



THE NEW SONG

BIBLE STUDY ON REVELATION 5

1. To get thinking

What is a favourite church song you like? What words or themes do you especially appreciate?

2. The Sealed Scroll

Read Revelation 5:1-4. In his vision the Apostle now sees a scroll, in the right hand of God, overflowing with words on the front and back. And yet it is sealed up, seven times over, so that it is utterly unable to be opened. It is unreadable, and unable to be resolved. The sight of it leaves the Apostle weeping. How do these past references help us understand the significance of the double-sided scroll?

Ezekiel 2:9-10

Zechariah 5:1-3

Deuteronomy 32:34-35

2. Going deeper

Why do you think the Apostle wept so bitterly over the fact that no-one could be found worthy? What is so important to him? Can you relate to this?

3. Hear of the TRIUMPHANT LION

Read Revelation 5:5. It's one of the elders that speaks up, reassuring the Apostle in his distress – the same way we speak to one another with the wonderful news and reassurance of the gospel. How do these passages help us understand the titles, "Lion of Judah" and "Root of David" as one who "triumphs"?

Genesis 49:9-10

Isaiah 11:1-2

Isaiah 11:10-12

4. See the SLAUGHTERED LAMB

Read Revelation 5:6-10. The wonderful paradox is that the Triumphant Lion is in fact the Slaughtered Lamb. His strength and triumph are in his weakness and sacrifice. What do you note about...

Where he stands (v6)

His appearance (v6)

What he does (v7)

What he did (v9-10)



5. The Elder Song

Notice again Revelation 5:6-9a. The same elders that worship God the Creator (4:10-11), are worshipping the Lamb (5:8). As they lift their voices together in song, notice what each of the elders is holding. Why do you think it's the Elders that sing? Why do you think they sing, with these particular objects in hand?

6. Process this

Notice that the content of the Elders' song as a summary of the Gospel message! (cf Rev 1:5-6, 1 Peter 2:9). Here is the wonderful answer and final resolution to the great challenge and problem of the justice and judgment of God (cf Rev 5:1-3). Where there was once the sound of weeping, and a frustrating search for the solution (v3-4), there is now just sheer rejoicing and relief in this triumphant "new song". Think about it – in what ways can our "church singing" be seen as a joining-in on this song of Heaven?

7. The Ever-Widening Message

Read Revelation 5:11-14. How quickly the good news spreads and resounds across the heavens (v11-12), and to every corner of creation (v13-14). Their voices are loud (v12), abundantly clear, and fully united. In all of heaven and earth, there is no longer any question or doubt (v13, cf v3). The Lion/Lamb is worthy to share fully in the worship due only to God (cf Revelation 4:11, 5:13-14, noting Daniel 7:13-14). Think about it – in what ways do our church ministries align with this scene, on Sundays and through the week?

8. Praying this

Is Revelation 5 a picture of the future, or is it present reality? How does this make you want to pray?