

## **Dr. David Mathewson, Revelation, Session 10, Revelation 5: Lamb and Seals Introduction Resources from NotebookLM**

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Study Guide, 4) Briefing Document, and 5) FAQs

### **1. Abstract of Mathewson, Revelation, Session 10, Revelation 5: Lamb and Seals Introduction, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL**

**Dr. Dave Mathewson's lecture** on Revelation chapters 5 and 6 **explains the significance of the Lamb's taking the scroll**, interpreting it as an **investiture scene** where Christ receives authority to enact God's plan. The lecture **analyzes the hymns of praise** in chapter 5, emphasizing their role in **affirming Christ's deity** within a strictly monotheistic framework. Further, it **connects the opening of the seven seals in chapter 6** to the unfolding of God's judgment and salvation, **discussing various interpretations** of the seals, trumpets, and bowls as either chronological, cyclical, or progressive events. Finally, it **highlights the themes of a new creation, a new exodus, and the establishment of a universal kingdom of priests**.

**2. 25 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Mathewson, Revelation, Session 10 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (New Testament → Revelation).**



**Mathewson\_Revela  
tion\_Session10.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document

Okay, here is a detailed briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided lecture excerpts on Revelation chapters 5 and 6 by Dr. Dave Mathewson.

#### **Briefing Document: Revelation Chapters 5 & 6 (Dr. Dave Mathewson)**

##### **I. Overview**

This lecture focuses on Revelation chapters 5 and 6, which are pivotal in understanding the book's overall narrative. Chapter 5 establishes Jesus as the Lamb worthy to take and open the scroll containing God's plan, while chapter 6 introduces the opening of the first six seals of that scroll, initiating a series of judgments and events. Dr. Mathewson emphasizes the interconnectedness of these chapters, as well as their connection to other Old Testament texts.

##### **II. Key Themes and Ideas**

###### **A. Revelation 5: The Lamb and the Scroll**

**\* \*\*The Lamb's Worthiness:\*\*** Jesus Christ is uniquely worthy to take the scroll and enact its contents due to His sacrificial death. As Mathewson states, "And the point of chapter 5, as we've seen, is that Jesus is worthy, the only one worthy to take the scroll. And that is because he is the slaughtered lamb, the one who is slain." This links Jesus to both the Passover lamb and the suffering servant of Isaiah 53, highlighting the significance of his sacrifice.

**\* \*\*Investiture, Not Enthronement:\*\*** The scene in chapter 5 is not merely about Jesus being enthroned but more accurately an "investiture scene" where he is given authority and power, particularly the "authority to take the scroll, that is, to receive the kingdom of God, and now to enact the contents of the scroll."

**\* \*\*Heavenly Temple:\*\*** The throne room described in chapter 5 is not just a picture of heaven, but rather heaven conceived of as God's temple. The presence of golden bowls, associated with the Tabernacle in Exodus 25, reinforces this imagery. These bowls are filled with incense, which represents the prayers of the saints. "The golden bulls probably suggest those bulls that were on the table of the presence in the Tabernacle in Exodus chapter 25, for example...they contain incense, which the author identifies as the prayer of the saints in verse 8."

**\* \*\*Heavenly Worship:\*\*** Chapter 5 features multiple hymns of praise, starting with the 24 elders and four living creatures and then expanding to include myriads of angels and

eventually "every creature in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and on the sea." These concentric circles of worship emphasize that all creation ultimately focuses on and acknowledges the sovereignty of God and the Lamb.

\* \*\*Redemption and the New Exodus:\*\* The Lamb's worthiness is based on his having "purchased people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation." This act of redemption is described as a new Exodus, where people are freed from bondage to become a kingdom of priests. This directly connects to Exodus 19:6. "By Jesus' blood, he ransoms humanity, he frees them as he did his people in the Exodus, and then he frees them from bondage and leads them to become a kingdom of priests."

\* \*\*Christ's Deity:\*\* The chapter makes a powerful statement about Christ's deity. He receives the same worship (power, glory, honor) as God in Chapter 4 within a strictly monotheistic context, suggesting he "participates in the very being and essence of God." Mathewson highlights that the author places Jesus "on the exact same throne," and, "what the author is doing is that, in some sense, Jesus Christ then participates in the very being and essence of God."

\* \*\*"New Song" and Inauguration of New Creation:\*\* The hymn sung by the 24 elders and four living creatures is referred to as a "new song," suggesting that Christ has already inaugurated the new creation, despite it not being fully realized until the end of the book. "Already the new creation has been inaugurated and this text celebrates that, but it also anticipates the consummated new creation in Revelation 21 and 22."

\* \*\*Universal People of God:\*\* The description of those redeemed as being from "every tribe, language, people, and nation" is significant. It signifies that the people of God are no longer restricted to national Israel, but comprise a universal, transcultural community. This concept is further emphasized by the sevenfold usage of this type of phrasing throughout Revelation. "Now, faith in Jesus Christ is the criteria for which one becomes a member of the true people of God."

\* \*\*Transfer of Kingdom:\*\* The rescue of the nations from the bondage of Satan and oppressive regimes (like Rome) into God's kingdom is highlighted. "So, this transfer of the kingdom from Satan, from the beast to God and the Lamb, also entails transference of its subjects, of the people of all the nations, under the rule of Satan and the beast, now to become a kingdom of priests for God and for the Lamb."

## **B. Revelation 6: The Opening of the Seals**

- **Continuation of Chapter 5:** Chapter 6 is a direct continuation of chapter 5; the scroll the Lamb takes is now being opened and enacted. "The stage is now set for

Revelation chapter 6. And again, chapter 6 we should understand as a continuation of chapter 5. That is because what happens now in chapter 6 is that the seals that are sealing the scroll from chapter 5 are now opened."

- **Shift from Heavenly to Earthly Scene:** While chapters 4 and 5 have a heavenly perspective, chapter 6 shifts the focus back to Earth as the scroll's contents are being revealed. The judgments and events initiated by the Lamb's authority start to impact the Earth.
- **Incomplete Opening:** Only six of the seven seals are opened in chapter 6. The seventh seal is not opened until chapter 8. Chapter 7 acts as an interlude.
- **The First Four Seals and Horses:** The first four seals are united by the image of horses, and they seem to be logically related to each other.
- **Seal 6 as End-of-History Preview:** The opening of the sixth seal seems to bring the reader to the very end of history, suggesting the final judgment, although the book continues for many more chapters. The end of chapter 6 is "a judgment scene." "But it seems to bring us to the very end of the world, to the second coming of Christ. Although, as you know, we still have several more chapters to go, 18 more chapters in Revelation."
- **Three Series of Seven:** Revelation features a prominent three-fold repetition of seven plagues in the form of seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven bowls. The lecture raises the question of how these series relate to each other.
- **Interpretations of the Series:Chronological:** Some view the seals, trumpets, and bowls as a chronological sequence, with the seventh seal containing the trumpets and the seventh trumpet containing the bowls, like a telescope.
- **Recapitulation:** Others argue they all refer to the same events across church history, presented from different perspectives.
- **Progressive:** Mathewson favors a progressive view, where the seals represent events throughout church history, the trumpets represent more intense events leading towards the end, and the bowls represent the final, most intense judgments right before the second coming of Christ. He emphasizes that, "the seals in chapter 6 represent events that will characterize the entirety of church history starting in the first century."
- **Symbolic Numbers:** Numbers, especially 7 (perfection, completeness) and 4 (the entire earth), play a symbolic role rather than strictly literal.

### III. Key Old Testament Connections

- **Daniel 7:** The vision of the "Son of Man" receiving authority and a kingdom from the "Ancient of Days" is fulfilled in Revelation 5, where Jesus receives the scroll.
- **Exodus 19:6:** The idea of a "kingdom of priests" directly connects back to God's covenant with Israel at Mount Sinai, and is now fulfilled in the new covenant.
- **Ezekiel 1 & 2, and Isaiah 6:** The visions of the throne room in these Old Testament texts provide the model for John's visions.
- **Exodus 25:** The golden bowls connect to the furnishings of the tabernacle.
- **Isaiah 53:** The Lamb as "slaughtered" recalls the suffering servant passage.
- **1 Enoch 90:** The imagery of a horned lamb is reinterpreted to show that Christ's power is found in sacrifice and not military might.

### IV. Implications

- Revelation is not just a book about future events; it is about the present reality of God's reign, initiated through Christ's sacrifice and his investiture.
- The church is meant to live as a kingdom of priests, representing God's rule on earth.
- God's sovereignty will ultimately be acknowledged by all creation, both in heaven and on earth.
- God's judgment is a present reality, evidenced by the seals and other judgments in Revelation, but these are a prelude to a final judgment.

### V. Conclusion

This lecture provides an insightful foundation for understanding Revelation. It clearly lays out the importance of the Lamb's sacrifice, the significance of heavenly worship, the idea of God's people as a kingdom of priests and the progression of judgments, which will be further developed throughout the rest of the book. Dr. Mathewson lays the groundwork for the rest of Revelation, particularly the unfolding events of chapter 6 and beyond.

## 4. Mathewson, Revelation, Session 10, Revelation 5: Lamb and Seals Introduction

### Revelation Chapters 5 and 6 Study Guide

#### Quiz

**Instructions:** Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. What is the significance of the Lamb taking the scroll in Revelation 5?
2. How does the imagery of the temple contribute to the understanding of the events in Revelation 5?
3. What is the meaning of the hymns in Revelation 5, and how do they function?
4. What does the text suggest about the nature of Jesus Christ, particularly in his relation to God?
5. What is the significance of the "new song" in Revelation 5?
6. How does Revelation 5 portray the idea of a "new Exodus?"
7. How does the text expand the idea of the people of God beyond national Israel?
8. What are the different interpretations of the three series of sevens (seals, trumpets, bowls) in Revelation?
9. How do the first four seals in Revelation 6 relate to each other?
10. Why is the sixth seal significant in Revelation 6?

#### Answer Key

1. The Lamb taking the scroll signifies Jesus' worthiness and authority to enact God's plan for establishing His kingdom, a plan contained within the scroll. This is based on his sacrificial death on the cross.
2. The temple imagery suggests that heaven is conceived as God's temple, emphasizing God's dwelling place and adding a priestly function to the 24 elders and four living creatures, who hold golden bowls.
3. The hymns in Revelation 5 celebrate the Lamb's worthiness to take the scroll and interpret the significance of the scene, emphasizing his power, authority, and redemption for humanity. They also worship both God and Jesus.

4. The text suggests that Jesus Christ is divine, as he receives the same worship as God, shares the same throne, and participates in the very being and essence of God, without violating the idea of monotheism.
5. The "new song" symbolizes the inauguration of the new creation through Christ's death and the establishment of a kingdom of priests, anticipating the consummated new creation in Revelation 21 and 22.
6. Revelation 5 portrays a "new Exodus" by highlighting how, through his blood, Christ ransoms humanity from bondage, similar to the Exodus from Egypt, leading them to become a kingdom of priests who will reign on earth.
7. The text emphasizes that the people of God are not limited to national Israel but include people from every tribe, language, people, and nation, united by faith in Jesus Christ, reflecting a universal and trans-cultural people.
8. The three series are interpreted chronologically, telescopically, recapitulatory, or progressively. The progressive view sees some overlap but a temporal progression and intensification in judgments, while the others are more cyclical.
9. The first four seals are represented by horses and seem to be interconnected, with each seal related to the one before it, representing a series of judgments and calamitous events that result from one another.
10. The sixth seal is significant because it seems to bring the reader to the end of history, suggesting the final judgment and the second coming of Christ, culminating in the wrath of the Lamb.

## Essay Questions

**Instructions:** Answer the following questions in well-organized essays, using evidence from the text.

1. Analyze the use of Old Testament imagery and texts in Revelation 5, specifically focusing on how Ezekiel, Isaiah, and Daniel contribute to the vision.
2. Compare and contrast the different hymns of worship in Revelation 5, considering who is singing, to whom they are singing, and the substance of their praise.
3. Discuss the relationship between the concepts of conquering, redemption, and kingship as portrayed in Revelation 5, particularly in the image of the Lamb.

4. Examine the role of the seals in Revelation 6, and what is their purpose in God's plan as it is laid out in the text?
5. Discuss the significance of the shift in perspective from heaven in Revelation 4-5 to the earthly events portrayed in chapter 6, and what this implies about the relevance of the heavenly vision to earthly realities.

## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Lamb:** Symbolizes Jesus Christ, specifically as the sacrificial and redeeming figure. He has seven horns with seven eyes symbolizing power and sight.
- **Scroll:** Represents God's plan for establishing His kingdom, which is opened by the Lamb in Revelation 5. It is sealed until it is taken by the lamb.
- **Throne:** Symbolizes God's sovereignty and authority, and the seat of His rule.
- **24 Elders:** Represent the redeemed people of God and the church. They worship God and the Lamb.
- **Four Living Creatures:** Angelic beings who surround God's throne. They also worship God and the Lamb.
- **Golden Bowls:** Containers filled with incense which represents the prayers of the saints, linking prayer with the coming judgments.
- **Investiture:** The act of formally conferring a power, authority or right.
- **Hymns:** Songs of praise and worship that celebrate the Lamb's worthiness and the events unfolding in the vision.
- **New Song:** Represents the inauguration of the new creation through Christ's death.
- **New Exodus:** A reference to God freeing his people from oppression just as he did during the Exodus from Egypt.
- **Kingdom of Priests:** God's redeemed people, who serve God and reign with Christ.
- **Recapitulation View:** The perspective that the three series of seven plagues (seals, trumpets, bowls) are different views of the same events, not a chronological sequence.



- **Progressive View:** The idea that the series of seven plagues in Revelation are not just different perspectives on the same events, but also intensify as they progress.
- **Seals:** Represents a series of judgments unleashed on the earth.
- **The Ancient of Days:** Used to refer to God in the book of Daniel.
- **The Son of Man:** Used to refer to Jesus in the book of Daniel.

## 5. FAQs on Mathewson, Revelation, Session 10, Revelation 5: Lamb and Seals Introduction, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

### FAQ on Revelation 5 and 6

- What is the significance of the scroll in Revelation 5, and why is Jesus, the Lamb, worthy to take it?** The scroll in Revelation 5 represents God's plan for establishing His kingdom and bringing about judgment and salvation. Jesus, the Lamb, is uniquely worthy to take the scroll because of His sacrificial death on the cross. This act of self-sacrifice, reminiscent of the Passover lamb and the suffering servant in Isaiah 53, demonstrates His victory over sin and death, granting Him the authority to enact the scroll's contents. His worthiness isn't just about His power, but His redemptive act.
- How is the scene in Revelation 5 an investiture rather than just an enthronement?** While the scene might appear to be an enthronement where Jesus takes His seat on the throne, it's more accurately described as an investiture. This means that Jesus is being formally bestowed with the authority, power, and kingly rule that is His due. He has earned the right through His sacrifice, thus receiving the kingdom and the ability to enact the scroll's contents. It emphasizes the conferral of power rather than just the act of seating on a throne.
- What is the importance of the temple imagery and the incense in Revelation 5?** The presence of golden bowls and incense points to the setting of a heavenly temple, with the throne as the center. The golden bowls likely refer to those in the Tabernacle, and the incense within them is specifically identified as the prayers of the saints. This is significant because it suggests that the events that follow in Revelation, particularly the judgments and events related to the seals, are a response to the prayers of God's people, seeking vindication and justice.
- How does Revelation 5 demonstrate the deity of Christ?** Revelation 5 elevates Jesus to the same level of worship as God, which is a strong claim to His deity. He receives the same praise, honor, power, and glory as God in chapter 4. Furthermore, the author places Jesus on the same throne as God, showing that they are both the objects of worship within a strict monotheistic context. This is not only unique but revolutionary for Jewish readers, suggesting Christ partakes in the very essence and being of God, leading to later theological formulations of the Trinity.

- Why is the song in Revelation 5:9 called "a new song," and how does this relate to the concept of a new creation?** The song sung in praise of the Lamb in Revelation 5:9 is called "a new song" because it signifies the beginning of a new era inaugurated by Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. It reflects a departure from the old creation tainted by sin to a new one. By purchasing humanity and creating a kingdom of priests through His blood, Christ has inaugurated the new creation, which is further developed and consummated in Revelation 21 and 22. This "newness" is not just about the song, but about the redemptive work of Christ being a foundation for a new order of creation.
- How does Revelation 5 portray the "kingdom of priests," and what is its significance?** The "kingdom of priests" is a group of people from every tribe, language, people, and nation, redeemed by Christ to serve and reign with Him. It's not limited to a specific nation, but includes a diverse group of believers. This idea has roots in Exodus 19:6, where God called Israel to be a kingdom of priests. The redeemed are called to represent God's rule on Earth, as well as function as priests in God's presence, an idea that echoes God's original design for humanity. The kingdom of priests functions as an image of the New Exodus and Christ's complete redemption of His people.
- What is the significance of the "seven" elements ascribed to the Lamb in Revelation 5:12, and how does that contrast with the four in 5:13?** The seven elements ascribed to the Lamb (power, wealth, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and praise) symbolize the perfection and completeness of the worship and praise due to Him. The use of seven, a symbolic number for wholeness, indicates the totality of Christ's worthiness. The four elements of praise ascribed to God and the Lamb in 5:13 (praise, honor, glory, and power), on the other hand, likely represent the entirety of creation joining in worship because four often represents the earth (four corners of the earth), representing the universal worship of God.

- **How should we understand the relationship between the seals, trumpets, and bowls in Revelation 6-16?** There are different ways to interpret the relationship between the seals, trumpets, and bowls. The lecture discusses three primary views: chronological (a sequential series), recapitulation (three perspectives on the same events throughout church history), and progressive (a combination of the other two with increasing intensity and proximity to the end times). This last view suggests that the seals are general events throughout church history, the trumpets bring a more intense form of judgment, and the bowls are an intensified series of judgments just prior to the end of history, each leading to a greater perspective on the culmination of all things, and a more intense outpouring of judgment.