

Revelation 5 – Investiture

By Holly Effiom

VV 1-4

What is it that John sees in the hand of God, the Father?

Do we know what is in the book?

What question does the angel pose? Why is this question being asked?

Was there anyone worthy to take the book? Isa 63:5

Why did John start to cry? Why would this be something to cry about?

LESSON: When looking at Genesis 1 creation, notice that all animal life was created on days 5 and 6, and yet dominion was given to the last created, man. When looking at the “living creatures” or “beasts” in prior Throne visions, all creatures from days 5 and 6 are represented in the Throne of God, except for the dominant mankind was absent. Perhaps this was the reason John was so disappointed – no one from among man who was made in the very image and likeness of God Almighty was worthy to take dominion in the earth. Just the thought of this makes me weep, even now – for man to be given everything in the whole earth, including dominion, and to come to a point that NO ONE, no LEADER, could step up to represent his/her kind before God. That’s a sad statement!

Thank God for Isaiah 63:5! “And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore, mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me.”

VV 5-7

Who was it that comforted John?

What was said to allay John’s fears?

Who is the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David? (How can David’s son be his root? Mat 22:44-45; Ps 110:1)

What do the horns mean? Why is it good to have “horns” here?

What do the eyes mean?

Who is it that took the book from the right hand of God, the Father?

How is this vision a fulfillment of Isa 63:5?

How is it similar to Isaiah’s (Isa 6) or Ezekiel’s first vision of the throne (Eze 1-2:3)?

How is this vision related to Daniel’s vision of the throne?

LESSON: Isaiah’s and Ezekiel’s Throne visions were related to God commissioning them for service – to perform a work on His behalf. Daniel’s Throne vision was different (Dan 7:9-10). Daniel was bearing witness to an event that was taking place before the Throne of God, and in this, John’s vision is similar.

Comparing this section of scripture with Daniel 7:13-14, we understand what John calls the “Book with 7 seals” that were to be broken is tantamount to dominion over the earth in Daniel. We understand that what was in the hands of the Ancient of Days in Daniel and being given to a “Son of Man” – a human being – needed to be *taken* from the right hand of Him who sat on the Throne. And we understand that taking the book from the right had of Him who sat on the Throne meant accepting the glory, power and position, as well as the responsibility for, the kingdom and each and every person and creature in that kingdom for *eternity*.

VV 8-10

What happened as soon as the book was transferred to Christ Jesus (the Son of man in Daniel’s vision)?

Why would the 24 elders bow before Christ Jesus?

What were these elders holding? Why is it significant that these “elders” are bearing the prayers of the saints?

What song were they singing? Why a different song? What was being sung before?

Was it only the 24 elders singing this song?

Why would the living creatures also be bowing and singing this song?

Was the One seated on the Throne registering a complaint all the bowing, worshipping, and singing to the Lamb, Jesus?

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Why is it significant that the 4 living creatures are bowing and singing to Jesus?

LESSON: In the prior scriptural section, we noted that the 4 beasts in the Throne of God represented all the animal life created in the earth on days 5 and 6 of creation. If this is indeed the significance of the creatures in the Throne, then what we are seeing in verses 8-10 is the One to Whom dominion was given – their Leader – stepping up and *taking* dominion. Hallelujah! This Leader has proven Himself worthy. This Leader isn't interested in just the title and glory, this Leader is committing to taking on ALL the responsibility for each and every creature in the earth! And, because this Leader has been so faithful, His kingdom will have no end. Hallelujah!!!

So, how is this song different than the song sung in Rev 4?

VV 11-14

Which other prophet saw the 10,000 times 10,000, and thousands of thousands of angels singing, along with the beasts and elders?

What was the song that was being sung?

To whom was the song being sung?

Was only the earth rejoicing in the Lamb that was slain?

What was the song that the earth sang?

What is the significance of the 4 beasts saying "Amen"?

What is the significance of the 24 elders bowing and worshipping Him that "...liveth forever and ever."?

What is it that John is seeing? What is it that we are supposed to take away from this scene?

LESSON: I call these chapters of Revelation the "Investiture Ceremony". Chapter 4 opens with John seeing the "...One who sat on the throne" – Daniel called Him the Ancient of Days – and all who resided in the throne, and what they were doing there. There were many similarities at various points between John's vision and that of other prophets studied in this section, but the context of the visitation was different. John's vision is most closely associated with Daniel's vision because God graced Daniel to see the future, all the way through to the judgment. I propose that this was due to the yearning and prayer of Daniel.

Daniel saw the future, standing some distance from the action – an *overview*. John is being given the opportunity to get into the weeds; the reason, plainly stated by Jesus – He wants His churches to know and understand what has happened, what is happening, and what is going to happen. He wants them to understand the place of angels and their own place – the church's place – in the plan of God for the earth. Everything in this plan begins and ends with Christ Jesus – what had happened to Him and what it meant to God, and for the earth; what is happening now and how it effects the heavens and the earth; and what is going to happen in both heaven and earth.

In chapter 5, John is witness to Jesus' investiture not merely into the Godhead – He was already in the Godhead because of Who His Father is – but also, into His position as King and Lord over all the earth. This is what Jesus is referring to in Revelation 3:21. Not only does He reside in His Father's Throne, but He also has His OWN Throne! Therefore, the glorification, the honoring, and outright worship of Jesus is right and it is good! This was the Father's plan! You don't hear God quibbling about all the worship and praise directed at Jesus in this section or in any section of scripture, such that all the creatures in the heaven, joined by all those in and under the earth, who were created to glorify Him who is seated on the throne, by the end of chapter 5, are now including the "Lamb that was slain" in the praise and glorification. The 4 beasts that have been in the Throne forever even said "Amen"! Hallelujah!!!

If anyone dares to even think to say Jesus should not be worshipped and praised, you bring them to this section of scripture and say, "He is worthy!" I get so angry over people who say Jesus is NOT God. Those are people who have NOT read the Bible; they read only the scriptures that agree with their screwed-up religiosity!

When do you think this ceremony took place? I propose that it was sometime after Daniel 7 and before Revelation 1, and much closer to Revelation 1. In Revelation 4, we see the 24 elders in the throne, which

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was not possible before the death of Christ Jesus; but more importantly, it is in Revelation 1 that Jesus refers to Himself as the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last; He that liveth and was dead; alive forever more. Amen! I believe that Jesus said this because it was a fait accompli. A completed and established fact – He held the keys to hell and death. He had taken dominion in the earth. That is why He speaks to the Church with such authority, because He IS the authority. Hallelujah!

Before I get too excited, let's go back to Daniel 7:13. "...And they brought him near before him." I had asked during that study, who are "they"? Now, that we've studied Revelation 5, we learn that that "they" are the representation of all animal life created on the 5th and 6th days, including the elders, descendants of the first Adam – the saints.

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