

Revelation 5.1-14

"Slain Lamb Standing"

2013 – 6 Days In > 359 DAYS More in this Year > Questions? Unknowns?

WHAT will HAPPEN to US? Families? Friends? Job? School? Nation? Church?

Will the END DATE on OUR TOMBSTONE be 2013?

Questions & UNCERTAINTIES – 1 Reason God's Book Ends with Revelation
ONLY Book in 66 Books of Bible that PROMISES BLESSING to the READER

Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near. 1.3

Book many Christians NEVER Read – AFRAID of It – CONFUSED by It

2 Seminarians went to Play Basketball in Nearby Gym – Janitor Reading Bible

They asked "What are you READING?" He answered "Book of Revelation"

They PLAYED & PITIED Old Janitor – "How could he get anything from Rev?"

AFTER the Game > Asked OLD Janitor – "Do you Understand Revelation?"

SURE – It's SIMPLE! > JESUS WINS!

REV. Not a PUZZLE Book but a PICTURE Book > Picture of A PERSON

1:1 The revelation of Jesus Christ – NOT RevelationS / Singular > SEE Him

Chs. 2 & 3 – Exalted Jesus speaks to 7 1st C churches in Asia Minor

See NO REASON to IDEALIZE 1st C church – No Better than 21st C church

Hypocrisy – Immorality – Bad Theology – Corrupt Leaders in Early Church

Chs. 4 & 5 – Scene Change > Earth – Church & Troubles to HEAVEN Itself

DOOR OPEN - See into Throne Room of Sovereign God

Revelation of Jesus Christ

Risen from Death, Residing in Church, Ruling the World, Returning in Glory

1. Problems in the World

Many FEEL HOPELESS & HELPLESS, Victims of Forces Beyond their Control

Lived 8 yrs in Uganda during the 1980's – thru 4 Coups – 20 Rebel ARMIES
 Helpless Citizens said “When the Elephants FIGHT, the GRASS Suffers!”
 Apostle John – Exiled Prisoner on Isle of Patmos – Powerless before Rome

a. No Direction > Truth? Purpose of Life? Is there ANY Meaning?

APOSTLE JOHN sees NO ANSWER FROM HEAVEN > v. 1 “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.*”

SCROLL - DESTINY OF THE WORLD - GOD'S COMPLETE PLAN

Normally Scrolls written only on Inside > Fullness of God's Purposes

“All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”
 Psalm 139.16

Seven Seals > God's Plan is Bound SHUT, Unknown, Unknowable

“When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?” Psalm 11.3

GOD'S MARTYRS wait for His Purpose to Unfold: "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"
 Revelation 6.10

b. No Leaders > Going NOWHERE > NO ONE to TAKE US There!

vs. 2,3 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it.

NOT asking Who's WILLING > Long Line of Political LEADERS to Volunteer
 Thru All Centuries, From All Continents > from Alexander to Barrack

GLOBAL ANNOUNCEMENT > Eager Search for ANYONE WORTHY

But No Angel in Heaven > No Saint on Earth > No Prophet in the World Beyond

Not lack of Physical Strength but Moral Incompetence > Consequence of Sin

"There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." Romans 3.10-12

Everyone has DIRTY LITTLE SECRETS > Skeletons Hidden in their Closets

c. No Hope > Yearn for PEACE > LIVES FILLED WITH TURMOIL

v. 4 "I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside."

TEARS > World has NO PURPOSE - NO FUTURE - OUT OF CONTROL

"you were separate from Christ...without hope and without God in the world"
Ephesians 2.12

"If the scroll is not opened, then no protection for God's children in the hours of bitter trial; no judgments upon the persecuting world; no ultimate triumph for believers; no new heaven and earth; no future inheritance!" William Hendriksen

2. Purpose found in Christ

God's Purpose NOT Defined by Narrow Parameters of our Plans & Purposes

We LOOK at this TROUBLED World thru LENS of VICTORY of Christ

v. 5 "Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep!"

1 ALONE Gives = Right DIRECTION – True LEADERSHIP – SOLID HOPE

ONLY ONE CAN STOP TEARS OF DESPERATION

Stop Weeping > Look to Incarnate Son > Now Enthroned in Glory > Overcome

a. Crown v. 5 "See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah"

Abe's Grandson Jacob's Blessed 4th Son Judah: "You are a lion's cub, O Judah...The scepter will not depart from Judah...until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his." Genesis 49.9,10

Promise FULFILLED in Mary's Son > Angel told her: "You will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David...his kingdom will never end." Luke 1.31-33

Jesus Christ is FOCAL POINT of Human History > All Time ordered by Him
All is 'B.C' Before Him, Now 2013 'A.D.' Anno Dominis 'the year of our Lord'

Some Modern HISTORIANS Cannot Understand > Explain > or even Admit
CHRIST is TURNING POINT of the Human Story > He Opens God's Scroll
"He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." Colossians 1.17

b. Creator v. 5 "...the Root of David..." Son of God and Son of David

Root of David > After David & Before him > Pre-existence Eternal Son of God

"A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse" Isaiah 11.1

True King of line of David Comes > Judge with Righteousness > Era of Peace

Through Incarnation > Root of David becomes the Lion of Judah

v. 6 "He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth."

John NOT Giving POLICE ARTIST SKETCH – Dude with Crazy Sun Glasses!
NOT a PUZZLE to DISSECT but PORTRAIT that leads us to DEVOTION
GLORIOUS, SYMBOLIC, PORTRAIT of God in His BLAZING GLORY

7 Horns > Horn = Power > 7 Horns > Total Power > Omnipotent Lamb
INTERPRET Scripture by Scripture – Nothing NEW in Revelation – Echo of 65!

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" Matthew 28.18

7 Eyes > Divine Omniscience: nothing hid from him > He Sees and Knows All
Each of 7 Letters to Churches in chapters 2 and 3: Jesus said 'I know ...'

Penetrating Gaze of Him whose Eyes are like a Flame of Fire

7 Spirits of God > Fullness of Spirit of God Himself > "in midst of throne"
Not PHOTOGRAPH of Heaven > Symbolic description of God's Sovereignty

c. Crucified v. 6 “Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain”

WHAT A SHOCK! > Instead of Roaring Lion, John sees a Wounded Lamb!

Jews were SHOCKED that God sent Lion of Judah to be Lamb of God

Death of Lamb > Heart of Jewish Identity > People of the Passover in Egypt

Jesus is New Passover Lamb > Leads the True Exodus of God’s People

“Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.” 1 Corinthians 5.7

As Jesus HUNG NAKED He STRIPPED SATAN BARE

Paradox of GOSPEL > thru DEATH He WINS LIFE for ALL who Trust in Him

Center of Celestial Scene > not a Lion, but a Lamb! Lamb w/ 7 Horns – 7 Eyes

Bearing Wounds of Sacrificial Suffering - Standing Ready for Action.

Central theme of NT > Victory through Sacrifice > The Lion is the Lamb

The SLAIN LAMB is NOW STANDING

v. 5 “He is *able to open the scroll* and its seven seals.”

v. 9 And they sang a new song: “You are *worthy to take the scroll and to open* its seals, because you were slain”

New Mercy calls forth a New Song of Gratitude and Praise

New Song NOT never before Sung > New Version of Existing Truth

Deliverance Not from Egypt > but from Kingdom of Death and Darkness

Opening of Scroll > Disclosure of God’s Purpose > is Cross of Jesus

Blood of God’s Passover Lamb > Sets His People ETERNALLY FREE

Americans Proud of their EAGLE > British their LION > Russians their BEAR

GLOBAL NETIZENS have their APPLES!

Symbol of GOD’S KINGDOM > LAMB > Slain Lamb > 29 x’s in Book

Jesus, the Messiah, is God > in a Distressing Disguise—a Crucified God!

3. Power of the Cross

a. Cost v. 9 “with your blood you purchased men for God”

“the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect” 1 Peter 1.19

INCALCULABLE PRICE OF THE BLOOD OF THE SON OF GOD

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.”
2 Corinthians 8.9

“A Christian is a person amazed that he is forgiven” Martin Lloyd-Jones

b. Goal > He DIED for us, Now we must LIVE for Him

vs. 9,10 “you purchased men *for God*...to be a kingdom and priests to *serve our God*”

Corporately: Believers are a Kingdom > Individually: They are Priests to God
God’s Kingdom & his Priests > Restored & Fulfilled Covenant Community

“He has freed us from our sins by the shedding of his blood for us. He has made us his kingdom and his priests”
Revelation 1.5,6

“You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”
1 Corinthians 6.19,20

Young Man > Died in Missionary Service before the age of 30:

“As long as I see anything to be done for God, life is worth having; but O how vain and unworthy it is to live for any lower end!”
David Brainerd

WE HAVE APPOINTMENT WITH OUR BELOVED LAMB

“Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)”
Revelation 19.7,8

BY GOD’S GRACE > MAY WE HAVE SOMETHING FITTING TO WEAR!

c. Extent > the Invitation is Extended FAR and WIDE around the Globe

v. 9 “with your blood you purchased men for God from *every tribe and language and people and nation*”

NOT Die to OFFER Salvation > Died to ACCOMPLISH It for CHOSEN People
People CHOSEN from OUT of Every NATION – GLOBAL Church of Jesus

Jesus Fulfills Covenant Promise to Abraham: “all peoples on earth will be blessed through you” Genesis 12.3

Global Redemption >

Men, Women, boys and girls from Every Tribe, Tongue, People and Nation

Universal Church: No National, Political, Cultural, or Racial Boundaries

“For those who think Jesus is a ‘white man’s god’ or a ‘western god’...one day their voices will be drowned out by the universal praise of the universe’ Lord and King. Heaven’s courts will ring with united, universal praise! There will not even be a shadow of racial prejudice, division, or even tension. Today it is a joy as well as a responsibility to reflect the praise that one day will resound throughout the universe by maintaining the unity within the multinational, multicultural, multiracial body of Christ.” Anne Graham Lotz

Some have used Doctrine of God’s Sovereignty as Excuse NOT to Serve Him

APOSTLE JOHN > Opposite Reaction > Sees Dramatic Evidence of God’s Plan

Gets NEW ZEAL to SERVE and even SUFFER: “I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus” Revelation 1.9

Like Isaiah saw THRICE Holy God – High & Lifted Up > “Here am I, send me!”

God’s Sovereignty > SUPREME ENCOURAGEMENT to Serve Him

Hopeless task if Depended on Man / Dead in Sin / Cannot come, Will Not Come

CONFIDENCE IN GOD WHO CAN RAISE THE DEAD

Jesus: “I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.” John 5.25

4. Praise from the World

a. Preeminence “in everything he might have the supremacy” Colossians 1.18

v. 6 “Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, *standing in the center of the throne*, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders.”

THRONE IS CENTER OF HEAVEN - OF ALL UNIVERSE

Everything / Everyone - take their place around throne / BOWING DOWN

Mighty Lion - Massive Ox - Magnificent Man - Majestic Eagle

Are YOU there? Is this SLAIN LAMB Standing in CENTER of Your Life?

If JESUS CHRIST is NOT LORD OF All – He will NOT BE LORD AT ALL!

“For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.”

Romans 11.36

b. Prayers Golden bowls filled with Incense > Prayers of God’s People

v. 8 “Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.”

"Aaron must burn fragrant incense on the altar every morning...again at twilight so incense will burn regularly before the LORD for the generations to come.”

Exodus 30.7,8

During Incense Offering in Temple > People were Outside Praying

“Zechariah...was on duty...as priest before God...to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.”

Luke 1.8-10

Impt Prayer of Jews > Deliverance from Bondage & Restoration of Kingdom

NEW Song > in the Lamb > Prayers have been Answered > Fully and Finally

Zechariah’s Son > John the Baptist announced: "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

John 1.29

God’s People DESPISED on Earth > their PRAYERS in Very Presence of God

People > Even Believers, DOUBT Purpose of Prayer > Carried in Golden Bowls

Much of 20th C > Believers Prayed for those Behind man-made ‘Iron Curtain’

God heard PRAYERS > from BOTH sides of that Curtain of Atheism

Today we from Whole WORLD > WORSHIP Jesus in Land of ATHEISM

PRAY in 21st Cent > man-made ‘Iron Curtain’ of ISLAM would SOON FALL

c. Praise > HEAVEN’S ELECTORAL MANDATE

vs. 11-14 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

“...one of greatest scenes of universal adoration recorded..in all literature”

Robert H. Mounce

Corrie ten Boom > DUTCH Christian Woman > in Nazi Concentration Camp
For Protecting Jews during World War 2 > Came out Alive to Testify for Jesus
Spoke all Around World > Many PRAISED HER > for Life of Valiant Courage
Took Each Compliment like FLOWER > End of Day gave BOUQUET to God

Adoration of the Lamb > Moves out in Ever Widening Circles

Worship of God the Creator AND Worship of the Lamb the Redeemer

v. 11 “thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand”

100,000,000,000,000 (10,000 x 10,000 x 1,000 x 1,000) INFINITE NUMBER!!

“Absolutely Incomprehensible # for 1st C Reader” > or this 21st C Reader!

Praise of Entire Created Order to the One who Sits on the Throne and the Lamb

Praise & Worship by Every Created Being > Harmony of the Redeemed

God the Creator of all, and to the Lamb > Incarnate Son of God and Redeemer
 Sharing the Same PRAISE > BECAUSE they Share Same NATURE
 POWER, WEALTH, WISDOM, STRENGTH, HONOR, GLORY, PRAISE

Concludes with Amen > All of Creation: “So Shall it Be!”

“Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.” Psalm 150.6

God EXTENDS a Choice to YOU Today whether to Believe in Him as Savior
 Even tho There is ONLY ONE WAY to Meet God you can REJECT Gospel
 You can IGNORE this Good News and REJECT this Great LOVE of Jesus

But I warn you as Minister of Gospel > You will have NO CHOICE
 Whether you WANT to Acknowledge Jesus Christ as LORD > You WILL do So
 Every Knee will BOW & Every Tongue Confess Jesus is Lord to Glory of Father
 Some will make that Confession only to be THROWN into Hell for Eternity

Come to THIS SLAIN LAMB who STANDS for you NOW as Merciful Savior
 Better to FIND his SAVING Grace Now than to Face ‘the Wrath of the Lamb’
 Don’t Wait only to Find this Slain Lamb Standing as your JUDGE to Condemn

In 2013 I urge you to join YOUR VOICE to the CHORUS of His Praise:

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom
 and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

Revelation 5

1 Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” 3 And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, 4 and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. 5 And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.” 6 And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. 8 And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, 10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.” 11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” 13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” 14 And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.