



THE WAR ROOM 2

Episode Six: Revelation 5

The commander of the armies of heaven steps from his throne at the center of the war room. This seven-horned Lamb tears open the scroll of history. He alone determines what will happen next. History is His Story, written out of love for his Bride. This Lamb is also the Lion: frightening, and yet good. Though the fury to come is terrible, we have no reason to fear.

1. The One Who Holds History: "...I saw in the hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll..." [Revelation 5:1; Daniel 10-12] History is God's Story.

The Creation-Centric View [Humans make history]

"The main thing is to make history, not write it." —Otto von Bismarck

"Men make their own history..." —Karl Marx

"I headed toward greatness. I think I'm making history in hip hop." —Soulja Boy

"Roll up your sleeves, and set your mind to making history." —Carrie Catt

The Creator-Centric View [God determines history]

"All of the ebb and flow of history is to be viewed in the light of the fact that there is a throne in heaven, that throne is not empty, it is occupied by God, and God is in control." —Alistair Begg

2. “Who is worthy break the seal and open the scroll?” [Revelation 5:2] Who is worthy to finish the history that God has conceived from before the beginning?

- “...no one in heaven...” [Rev. 5:3]. Meaning none of the celestial beings, not even the seraphim, the great fire angels—for, like us, they too are creatures [Revelation 22:8&9].
- “...no one on earth...” [Rev. 5:3]. Meaning no person, potentate, or power can determine a the future of this world or how history will play out [James 4:13-17].
- “...no one under the earth...” [Rev. 5:3]. Meaning Satan, fallen angels, demons, or even those movers and shakers of history (like the Pharaohs, Alexander the Great, Caesars, Popes, philanthropists, utopians, cultural icons, inventors, and others who shape and leave their marks on history), who have died and been buried beneath monuments, will determine the end of history.
- “...could open the scroll or even look inside because no one was worthy...” [Rev. 5:3&4] For the simple and profound reason, that, in the end, no one has done anything that contributes anything that alters what God is doing in our history [Matthew 24:36].

“Put no confidence in princes,
Nor for help on man depend
He shall die, to dust returning,
And his purposes shall end.”

—*Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah*
The Trinity Hymnal #53

- “...and I wept and wept...” [Rev. 5:4; Daniel 12:1-10]. Like Daniel and John, we all want to know how it will end, and whether it will end well. We desire a certain hope, and carry that universal longing for Paradise Restored. As a tagline in a tabloid says, “Inquiring Minds Want to Know.” Mostly, we want to know that the craziness of the moment makes sense in a larger scheme that makes sense. Otherwise, our lives are nothing more than a product of time and chance. We don’t want life to be summed up by a line in Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*:

“A tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.”

3. The One who is Worthy. [Revelation 5:5].

- “Do not weep” [Rev. 5:5]. Christians should never feel despair about current event that are leading to the culminating chapters of His Story. “...one of the elders said to me...” [Rev. 5:5]. This certain hope is one of the marks of spiritual maturity!
- “...The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David...” [Rev. 5:5]. This is Jesus, the Lion with the DNA of the Giant-Killer. “[who] has triumphed...” [Rev. 5:5]. He has triumphed over the world, his own humanity, the devil, death, and the grave.

All of history marches inexorable from Paradise Lost, intersecting his incarnation in a virgin’s womb, birth in a Bethlehem stable, life of perfect obedience in Galilee, the Cross, his Resurrection, Ascension, and Second Coming to defeat all of his and our enemies, judge the living and the dead, and then restore Paradise. In short, all of history intersects his life and works. He is the author and finisher of history. Nothing that happens is apart from his past, present, and future triumphs!

[Revelation 5:9&10]

- “...he is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.” [Rev. 5:5]. He alone is able! Without him, history [both personally and globally] has no ultimate meaning or hope. Don’t neglect the fact that there are “seven seals.” Seven is the number of God and perfection. Everything that happens or will happen is in God’s hands and will end perfectly [Romans 8:28; Genesis 50:18&20].

4. The Lamb, looking as if he had been slain, standing at the center of the Throne [Revelation . 5:6].

- “slain...standing...” We was dead, but is now very much alive. Resurrection is at the center of our hopes: A resurrected Savior, our own bodily resurrections, the resurrection of our dreams and hopes, and a resurrected Paradise.
- “standing in the center of the throne...” This is the same throne on which God the Father sits, not a separate throne. A great Trinitarian statement. God the Father and his Resurrected Only Begotten Son are One. Notice also that the “Seven-Fold” (or Holy) Spirit is also there on that Throne: Three in One!

- He stands while his Father sits. The father is relaxed and sitting, his plan of the ages going quite perfectly and right on schedule. The Son stands, ready for action. He will rip open the seals that bind the scroll of history, and then go to war. What the Father ordains, the Son and Spirit carry out!
 - “encircled by the four living creatures and the elders.” The Lamb/Lion is the center of everything. He has created and redeemed creation [the four living creatures] and his Bride [the twenty-four elders]. There is not a single inch of the universe or the church that he does not look at and say, “Mine! All mine!”
 - He has “...seven horns and seven eyes...” He is omniscient [all-seeing and all-knowing] and omnipotent [all-powerful].
5. He seizes history by the throat. [Revelation 5:6]. His Father holds it, but he takes it. God the Father’s plan is Jesus the Son’s to finish! This verse shows that he is confident and passionate to finish the final chapters of His Story.
6. The awesome forces at the Lamb’s Disposal [Revelation 5:8-14].
- The awesome numbers and power of God’s people [Rev. 5:9&10; 7:9; Genesis 15:5]. Abraham’s descendants number like stars. Symbolic language, but scope beyond belief. Number of actual stars in the universe are 30-70 billion trillion.
 - The praise and prayers of God’s people [Revelation 5:8]. “Harps and bowls of incense” in elders’ hands. There is great power in praise [2 Chronicles 20] and prayer [Acts 4] in defeating the enemies of God’s people.
 - Myriads of Angelic Beings [Revelation 5:11]. Thousands and thousands plus ten thousand times ten thousand. May be symbolic number from the use of the number ten and its multiples. Literally here we have thousands more than 200 million angels. But the symbolic sense is limitless, uncountable number of angels at God’s disposal, each with more power than a human army.
 - The awesome power of creation: symbolized by the four living creatures [Revelation 5:8&14]. The people of the earth, together with all the power they

possess, are fragile creatures on a fragile, dying, and explosive planet that can still, in its death throes, punish and destroy humans, and the Babylonian utopias they create, with famine, global warming, hurricanes, tsunamis, and earthquakes. Not only that, earth is a sitting duck to millions of asteroids other cosmic catastrophes that could destroy us as quickly as it did the dinosaurs.

In the next chapters, we will see this reality in the unleashing of the Four Horseman of the Apocalypse and other ecological disasters from the very creation that rebellious creatures worship rather than the Creator.

7. What is our response in this present age? Or our posture in the wars to come?

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- Worship and praise [[Revelation 5:9-13](#)].
- Prayer and intercession [[Revelation 5:8](#)].
- Dance in joy and celebration [[Revelation 5:11](#)].
- Live with confidence in the glory, power, and everlasting triumph of heaven over this earth [[Revelation 5:13](#)].
- “Amen!” [[Revelation 5:14](#)]. “So be it.” Accept and submit to what will come with quiet faith and dignity. Could there be a greater witness of your Faith to a world growing increasingly hysterical?