



## Part 11: Hope of a Mighty and Merciful Savior Revelation 5

*We have hope because we have a mighty and merciful Savior.*

### THE DILEMMA OF POWER

*“At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.” Revelation 4:2*

Control of the universe is not in Rome but in Heaven.

But this reality does not always put people at peace. In fact, this reality often scares people to death! The reality of God does not solve this dilemma in the minds of many ... religion has been used to oppress people too.

### ALMIGHTY GOD AND HIS MIGHTY KING

Revelation 5:1-5

Almighty God (God the Father) is reigning on His throne with the scroll of history in His hand. The scroll is an allusion to Daniel 12, where God tells Daniel that He is taking history to an appointed day when God will judge people and put things right again.

The great dilemma of history – who can be trusted with such power over human history? John weeps because there is no one in the universe who can be trusted with such power!

John sees the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David. Both of these descriptions were descriptions of Israel’s promised King (Genesis 49:8-12, Isaiah 11:1-10).

With Almighty God on His throne, John sees the Lion of Judah. He sees a Mighty King who has the power to rule over history.

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## OUR MERCIFUL SAVIOR

Revelation 5:6-7

The only Lion in Heaven is a slain Lamb! The Lion of Judah has offered Himself as the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

The Lion, who has the power to crush His enemies, has used His power in mercy and love to save His enemies!

*“Instead of a ferocious lion that hurts others, the Messiah is a sacrificial Lamb that takes into himself the hurts of others.” Bruce Metzger*

This is the great revelation of the Bible! We have a mighty and merciful Savior in King Jesus! Jesus alone is worthy to open the scroll – to rule over history to God’s pointed end – because He used His power to save us!

## LIVING TO THE BEAT OF A DIFFERENT DRUM

Revelation 5:9-14

- A secure identity – you now belong to Him as his friend and child  
*“...because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.”*  
*Revelation 5:9*
- A secure mission – you are now entrusted with the privilege of serving Jesus as your King and sharing His good news  
*“You have made them to be a Kingdom and priests to serve our God ...”*  
*Revelation 5:10*
- A secure future in the new heaven and earth  
*“...and they will reign on the earth.”* *Revelation 5:10*

### Discussion Questions

- What do you see in the text that speaks of the Lamb’s relationship to God on the throne? What specific features do you see about the Lamb (horns are symbols of strength; seven represents completeness, perfection)?
- How do you respond to the reality that Jesus, as the Lion of Judah, lets Himself be slain for our sins? What does this reveal about God and Jesus?
- Look at the three realities that express what Jesus has secured for those in Him (see Revelation 5:9-10). How do you need to live more faithfully into these three realities?