

THE HEAVENLY VISION (Part 2)

Revelation 4, 5

Hatred is consuming our nation! Whether it be a synagogue in Pittsburg, or a bar and grill in Thousand Oaks, California, *where 12 innocent lives were taken last week*, hatred has become a plague in our land! Out of 313 (314 – Sunday) days this year there have been 307 mass shootings. Last week, in the mid-term elections, many voted for change, only to awake Wednesday morning to discover nothing has; the *vitriolic hatred* between political parties continues. Thus, people are left wondering, when will the hatred stop! Anxiety and depression have gripped our nation! **“Anxiety disorders are the most common mental illness in the U.S., affecting 40 million adults in the United States age 18 and older, or 18.1% of the population every year.”** (Anxiety and Depression Association of America)

America is *spiritually* sick! But there’s good news! (Exodus 15:26) **“For I am the Lord who heals you.”** In our text, John sees a vision of eternal hope, found not through mankind’s labor, but in the Lamb! (v.1-4) Many scholars believe that the scroll mentioned here is the *scroll* referred to in Daniel’s prophecy: (Daniel 12:8,9) **Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, “My lord, what shall be the end of these things?” And he said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.”** *This scroll is the literal unveiling of God’s irrevocable judgment, which will be poured out upon the earth after the rapture of the church!*

A **“loud voice”** - a phrase that is found 20 times in the Book of Revelation. The question asked here is one which many are asking today: **“Who is worthy?”** *Who can deliver us from our dilemma, the hatred, greed and violence, and heal our spiritually bankrupted condition?* As with many today, not only in America, but around the world, John is burdened with a sense of hopelessness, because no one (including himself), was found worthy to open the scroll, or even look at it! The scroll represents God’s just judgment and

deliverance for mankind! Seven seals sealed the scroll; the Hebrew number seven symbolizes holiness, completion. Thus, only one who is holy, without blemish (sinless), would be worthy enough to open the scroll. **NO MAN/WOMAN COULD BE FOUND!** (Romans 3:23) “...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

(v.5) In the midst of John’s despair one of the *twenty-four* elders declare, “**Do not weep!**” Because our “Lion,” is *also* the “Lamb!” This elder’s message is *indicative* of the mission and message of the church! Christ is the only real hope for the world; therefore, “We preach Christ!” *not* a *political, ecological, economical, sociological* message, but Christ alone! (1 Corinthians 1:22-24) For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

The Lion was *willing* to become a **Lamb!** (Romans 5:8) But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He is the “root of David” – He was *before* king David – the “root system” which supports our salvation! The “root of David” is a title given only to the promised Messiah (*Savior of the world*). He is *also* the Lion – Lion of the tribe of Judah – the king of all beasts. The focus here is on the *Lion* and not His *lineage*. Our boast should not be in our lineage, whether Jew or Gentile, but in Christ alone! In Genesis 49:8-12 Jacob prophesied that the “seed” (singular) of his son Judah would hold the “scepter” (rod of authority) and become the king of all the tribes of Israel and rule the world. Jacob wasn’t speaking of Judah (his son), but Christ, the Savior of the world!

If anything, Judah, *Jacob’s son*, serves as a reminder of how God, despite mankind’s foolishness has brought forth a living hope! Genesis 38 – Judah and Tamar give birth to twins Perez/Zerah. If men had authored the Bible, they would have covered this up! But only God can use our mess ups (our ashes) and *create* something beautiful! (Ruth 4:18-22) Now this is the genealogy of Perez: Perez begot Hezron, Hezron begot Ram, and Ram begot Amminadab; Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon; Salmon begot Boaz, and Boaz begot Obed; Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David. Today, we can say to the world, **Don’t weep!** Christ has *prevailed*, where mankind has *failed!* Place your trust in Him! (v.6,7).

John sees Christ in the *midst* of this heavenly vision, appearing as a Lamb, as though it had been slain! The result of His first coming, as our *atoning sacrificial Lamb!* (Hebrews 9:11, 12) But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

Our “marred” redeemer stands as testament to our eternal security. The Lamb is seen here with seven horns (remember – “seven” denotes, *fullness, completeness*) – horns in scripture represent authority! Thus, the “horns” here represent perfect authority and imperial power (Zechariah 1:18,19), by virtue of His *sacrificial death*. The seven eyes – “*seven Spirits of God*” – represent the perfect work of the Holy Spirit, whom Christ sent into the world to *convict men of sin, righteousness and judgment, but also to be a HELPER to all who place their faith in Christ!* John 16:7-11.

(v.7) From the midst of the throne, *God’s glory*, there appears a right-hand; the *Lamb* steps forth and takes the scroll from God’s right-hand, which represents the “hand” of His divine favor, and approval!

(v.8-10) Here we see the only proper *response* to the Lamb! Not only for the believer, *but all of mankind*, as well! (Romans 14:11-13) For it is written: “As I live, says the Lord, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.” So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.

Notice: they fall before the Lord in an *attitude* of **praise** (harps), and **prayer** (golden bowls); altar of incense in the temple. They sang a “new song” – the *song* of the redeemed; not that same old, sad song of *hopelessness* and *despair*, but a new song, composed by the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ – a song of eternal redemption from the wages of sin! (Romans 6:23) For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. *It’s a song for every tribe, tongue, people, and nation!* A song

which is *neither white or black, liberal or conservative, rich or poor; boundless; reaching to the uttermost and the gutter-most!* (Hebrews 7:25) Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

(v.10) Christ has delivered us from “death row” and declares us “priests” and “kings,” **not** for ourselves, but **to** the glory of our God! **(v.11, 12)** There will be no quiet worship services in heaven! **(v.12)** Notice: What the Lamb has received, mankind desperately needs! Finally, all of creation joins the *chorus* of eternal hope! **(v.13, 14).**

CONCLUSION: (CNN) Story 69-year-old Dutchman (Netherlands) who launched a legal bid to change his age, whereby he could legally declare himself 20 years younger; his primary motivation was that it would improve his chances with women on dating sites. His rationale: “*You can change your name. You can change your gender. Why not your age?*” We can change our age, gender, spouses, careers, etc., but only Christ can change our eternal destination! (John 5:24-25) “**Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.**” **Only the Lamb (Christ) can heal mankind’s sick condition, because only Christ can make us clean! - VIDEO.**