

Revelation

“Everybody Wants To Rule The World”

Revelation 5:1-14

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / October 11, 2026

Revelation 5:1-14 “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 mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?’ 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. 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.’ 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. 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. 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.’ 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!’ 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.”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord. Response: ***Thanks Be To God!***

I. Don't look to anyone else to do what only Jesus can do.

Revelation 5:1-4 “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 mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?’ 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.”

Where do we look for the confidence that things will be OK?

1. **Our resources** - *“If I have enough, I'll be secure.”*
(Money, savings, preparations, backup plans)
2. **Our leaders & institutions** - *“If the right people are in charge, things will be made right.”*
(Governments, churches, movements, organizations)
3. **Our own control** - *“If I can manage everything, I can make it turn out right.”*
(Our plans, decisions, ability to manage outcomes)

*We can't see how everything will turn out,
but we know who has conquered.*

II. The One who holds your future gave His life to make you His.

A. We can trust Jesus with our future.

Revelation 5:5-7 “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.’ 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.”

B. We can bring Him our prayers.

Revelation 5:8 “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**.”

- a. The bowls are **golden**. The prayers that feel unimpressive to us are pictured in golden bowls before the Lamb.
- b. The **incense** represents our prayers. Prayer is pictured as an offering brought into God’s presence. (Psalm 141:2)

Psalm 141:1-2 “O Lord, I call upon You; hasten to me! Give ear to my voice when I call to You! ² **Let my prayer be counted as incense before You**, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!”

- c. These are **the prayers of the saints**. Our circumstances may make us feel powerless, but our prayers have a place before the throne.

C. We belong to the people He redeemed.

Revelation 5:9-10 “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.’”

Jesus purchased us to belong to God – and to serve Him together.

III. The Lamb who gave His life deserves all of yours.

Revelation 5:11-14 “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!’ 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.”

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

1. Review the three places we tend to look for confidence that things will be OK: our resources, our leaders and institutions, and our own control. Which are you most tempted to rely on? What would you add to the list?
2. What about your future are you struggling to entrust to Jesus these days? How does seeing Him as the slain and risen Lamb strengthen your confidence in Him?
3. Revelation 5:8 pictures the prayers of the saints as incense in golden bowls. What strikes you about that imagery? How might it change the way we pray together—and what burden could this group bring before God with you?
4. Jesus purchased people for God from every tribe, language, people, and nation (Revelation 5:9–10). How should belonging to His redeemed people shape the way you relate to others in our church?
5. “The Lamb who gave His life deserves all of yours.” Where are you most tempted to resist His rule, and what would surrender to Him look like this week?