

Revelation

Chapter 5

Review

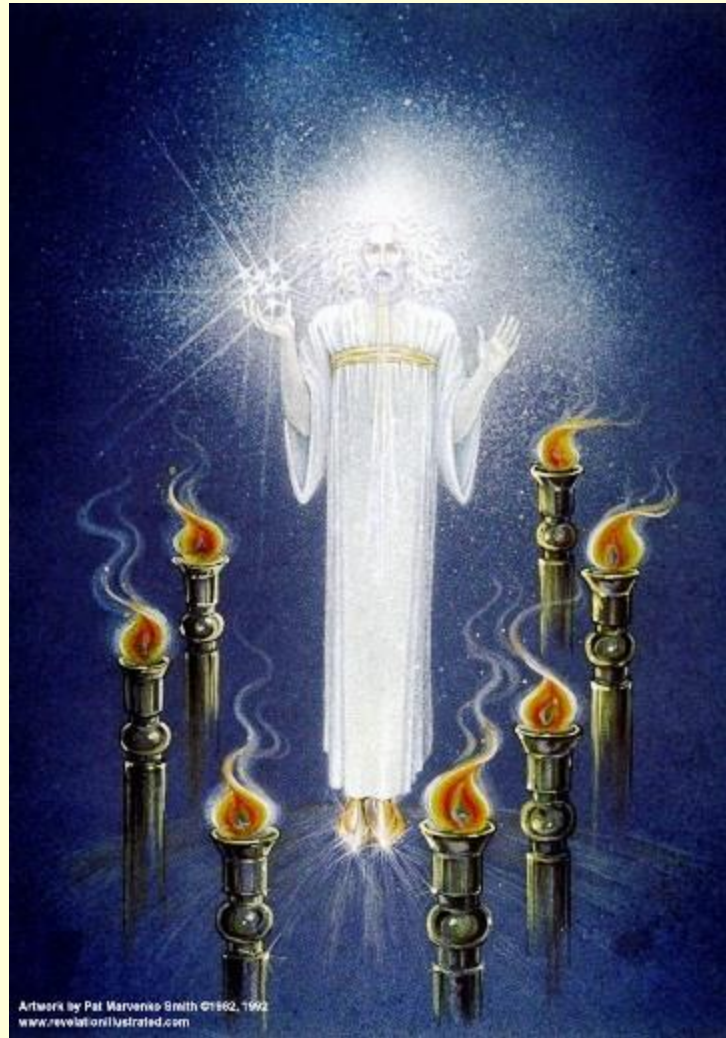
- The Revelation to John
 - A prophetic writing with features of a letter and of the form of literature called Apocalyptic
 - Written by John to Christians during the second half of the First Century
 - Placed at the end of the New Testament because of its concern with the “end times”

Review

- Introduction (1:1-3)
 - This revelation was given by God to Jesus.
 - Jesus revealed it, through his angel, to John.
 - John writes of all that he has heard and seen.
 - Those who read, hear, and do what is written will be blessed, because the end is near.
- Salutation, Doxology (1:4-8)
 - John greets “the seven churches in Asia” while giving praise to God.

Review

- The First Vision (1:9-20)
 - John was worshiping on the Lords day, in Patmos, when he was overtaken by an ecstatic vision
 - In the vision:
 - He sees the glorified Christ standing among seven lampstands with seven stars in his hand.
 - Christ speaks to John and explains the mysterious image that he sees: The lampstands are the seven churches and the stars are the “angels” of the seven churches.



August 30, 2011

Review

- Letters to the Seven Churches (Chapters 2 & 3)
 - In the vision, Jesus instructs John to write certain things to each of the seven churches.
 - These “letters” draw on the material from Chapter 1 and help to interpret the visions which follow in later chapters.
 - Each “letter”:
 - follows approximately the same pattern,
 - is to be read by all of the churches,
 - shares the common theme: **those who overcome and persevere until the end will inherit eternal life**

The Seven Churches



Review

- Ephesus (2:1-7)
 - Christ commands them to become loving again, or he will remove them as a lampstand.
- Smyrna (2:8-11)
 - Christ urges them to endure persecution and remain faithful unto death.
- Pergamum (2:12-17) and Thyatira (2:18-29)
 - Christ warns these churches to expel heretics, lest he come and war against them!

Review

- Sardis (3:1-6)
 - Christ urges them to become alert to their situation (they are “dead”) lest he comes against them.
- Philadelphia (3:7-13)
 - Christ promise them a place in the eternal kingdom of David despite their persecution by so called Jews
- Laodicea (3:14-22)
 - Christ says he will spit this lukewarm church out of his mouth, but to those among them who conquer, he promises that they will sit with him on his throne.

Review

- Notice that each of the seven letters pays serious attention to current life circumstances,
- yet also looks beyond them, forward and upward toward the new creation and blessed eternal life.
- What is promised to individuals who conquer seems sometimes to be an exception to the doom pronounced against the church.
- Yet two churches (Smyrna and Philadelphia) seem to be filled with individuals who conquer,
- and these are the two churches most heavily persecuted by those who call themselves Jews.

Review

- In Verse 21 of Chapter 3 Jesus says:

“The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.”

- Chapters 4 and 5 then describe the heavenly “throne”
 - These two chapters belong together
 - In some sense they comprise a second vision, following the one described in Chapter 1
 - This vision, in turn, lays the foundation for all that is to follow in the Book of Revelation

Review

- Last Week We Read Chapter 4
 - John saw a door standing open in heaven and heard the voice of Jesus calling him up to look inside and see what Jesus would reveal about the will of God
 - John is immediately “in the Spirit” and sees the throne of God and (in some sense) God seated upon it.
 - The throne is surrounded by 24 “elders” who are heavenly beings with white robes and crowns of gold
 - The scene is awesome: with lightning, thunder, etc. and 7 burning torches which are the “7 spirits of God” (c.f. Zech. 4)
 - Before the throne are four fantastic “living creatures” with faces, wings, and eyes, resembling those seen in Ezekiel 1, Isaiah 6, and Daniel 7



August 30, 2011

Review

- The living creatures unceasingly proclaim God's eternal holiness and give him thanks.
- In response the 24 elders fall down before God, and cast down their crowns before him, and declare him worthy of all glory and honor and power, because it was He who created all things,
- and so ends Chapter 4

- In summary to this point, Jesus who upholds and stands amidst the churches and who promises those who endure to sit with him on the throne which God has given Him, has called John up to see, with the help of the Holy Spirit, the throne room of God.

Today's Reading

- Revelation, Chapter 5
 - Completes the vision of the throne room begun in Chapter 4

ヨハネの黙示録 5:1-14

1. わたしはまた、御座にいますかたの右の手に、巻物があるのを見た。その内側にも外側にも字が書いてあって、七つの封印で封じてあった。
2. また、ひとりの強い御使が、大声で、「その巻物を開き、封印をとくのにふさわしい者は、だれか」と呼ばわっているのを見た。

ヨハネの黙示録 5:1-14

3. しかし、天にも地にも地の下にも、この巻物を開いて、それを見ることのできる者は、ひとりもいなかった。
4. 巻物を開いてそれを見るのにふさわしい者が見当たらないので、わたしは激しく泣いていた。

ヨハネの黙示録 5:1-14

5. すると、長老のひとりがわたしに言った、「泣くな。見よ、ユダ族のしし、ダビデの若枝であるかたが、勝利を得たので、その巻物を開き七つの封印を解くことができる」。
6. わたしはまた、御座と四つの生き物との間、長老たちの間に、ほふられたとみえる小羊が立っているのを見た。それに七つの角と七つの目とがあった。これらの目は、全世界につかわされた、神の七つの霊である。

ヨハネの黙示録 5:1-14

7. 小羊は進み出て、御座にいますかたの右の手から、巻物を受けとった。
8. 巻物を受けとった時、四つの生き物と二十四人の長老とは、おのおの、立琴と、香の満ちている金の鉢とを手に持って、小羊の前にひれ伏した。この香は聖徒の祈である。

ヨハネの黙示録 5:1-14

9. 彼らは新しい歌を歌って言った、「あなたこそは、その巻物を受けとり、封印を解くにふさわしいかたであります。あなたはほふられ、その血によって、神のために、あらゆる部族、国語、民族、国民の中から人々をあがない、
10. わたしたちの神のために、彼らを御国の民とし、祭司となさいました。彼らは地上を支配するに至るでしょう」。

ヨハネの黙示録 5:1-14

11. さらに見ていると、御座と生き物と長老たちとのまわりに、多くの御使たちの声がかかるのを聞いた。その数は万の幾万倍、千の幾千倍もあって、
12. 大声で叫んでいた、「ほふられた小羊こそは、力と、富と、知恵と、勢いと、ほまれと、栄光と、さんびとを受けるにふさわしい」。

ヨハネの黙示録 5:1-14

13. またわたしは、天と地、地の下と海の中にあるすべての造られたもの、そして、それらの中にあるすべてのものの言う声を聞いた、「御座にいますかたと小羊とに、さんびと、ほまれと、栄光と、権力とが、世々限りなくあるように」。
14. 四つの生き物はアアメンと唱え、長老たちはひれ伏して礼拝した。

Revelation 5:1-14

1. Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals.
2. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?"

Revelation 5:1-14

3. And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it,
4. and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.

Revelation 5:1-14

5. And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

Revelation 5:1-14

6. And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.
7. And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne.

Revelation 5:1-14

8. And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Revelation 5:1-14

9. And they sang a new song, saying,
"Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,
10. and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

Revelation 5:1-14

11. Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands,
12. saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

Revelation 5:1-14

13. And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"
14. And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

5:1

わたしはまた、御座にいますかたの右の手に、巻物があるのを見た。その内側にも外側にも字が書いてあって、七つの封印で封じてあった。

Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

- Who was seated on the throne?

5:1

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- Who was seated on the throne?
 - The Creator

5:1

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- Who was seated on the throne?
 - The Creator
 - Almighty God

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- Who was seated on the throne?
 - The Creator
 - Almighty God
 - YHVH

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- How shall we understand God's "right hand"

5:1

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- How shall we understand God's "right hand"
 - a figure of speech (anthropomorphism)

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Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

- How shall we understand God's "right hand"
 - a figure of speech (anthropomorphism)
 - as a symbol representing God's power & presence

5:1

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- How shall we understand God's "right hand"
 - a figure of speech (anthropomorphism)
 - as a symbol representing God's power, person and presence
 - but I suppose that John actually "sees" God's hand, in the same way he sees other things in the vision.

5:1

わたしはまた、御座にいますかたの右の手に、巻物があるのを見た。その内側にも外側にも字が書いてあって、七つの封印で封じてあった。

Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

- What John sees God holding in his hand, he recognizes as a book:
 - probably in the form of a scroll
 - in any case he understands it to be full of writing
 - and completely sealed

5:1

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Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

- What do you suppose is written in such a book?

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Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

- What do you suppose is written in such a book?
 - Things that only God knows

5:1

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Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

- What do you suppose is written in such a book?
 - Things that only God knows
 - Including but not necessarily limited to the future course of human history

5:1

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Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

- What do you suppose is written in such a book?
 - Things that only God knows
 - Including but not necessarily limited to the future course of human history
 - “what must take place after this” (4:1)

5:2

また、ひとりの強い御使が、大声で、「その巻物を開き、封印をとくのにふさわしい者は、だれか」と呼ばわっているのを見た。

And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice,
"Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?"

- Next John saw (and presumably also heard) what he understood to be a strong angel
- who was proclaiming in a loud voice, a question,
- which could presumably be heard by many,
- including many strong and worthy heavenly beings.

5:2

また、ひとりの強い御使が、大声で、「その巻物を開き、封印をとくのにふさわしい者は、だれか」と呼ばわっているのを見た。

And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice,
"Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?"

- The question, in effect, is this:
 - who among us is sufficiently worthy in the eyes of God to induce Him to reveal what he has written, to proceed to accomplish his secret eternal purpose
- Because clearly no one can compel God by power or deceive him by trickery, to reveal or to do anything at all

5:3

しかし、天にも地にも地の下にも、この巻物を開いて、
それを見ることのできる者は、ひとりもいなかった。

And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was
able to open the scroll or to look into it,

- The answer, of course, is that nobody can unlock that which God has hidden, unless and until God unfolds it.
- This is part of what it means to be the creator (Ch. 4)

5:4

巻物を開いてそれを見るのにふさわしい者が見当たらないので、わたしは激しく泣いていた。

and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.

- In the vision John weeps because the fulfillment of God's plans and promises has seemingly been delayed
- Such weeping has been heard among God's people, from the time of Adam until now

5:5

すると、長老のひとりがわたしに言った、「泣くな。見よ、ユダ族のしし、ダビデの若枝であるかたが、勝利を得たので、その巻物を開き七つの封印を解くことができる」。

And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

- In the vision, John has evidently entered the heavenly throne room, because it is one of the “elders” there who speaks to him.

5:5

すると、長老のひとりがわたしに言った、「泣くな。見よ、ユダ族のしし、ダビデの若枝であるかたが、勝利を得たので、その巻物を開き七つの封印を解くことができる」。

And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

- What the Elder says to John, is something John himself already knows:
 - All of God's plans and promises are fulfilled in Christ
 - This has already been revealed and accomplished and it is now moving toward its final consummation

5:6

わたしはまた、御座と四つの生き物との間、長老たちの間に、ほふられたとみえる小羊が立っているのを見た。それに七つの角と七つの目とがあった。これらの目は、全世界につかわされた、神の七つの霊である。

And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

- Now Christ appears in the vision.
- Before (Chapter 1) he was seen standing among his churches and holding their angels in his hand.
- Now he is seen standing among the heavenly hosts who surround the throne of God.

5:6

わたしはまた、御座と四つの生き物との間、長老たちの間に、ほふられたとみえる小羊が立っているのを見た。それに七つの角と七つの目とがあった。これらの目は、全世界につかわされた、神の七つの霊である。

And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

- Here Christ is figured not as a human, but as a lamb
 - this is an image of Christ very often used by John
 - It recalls the “lamb led to slaughter” (Isaiah 53:7)
 - and perhaps also the Passover lamb (Exodus)

5:6

わたしはまた、御座と四つの生き物との間、長老たちの間に、ほふられたとみえる小羊が立っているのを見た。それに七つの角と七つの目とがあった。これらの目は、全世界につかわされた、神の七つの霊である。

And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

- The image is paradoxical
 - The lamb is “as though it had been slain”
 - Yet he stands, before the throne of God, among the highest heavenly hosts.
 - And He has God’s power (seven horns), wisdom (seven eyes), and Spirit (seven spirits of God).

5:6

わたしはまた、御座と四つの生き物との間、長老たちの間に、ほふられたとみえる小羊が立っているのを見た。それに七つの角と七つの目とがあった。これらの目は、全世界につかわされた、神の七つの霊である。

And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

- Clearly this is vision of the glorified Jesus Christ.
- John is being reminded, in the vision, that Jesus is the one who answers the call of the strong angel in Verse 2.
- Jesus is the one who fulfills all the former promises and ushers in the new creation.
- This has already been accomplished.

5:7

小羊は進み出て、御座にいますかたの右の手から、
巻物を受けとった。

And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him
who was seated on the throne.

- Someone sent me an email recently asking if we are supposed to think of Jesus and YHVH as one and the same.
- What do you think?

5:7

小羊は進み出て、御座にいますかたの右の手から、
巻物を受けとった。

And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him
who was seated on the throne.

- The answer to this question is somewhat difficult as are most questions regarding the doctrine of the Holy Trinity
- At this point in this vision the figures of the Lamb and the one seated on the throne are distinct persons.
- But the divinity of Christ is emphasized so strongly that, elsewhere in the Revelation, and even in this present vision, it is sometimes difficult to be certain whether John is describing Jesus Christ or God generally.

5:8

巻物を受けとった時、四つの生き物と二十四人の長老とは、おのおの、立琴と、香の満ちている金の鉢とを手に持って、小羊の前にひれ伏した。この香は聖徒の祈である。

And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

- In this vision the Lamb clearly is a figure of Jesus Christ
- Yet when he takes the scroll from the hand of the one seated on the throne, the heavenly beings immediately fall down before him, just as they have done before the one seated on the throne.

5:8

巻物を受けとった時、四つの生き物と二十四人の長老とは、おのおの、立琴と、香の満ちている金の鉢とを手に持って、小羊の前にひれ伏した。この香は聖徒の祈である。

And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

- Now the heavenly creatures are equipped with harps.
 - I'm not sure why, possibly in anticipation of the “new song” referred to in the following verse
- They also hold golden bowls full of incense which we are told represent the prayers of the saints, which are heard in heaven because of what Christ accomplished.

5:8

卷物を受けとった時、四つの生き物と二十四人の長老とは、おのこの、立琴と、香の満ちている金の鉢とを手にとって、小羊の前にひれ伏した。この香は聖徒の祈である。

And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

- Who are the saints?

5:8

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And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

- Who are the saints?
 - All who are redeemed by the blood of the lamb.
 - It is our eternal future, our life after death, that Jesus purchased through his death on the cross.

5:9

彼らは新しい歌を歌って言った、「あなたこそは、その巻物を受けとり、封印を解くにふさわしいかたであります。あなたはほふられ、その血によって、神のために、あらゆる部族、国語、民族、国民の中から人々をあがない、

And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,

- Because of what Jesus accomplished, the heavenly beings sang a new song.
- The new song was, quite simply I think, the song of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Christ through his sacrificial death on the cross, atoned for the sins of many people throughout the world.

5:10

わたしたちの神のために、彼らを御国の民とし、祭司となさいました。彼らは地上を支配するに至るでしょう」。

and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

- These are the saints who shall reign with Christ on earth and live forever as Jesus promise in his words written to the seven churches in Chapters 2 and 3.

5:11

さらに見ていると、御座と生き物と長老たちとのまわりに、多くの御使たちの声が上がるのを聞いた。その数は万の幾万倍、千の幾千倍もあって、

Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands,

- Now the praise goes beyond the four living creatures and the 24 elders to include the voices of countless angels.
- This expression, like much else in Revelation 4 and 5, recalls words and images from Daniel 7.

5:12

大声で叫んでいた、「ほふられた小羊こそは、力と、富と、知恵と、勢いと、ほまれと、栄光と、さんびとを受けけるにふさわしい」。

saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

- In verse 2, the strong angel asked, “who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals,” which I understand to mean who can inaugurate the eternal kingdom
- Here is the answer from all heaven: Worthy is the Lamb.
- And they say he is worthy because he was slain.

5:12

大声で叫んでいた、「ほふられた小羊こそは、力と、富と、知恵と、勢いと、ほまれと、栄光と、さんびとを受けけるにふさわしい」。

saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

- In Chapter 4, Verse 11, God was praised as the Creator
- Here using almost the same words, the Lamb is praised as the Redeemer.

5:13

またわたしは、天と地、地の下と海の中にあるすべての造られたもの、そして、それらの中にあるすべてのものの言う声を聞いた、「御座にいますかたと小羊とに、さんびと、ほまれと、栄光と、権力とが、世々限りなくあるように」。

And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

- And now he who sits on the throne and the Lamb receive the praise of every creature who has breath.
- They are both praised and they are praised together and there is no diminishment of the praise received by either.
- On the contrary, the one who sits on the throne is supremely worthy because of Lamb, and vice versa.

5:14

四つの生き物はアアメンと唱え、長老たちはひれ伏して礼拝した。

And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

- So ends Chapter 5