



Empowering People to Change the World

The Title Deed of the Earth

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The Title Deed of the Earth

We are entering Revelation 5

Introduction:

- Revelation is a chronological book. We have studied the “things that are” and the church age in chapters 2 and 3 and are now looking into the future.
- Remember our context, John has been taken up into heaven.
- He see’s Jesus on the throne: A blood red hue with a rainbow, surrounded by a sea of glass and the angels are worshipping constantly “day and night.”
- Remember John is a time traveler, and he is seeing what will take place in the last days...he is seeing the future and it just might be our day.
- I believe we will be in this scene...we will be in heaven during this time.
- And now we come to a scroll that is in God’s right hand.
- It was law during this time as to how a scroll should be sealed.

Vs. 1

And I saw in the right *hand* of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

- This was typical of various kinds of contracts in the ancient world.
 - Including deeds, marriage contracts, rental and lease agreements.
 - The inside of the scroll contained all the details of the contract.
 - The outside or back contained a summary of the contents.
 - This is the: **The Title Deed of the Earth.**
- Romans sealed their documents with 7 seals—on the edge at each roll—to prevent unauthorized entry.

- This is the inheritance of God.
- Appointed by God to now be opened.
- Hebrew title deeds required a minimum of 3 witnesses and 3 separate seals, with more important documents requiring more witnesses.
- This is obviously the Title Deed of the Earth.
 - God is ramping up his “heavenly war machine” of angels that are about to bring judgment upon the earth.
 - Remember Rev. 4:5 **And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices.**
 - **God measures time morally.**
 - God’s promise to Abram of a day coming that would be measured morally.
 - Genesis 15:16 - But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."
 - God has a timing based on immorality—he gives opportunity to repent and then He unleashes judgment.
 - Moab, a mighty nation, had three years to repent and did not. Because of their child sacrifices and pride, Isaiah prophesied: ***But now the Lord has spoken, saying, “Within three years, as the years of a hired man, the glory of Moab will be despised with all that great multitude, and the remnant will be very small and feeble.”***
 - God has a time for his wrath on people, nations, and now the earth...God gives a nation time to repent and if they don’t He eventually releases His wrath and judgment.

- The time is coming for the earth—when the murder of the innocents, sexual immorality, the sex trade, slavery has reached the POINT of NO RETURN.
- God has the title deed of the earth.
- God is the creator of the earth, this earth is His!!
- Romans 1 says that “God will give (a nation) over to its uncleanness, vile passions, and a debased mind.” (Romans 1:24~28)
- In Jeremiah 32 we see Jeremiah being told to purchase land from his uncle even though the Babylonians are ruling over Israel...God saw the land as His, and that the Babylonians are only “usurpers.”
- There is a “usurper” on the earth now, Satan.
 - The god of this world is just a “squatter.”
 - Someday Satan will give his power to the Antichrist, but he is only a “usurper.”
 - World leaders are always willing to take the place of God on the earth, to take the Title Deed: Rome was willing, Genghis Khan was willing, Stalin and Hitler were willing, Pol Pot was willing, ISIS is now willing to bring a worldwide Caliphate, but this is the Lord’s earth.
 - You and I have two addresses: The Earth and Heaven. Jesus said a time is coming when the “the ruler of this world will be judged.”
- Don’t invest all of your time and energy into this world, for God has a plan for its destruction:
 - 1 Corinthians 7:3 - “the form of this world is passing away.”
 - 1 John 2:17 - “And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

“Seek first the kingdom of God.”

Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?” 3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.

- I love John’s commentary here: A Strong Angel!
- The identity of the angel is uncertain, but I have wondered if this might not be Gabriel, which means “strength of God.”
- “Who is worthy?” In ancient times only the recipient of a document would be allowed to open it.
- It was a kind of “certified delivery” system.
- You and I are not worthy!! You never will be worthy!! If you struggle with your worthiness, then you are exactly where God wants you to be...you will never be worthy...you are never going to be good enough.
- You are not worthy in and of yourself, but in Christ, you are worthy.
- The temptation is to think you are worthy:
 - Satan said to Eve, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." NKJV
 - The first and continued lie upon the human heart is that we can be “like gods” and that we can control our own destiny.
 - This is why Satan fell.
- He was cast down to the earth...but this is his primary temptation to us today.
- Anton LaVey, the head of the “Satanists Church of America” defines a Satanist this way, “One must be as a Satanist knowing his own human potential. And herein is one of the essential points of Satanism. He must attain to his own godhead in accordance with his own human potential. Therefore each man or woman is a god or gods in Satanism.”

- So, nothing has really changed. Satan has been promoting from the beginning that man can be a god.
- New Age movement promotes...you are a god.
- Buddhism promotes, Taoism promotes...you can reach your full potential and become a kind of god.
- **Paul warned that in the last days, “doctrines of demons” would even fill the church. (1 Timothy 4:1)**
- Jesus in you makes you worthy! But not you, but Jesus! In Christ you can do all things! In Christ you are a new creation! In Christ you can walk—not in self confidence but in God confidence.
- No confusion in heaven!!
- There is only One worthy...silence! No one is found worthy...No other like God.
- We must understand this...there is a stark contrast here.
- Jesus is the only One worthy to open the plans, the design for the Title Deed of the Earth.

Vs. 4

So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. 5 But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose[b] its seven seals.”

- No angels or any principalities or humans were allowed to open the Title Deed of the Earth.
- No one is worthy...and John weeps over this...NO ONE!
- This is the Title Deed of the Earth and this Title Deed, it would seem, this deed has the date for the end of the earth’s present existence.

- For the Believer this is good news, for there is a “new heaven and a new earth” coming and we will reign on this new earth...we will study this in Rev 21 and 22.
- There is only One worthy to open the Title Deed, only One Who has completed the will of God for mankind, and that is the One known as:
- **The Lion of Judah.**
 - One of the earliest titles given to the Messiah.
 - Genesis 49:8-10 -
"Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise;
Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies;
Your father's children shall bow down before you.
Judah is a lion's whelp;
From the prey, my son, you have gone up.
He bows down, he lies down as a lion;
And as a lion, who shall rouse him?
The scepter shall not depart from Judah,
Nor a lawgiver from between his feet,
Until Shiloh comes;
And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.
 - It speaks of His fierceness and strength, which was only glimpsed at his first coming, probably when he dealt with the money changers in the Temple.
 - But will appear in its fullness in His Second Coming!
- **The Root of David.**
 - Another Messianic title.
 - Isaiah 11:1 - There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,
And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.
 - Jesus was of the line of David.
 - David was a warrior king who pushed back the enemies of God with devastating effectiveness.

- Jesus Christ has been described 24 different ways up to this point in our study in Revelation.

And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

- The identity of the One who is seated on the throne is given.
- This is a picture of Passover Lamb.
- 28 times in the book of Revelation, Jesus describes Himself as the “lamb of God” It is His favorite title.
 - The God who is the Omnipotent One, Almighty One, calls Himself “the lamb.”
 - Jesus most identifies with being the Passover Lamb who has taken our sins away.
 - John the Baptist once said, “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.”
- God required the Jews to bring the Passover Lamb into their homes for 4 days before it was slain.
- Isaiah 53:7 -
He was oppressed and He was afflicted,
Yet He opened not His mouth;
He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,
And as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
So He opened not His mouth.
- The scars of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross are still visible.
- Seven horns.
 - Horns in scripture always symbolize power and authority.

- This speaks of His perfect power to exert and inflict wounds up evil.
- The seven eyes and seven spirits speak of the perfect knowledge and sovereignty of Jesus.

Conclusion:

- If Christ has not been slain for the sins of the world:
 - There would be no purpose for Adam and Eve,
 - No purpose for the human race,
 - No purpose for the history of Israel and,
 - No purpose for our lives.
- At the Center of everything is a means for the redemption and forgiveness of sins, because no one is found worthy.
- A Lamb was slaughtered for our sins...this is the center of human history.
- Nothing else makes sense.
- At the center of reality, of time and existence, is a Lamb, Jesus Christ, with the marks of slaughter.
- The first glimpse of Him is not the Good Shepherd, the crowns and glory and majesty.
- The first thing will be a Lamb with the marks of slaughter.
- This is the center of everything!!
- This is the center of your marriage, your singleness, your job.
- None of us are worthy. In the midst of our lives, is a Lamb who has been slain.
- He takes the Title Deed from the usurper and you are not worthy!

- Have you given your heart and life to the Lamb of God?
- Have you been forgiven of your sin?
- Have you met the One with complete wisdom, complete power, complete.
- **One writer says, “This is the most amazing closing of escrow in all of history.”**
- Don’t build your theology around healing, or power, or anything but Christ crucified! This is at the center! That is the theology of the Holy Spirit.
- Keep Him central in:
 - Your marriage.
 - When you’re driving your car.
 - In your child raising.
 - Your TV watching.

At the center of universe is Jesus!! Even in the ages to come, He will still be revealing His mercy to us...even trillions of years later, we will still see the marks of his slaughter as even more astounding.