful is the contest. At the first assault, he seems to be beaten to the earth. As the weight of sin falls upon him, we see him

upon his knees crying, **My father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me.** But revived in strength by the angels from heaven, he no longer quails. And from that hour, he never utters a word, which looks like renouncing the fight. From the terrible scrimmage, all red with bloody sweat, he dashes into the thick of the battle. The kiss of Judas is the first sound of the trumpet. Pilate's bar, as it were, is the glittering of the spear. The cruel lash of the Roman scourge is the crossing of the swords. But the cross is the storm center of the battleground. There on top of Golgotha's hill, the dreaded fight of eternity is fought. There, the Son of God, arises, girds his sword upon his thigh as he faces the battle, it is defeat or glorious conquest. What shall it be? Defeat or victory? The trumpet sounds, the howls of hell rise in awful clamor. The dark pit empties its legions, terrible as lions, hungry as wolves, black as night. The demon hounds of hell rush upon him. Satan calls all the reserve forces in his den in this day of battle. Yes, Satan, leading and bidding his followers fight against the King of Israel, throws everything he has into this battle. We see sin there, spitting forth the venom of asps. Death is also there upon his pale horse, and with his cruel darts, tears through the body of our Lord, even to the innermost of his heart. Then hell comes with all of its foreign darts. We see Satan, remembering when Christ hurled him from the battlements of heaven, as he rushes with all of his malice to the attack. Darkness covers the battlefield, long does the battle seem to waver. On they come, and the Lord Jesus Christ receives them all. Silently, he permits the ranks to break upon him, but at last the battle cry is heard. He who is fighting for his people begins to shout, but it's a shout that makes the church tremble. It's a cry that comes from his innermost soul, **I thirst.** The battle is so hot upon him, and the dust is so thick that he's choked with thirst. Is he about to be defeated? Three worlds watch this battle, Earth, heaven, and hell. But thank God, when we look, we see all those who are rushing against him are falling at his feet, and the enemy is but rushing to his own destruction. The battle of ages is almost over. When darkness lifts itself, we hear the shout of victory, **It is finished!** Where are now his enemies? They are defeated. There lies the King of Terrors, pierced through with one of his own darts. Death has been conquered, for he has tasted death for every believer, he has cut sin to pieces. It is finished, cries the conqueror as he comes forth with dyed garments stating, I've trodden the winepress alone, I've trampled upon their fury. Oh, our near kinsman Redeemer has prevailed. Where's the marks of the sacrifice? The infidel can laugh, the skeptic can scorn, Unitarian can make fun, the

scoffer can ridicule, but thank God, he spoiled principalities and powers and prevailed and he has purchased us and our inheritance with his own blood. Praise the Lord.

Then John said, listen now, I saw him step forth and he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. Isn't it marvelous that he's prevailed? He has conquered. He's overcome. And he stands and says, **I am he that liveth and was dead, and behold, I'm alive forevermore, Amen; And have the keys of hell and of death.** No wonder he could stand and say, all power is given unto me in heaven and earth. No wonder Paul wrote about him saying, **far above all principalities and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but in that which is to come.** No wonder Peter said about him, **him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a ruler and a savior.** We see him step forth with the nail scars in his hand and his feet, with the scars up on his brow, and in his side, a lamb as it had been slain, our sin offering, our surety, our substitute, our representative, our near kinsman. No wonder when he took the book, **the four living creatures and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps and golden bowls full of odors, which are the prayers of the saints.** The prayers of the saints..., what prayers? The prayer that Christ told his disciples; **Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.** Let's fall at his feet crying, **my Lord and my God,** like they did.

For two thousand years. That prayer has been bottled up, sealed in heaven and never lost sight of. Now the day of answering that prayer has come. The Lord Jesus Christ, our kinsman redeemer, with the nail scars in his hands, his feet and side, now comes forth to take the kingdom by force, dethrone the usurper, and to answer those prayers. That's shouting ground! On their faces before him, the living creatures and the four and twenty elders begin to sing a new song. It is the song of redemption. Listen to it: **Thou art worthy to take the book and to open the seals thereof, for thou wast slain and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood, out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation, and has made us unto our God kings and priests, and we shall reign on the earth.** I want you to notice, their rejoicing is that redeemed men have been made a kingdom and priests and ought to reign upon the earth. It is the near-at-hand establishment, upon earth,

of the reign of God by means of these redeemed ones, that gives joy before the throne of God, that they have been redeemed by his precious blood. At last, God is setting his hand to interfere with the earthly sinful order of things by judgments, that the Christ and the saints shall reign on earth. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. The kingdom, at last has come and our Christ has taken over. Then look at that 11th verse: **And I beheld**, as I stood there in rapture and ecstatic joy, **and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the living creatures and the elders**. Now listen, listen. **And the number of them was 10,000 times 10,000**. That's 100 million, **and thousands of thousands**, which means millions by millions. And you multiply a million by a million, you get a trillion. Then broke forth a loud voice saying, **worthy is the lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessings**. My friend, I'm going to be there, are you? I'm going to be one of those trillions. You talk about heaven not being populated. It's going to be populated by the blood-washed sinners. Yes, sir, brother, I'm going to be there when that takes place, and see Christ step forth as the rightful ruler, the kinsman redeemer, to take over this earth, sit on the throne of David, rule this earth with a rod of iron, dethroning Satan and all of his fallen angels, demon spirits, and every man who will not obey him. That's the God I worship, the God who's redeemed me with his own precious blood, who keeps me by his power, leads me by his spirit, sustains me by his grace, and who will someday take me by force out of this world when he comes back for his own. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! **The Lord God omnipotent reigneth!** What a dear kinsman who has fought to reign, who's prevailed, who's overcome, who's conquered for us! My friends, may God help us. You may laugh at him here, but you'll bow to him yonder. You may reject him here, but you'll be forced to bow your knees to him as king of kings and lord of lords. I would that you knew him. I would that you were his child. I would that you knew him by blood redemption now, as your kinsman redeemer, as your surety, as your substitute, as your sin offering. I do, and I praise God that he saved me. He's mine, and I'm his. One day he fell in love with me. One day he made me alive. One day he forgave me. One day he made me his child. I'll never cease thanking God for it. Praise him from whom all blessings flow. Praise God for the kinsman redeemer. Praise God for the one who will break and bring to pass the title deed of our inheritance.