

SS Revelation 5

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Today we'll finish looking at the time interval between the end of chapter three and the beginning of chapter 6. Chapters 4&5 are the time between the Rapture and the start of the Tribulation... which begins with chapter 6. Remember, Jesus told John to write in a book three things... the things which he had seen... the things which are... and the things which shall take place after this.

The things which he had seen was the glorified Lord Jesus Christ standing between 7 lamp stands with seven stars in His right hand.

The things which are... was the time of the Church ... seven letters to seven specific churches at the time which also signified a prophetic overview of **all of Church history from John's time until the Rapture**.

At the end of chapter 3, **we no longer see the Church again, throughout the Tribulation, until chapter 19** when the true Church accompanies Jesus as He returns to Earth at Armageddon.

Last time we began to look at the *'things which shall take place after this'*... after the time of the Church... after the Rapture... John looked and saw a door standing open in Heaven and he heard Jesus call to him, 'Come up here!' ... which was a type for the Rapture... then, in Heaven, John sees God the Father sitting on His throne, surrounded by the four living creatures and the 24 elders on thrones around God's throne.

We learned that the **Believers Judgment for Rewards** had just occurred, or was then occurring, because these 24 elders have bodies, they have crowns on their heads and they are sitting on thrones... **they have received their rewards**. They have passed through the fiery stream which proceeds from God's throne which will test the works of all believers... whether their works will be burned up or remain to gain eternal reward.

Now in chapter 5 John begins to tell us more of what he sees in the Throne Room of God... and God is getting ready to begin finishing His work with Israel and to begin His judgments upon the Earth.

Rev. 5 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. ² 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.

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 its seven seals."

⁶ 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.

⁸ Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying:

"You are worthy to take the scroll,

And to open its seals;

For You were slain,

And have redeemed us to God by Your blood

Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, (The Church... not Israel)

¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God;

And we shall reign on the earth."

¹¹ *Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,* ¹² *saying with a loud voice:*

*“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
To receive power and riches and wisdom,
And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”*

¹³ *And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying:*

*“Blessing and honor and glory and power
Be to Him who sits on the throne,
And to the Lamb, forever and ever!”*

¹⁴ *Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.*

God is holding a scroll in His hand which is written on both sides, rolled up and sealed with seven seals.

Then a large angel announces... actually advertising for one who is worthy to come and open the scroll and to break its seals... but no one in Heaven or on Earth... no human or angel is found to be worthy to break the seals and open the scroll.

What do you suppose this scroll is and what would make one worthy to open it?

And why would John weep when it appears that no one is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals... why would it be that important to him.

We are not told for sure what the scroll is but ... perhaps it is the title deed to the Earth itself.

Adam was given Dominion over the Earth by God ... he would rule and reign over all the Earth... was he given title deed?

Why was it so important to Satan to cause Adam and Eve to sin?

Had Satan lost the title deed?

Let's suppose something else. In Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 we have a picture of Lucifer's fall. God says to him, 'you were **on the holy Mountain of God** ...you walked **in the midst of the Stones of Fire**'... He goes on to say, 'I have cast you as profane **from the mountain of God** and **from the midst of the stones of Fire**'... Lucifer was **Cast down from somewhere to somewhere**... how do we know it was **down**? Then in Isaiah Lucifer says, 'I will **ascend** to Heaven... I will **raise** my throne **above** the stars of God I will sit on the mount of assembly... I will **ascend** above The Heights of the clouds I will make myself like the most high.'

He had a throne... he had a kingdom... it became dark... the kingdom of darkness... his kingdom was somewhere **down under heaven**... his Kingdom was perhaps on the Earth... remember in chapter 2, Jesus refers to Pergamos 'where Satan's throne is,' 'where Satan dwells'... perhaps his kingdom even encompassed our entire solar system ... our sun and the planets surrounding it.

He is called the god of this world.

When Lucifer sinned, perhaps his kingdom was destroyed by God... and title deed was removed from him...

Doesn't it strike you as strange that all the other planets in our solar system are all just dead rocks... why would God create dead rocks... a dead wasteland? That doesn't sound like the way God creates...

In Genesis 1:2, the earth is described as being without form and void and yet in Isaiah it says that God did not create the world void but he created it to be inhabited...

Isaiah 45:18... for thus says the Lord who created the heavens... He is God who formed the Earth and made it ... He established it; ***he did not create it a chaos, He formed it to be inhabited.*** I am the Lord and there is no other.
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The word in Genesis 1:2... 'and the Earth **was** without form and void'... that word 'was' in the Hebrew can mean '**became**'... as in... the Earth **became** without form and void... maybe that's what it is saying... that after Lucifer's kingdom was destroyed the earth **became without form and void**... God covered it with darkness and water. Perhaps that is why God gave the rainbow and His promise that He would never **again** destroy the earth with water because that wasn't the first time He had done it.

When Adam was created, he was given dominion over all the Earth.

When Adam and Eve sinned... title deed to the earth was taken from Adam and he was incapable of regaining it because of his sin. Then... every descendant after Adam was also incapable of regaining that title back because of sin.

Perhaps the reason it was so important for Satan to convince Eve and Adam to sin was that he believed the same thing would happen again... that God would destroy the earth and then the human race, that God would once again cover the Earth with darkness and water, destroying everything again.

Lucifer and his angels were condemned and rejected by God... there was no redemption. He expected the same to happen to man when he sinned.

Perhaps there is a parallel between how God has chosen to glorify Himself in and through angels and how He has chosen to glorify Himself in and through man.

With Angels... when they sinned there was no second chance... no Redemption... But with man God chose to glorify Himself through his plan of redemption... but that plan was kept hidden from the angels it was kept hidden from Lucifer... in fact Paul tells us in 1 Cor. 2 that if Lucifer, if demons, if the evil rulers of this World had known what the result would be they would never have crucified Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ would pay the price of redemption.

God kept secret His plan to have Jesus Christ crucified... as our kinsman Redeemer to pay the Redemption price ... not only for us ... His chosen children... but also for all creation... it was His plan from before the foundation of the world... remember... He is called the lamb of God, slain from the foundation of the world.

When Lucifer tempted Eve to sin he was falling right into God's plan to glorify Himself. When he induced the Jews and Romans to crucify Jesus Christ... he was once again falling right into God's secret, hidden plan to glorify Himself. In fact when Lucifer rebelled and sinned originally he was falling right into God's plan to glorify Himself.

What we are going to find in the rest of revelation beginning with chapter 6, the Tribulation, the Second Coming, the Millennium and the Final Judgment... is God's glorification of the Lord Jesus Christ and His glorification of us, the Bride of Christ and all the people of God... the rest of Revelation is all the culmination of His entire plan for all time and Eternity... to glorify Himself.

Back to the scroll...the contract for redemption of the title deed to the Earth...

In God's law when a property was sold or lost it could be redeemed by a close relative... a kinsman ... the Kinsman Redeemer... we see this illustrated in the book of Ruth when Boaz, a relative of Naomi's late husband redeems the property back for Naomi and Ruth.

The Redeemer would go to the city gate among the elders and announce his intention to redeem back the lost property... two copies of the certificate of redemption and title deed would be made. One would be rolled up and sealed while the other was left open for reference.

For the earth to be redeemed back to man, lost because of Adam's sin and our sin... we needed a Kinsman Redeemer ... according to God's law that Redeemer must be a kinsman and he must be holy... without sin ... Jesus Christ, God Almighty chose to be born as one of us ... as our kinsman so that He, without sin, could redeem us back to God and also redeem back for us our lost inheritance.

Notice in the song that the elders sing, 'For You have redeemed us by Your blood'... our redemption as human beings unto Eternal Life was accomplished at the cross... Jesus Christ paid the full redemption price with His sinless body and holy blood... all of His work was accomplished and finished on the cross... even the Redemption of all creation... remember Paul said that all creation groans, now, in expectation of that final Redemption... but He has not yet chosen to exercise His position and Authority to redeem all of creation... not yet... but here, beginning in revelation chapter 6, He will begin that process.

Now here in Revelation chapter 5 we see the Lamb of God take the scroll from the hand of God the Father and prepare to begin to redeem the earth.

After his physical Kingdom was destroyed, Lucifer became a squatter... illegitimately holding title to the earth as god of this world. He will not be expelled willingly... he will fight to hold on... but God will exert increasing pressure, through the Tribulation, until Jesus Christ finally returns to take full possession of all His inheritance and to take His rightful place as King of the Earth... King of the Universe, King of kings and Lord of lords at which time He will rule and reign first for a thousand years from Jerusalem and then forever from His throne as King of the Universe with us, His bride, at His side.

Beginning with the next chapter we will see God's judgment on the earth as He expels this squatter, the so called god of this world, and sets up His own Kingdom... this will take place over a period of 7 years... that 7 years of the tribulation... it is the final week of Daniel's significant prophecy concerning God's dealing with Israel... the 7 year Tribulation is the 70th week of Daniel... the 70th ... 7-year period of Daniel's prophecy.

Remembering the significance of the 70 weeks of Daniel from Daniel chapter 9...

Let's read at Daniel at 9:23... The angel, Gabriel comes to Daniel while he is praying...

"O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand.²³ At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:

²⁴ "Seventy weeks are determined
For your people and for your holy city,
To finish the transgression,
To make an end of sins,
To make reconciliation for iniquity,
To bring in everlasting righteousness,
To seal up vision and prophecy,
And to anoint the Most Holy.

²⁵ "Know therefore and understand,
That from the going forth of the command

To restore and build Jerusalem
Until Messiah the Prince,
There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;
The street shall be built again, and the wall,
Even in troublesome times.

²⁶ "And after the sixty-two weeks
Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;
And the people of the prince who is to come
Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.
The end of it *shall be* with a flood,
And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

²⁷ Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week;
But in the middle of the week
He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.
And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate,
Even until the consummation, which is determined,
Is poured out on the desolate."

The Hebrew word here for **weeks** simply means **7**... and the context makes it obvious that it is periods of 7 years.
70 weeks of 7 years... 490 years... divided into three groups... 7 weeks, 62 weeks and 1 final week...
The angel tells Daniel 70 weeks (of years) are determined for your people (Israel) and for your holy City (Jerusalem)... and during that period God will accomplish those 6 things.

To finish the transgression,
To make an end of sins,
To make reconciliation for iniquity,
To bring in everlasting righteousness,
To seal up vision and prophecy,
And to anoint the Most Holy.

This prophecy covers a period of 490 years...

first ... 49 years to the rebuilding of the walls and city...

then 434 more years until Messiah the Prince comes at His Triumphal Entry...

but because of Israel's rejection of her Messiah, God halts this countdown and inserts a previously unrevealed period of time during which the Lord Jesus Christ will build His Church... a time when God scatters Israel to the four corners of the Earth, and then finally, in the last days, He will bring Israel back again into their own land... He will remove the Church at the Rapture and He will resume His countdown with the final 7 years of the 70 weeks of Daniel... the Tribulation.

Daniel wasn't shown that there would be a gap of time between the 69th and the 70th weeks... But the angel did make clear to Daniel that after the 69th week... after Messiah was cut off (crucified), the Romans (the people of the Prince who would come... the antichrist) would destroy the city (Jerusalem) and the Temple... which didn't happen until about 35 years later so there was obviously going to be at least that gap of time.

After the decree is given to Nehemiah to go back and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem it would be 7 weeks and 62 weeks... 69 weeks of years... 483 years until the coming of Messiah the Prince... that is the exact time until Jesus Christ made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem riding a donkey... and it says at that time He would be cut off ...

He would be killed... but not for His own sin but for the sin of others ... and we know that's exactly what happened... Jesus Christ the Lamb of God was crucified to pay the penalty for our sin.

Then it says the people of the prince who is to come, that is the Romans, would destroy the city and the temple and then there would be a period of desolation... then ... later... he... the prince who will come... the antichrist... will make a Covenant ... a treaty with Israel for 7 years... and that he would break the treaty in the middle of the week... after 3 ½ years... and then there would be great tribulation... the final 3 ½ years before Armageddon and Jesus return.

Remember what the angel told Daniel at the beginning of this prophecy... 70 weeks are determined for your people and for Jerusalem... for Israel ... this is all about Israel and only Israel...

The first 493 years would be about Israel... the coming of their Messiah and their rejection of Him... then God would temporarily set Israel aside as He built His Church... then He would remove the Church... and finally complete his work with Israel during that last 7 years. The Tribulation week is also all about Israel... God finishing his dealing with Israel... that's why the Church is absent ... that's why the Church is not mentioned anywhere during the Tribulation.

That's because the Church was removed at the Rapture at the end of chapter 3.

Daniel was told that all 490 years was for his people, Israel and for his holy city, Jerusalem. The gap of time between the end of the 69th week, the 483rd year and the beginning of the 70th week is what the Bible calls the 'Time of the Gentiles.'

We are now living in the last days of the Time of the Gentiles.

As we begin chapter 6... the 7 year Tribulation will begin.