

“From Every Tribe, Tongue, and People, and Nation”

Revelation 4 and 5

“He Rules Over the Nations”

God’s promise to the nations began in Genesis 12 in His making of a covenant with Abraham (12:3, “In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed”). It was confirmed in Genesis 18:18 and promised continuation through his offspring (Gen 22:18). It was reiterated to Isaac in Genesis 26:4. Isaiah prophesied of a day wherein the nations will see the salvation of the Lord (Isaiah 52:10, 61:11). Jeremiah prophesied of a day wherein the nations will see the salvation of the Lord (Jeremiah 3:17). Zechariah also speaks of this day (Zechariah 14:16). The New Testament continues the theme of a global proclamation (Matthew 28:19, Luke 24:47), gathering (Mark 11:17), and celebration over the reign of God (Rev. 12:5, 15:4).

There are very few chapters in the Bible that pack the emotional punch contained in chapters 4 and 5 of the book of Revelation. Every time I read it, my heart sings with joy at the culmination of God’s work and the fulfillment of His will.

In chapter 4 we have a picture of our radiant Father and in chapter 5, a picture of His exalted Son.

I. The Light of the Father (4:1-6)

- A. He is praised because He is eternal (vv. 8-10).
- B. He is praised because He is all-powerful (v. 11).

All things created are for His glory, and He will receive the glory.

II. The Lion from the tribe of Judah (5:1-5)

- A. The question asked – “Who is worthy?” (vv. 1-4)
- B. The answer given – “The Lion has overcome!” (v. 5)

III. The Lamb who was slain (vv. 6-14)

- A. The nature of the Lamb’s work (vv. 6-10)
 - 1. The Lamb’s work was deliberate (v. 9).

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Listen carefully to Isaiah 53:10:

"But the LORD was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, and the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand."

God planned for Jesus Christ to die, and it was the Lord Himself who gave up His own life.

2. The Lamb's work was liberating (v. 9).

"The New Testament consistently declares that it cost the death of Jesus Christ to rescue man from the dilemma and the slavery into which sin had brought him" (Barclay, Revelation, 1:177).

My friend, when the "Son makes you free, you will be free indeed (John 8:36)."

3. The Lamb's work was all-encompassing (v. 9).

Christ intentionally offered Himself up as a liberating sacrifice for the sins of His people from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation. Let us not lose sight of this glorious vision.

4. The Lamb's work was effectual (v. 10).

What He has done is irrevocable and immutable. He will finish what He set out to do.

B. The nature of the Lamb's worship (vv. 11-14)

There is coming a day when every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father (Phil. 2).

*"When all is said and done and your life on earth is finished
and the dust settles over your lifeless carcass,
the only thing that will matter is the unadulterated, undiluted, and undistracted worship of Jesus Christ."*