

**The Property Closing of All Time
Jesus Is Worthy
Revelation 5:1 – 7**

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Chapter 4 provided us with the introduction and layout of the throne room of the universe. John has described the basic layout for us. THE THRONE, the THRONE guardians, 24 thrones, worship around the throne, and the millions of others who are also there.

Pretty much a confirmation of Daniel 7:9 – 10

Daniel 7:9–10

“While I was watching, thrones were set up, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His attire was white like snow; the hair of his head was like lamb’s wool. His throne was ablaze with fire and its wheels were all aflame. A river of fire was streaming forth and proceeding from his presence. Many thousands were ministering to him; Many tens of thousands stood ready to serve him. The court convened and the books were opened.” (NET)

We have established that John is in the throne room of the universe post rapture. The church is already there and appears to have already received their rewards at the Bema seat of Christ. The Divine Council has been reconstituted, with the Church, and now we see how business is conducted in the throne room.

Worship is paramount.

If we think we can approach the throne of God and not be in awe of just who He is, chapter four has ended that misconception. Whenever we pray and enter into the throne room, we are reminded of who He is and the price that was paid to allow us access like we have in Christ.

Revelation 5:1–3

I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?” And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it. (NASB95)

Seated on the throne of the universe, the one whose glory has been described to us in chapter 4 by John, is God the Father, YAHWEH. John is now looking at activity taking place in the throne room and he sees, clearly, the right hand of God and what is sitting on it.

With these words John sets the scene for one of the great moments in all known literature. Indeed, so remarkable is the vision that an interpreter is made to pause and wonder whether his or her own words, in trying to comment on it at all, might not get in the way of its splendor. (Fee 2011, 75)

The NASB version says John saw something in the hand, in the Greek though, it is “on the hand.” And I saw on the right hand of God. We are talking about the right hand of God, a place we know, from Acts 7:55 & 56, that Jesus has been seated at for the last two thousand years.

Acts 7:55 – 56

“But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked intently toward heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look!” he said. “I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”” (NET)

Mark 16:19

“So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.” (ESV)

1 Peter 3:21 – 22

“Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.” (ESV)

Not only did Jesus go to the right hand of the Father, but before He left planet earth, everything was subjected to Him. This includes the fallen divine beings who continue to rebel, even though they are already defeated.

Matthew 24:36

“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.” (NASB95)

God, who knows everything, has kept one thing from Jesus, that is the exact moment Jesus is to come and get us. John is giving us this view after that moment.

Jesus has been seated at the right hand of the Father and remember, He loves us and wants us to be with Him, forever. I wonder if what the Father has on His right hand has been something Jesus has been looking at with anticipation for the past two thousand years, knowing that this day was to come.

What John is giving us a look at is something the Father has been in possession of for all of this time, almost like a wrapped box at Christmas.

“God sits upon the throne of his holiness” (Ps. 47:8). The sovereign Lord of the universe sits enthroned with a little scroll on His right hand. Daniel had seen this same scene with the Ancient of Days on the throne and ten thousand times ten thousand standing before Him (Dan. 7:9–10). (Custer 2004, 62)

John sees, sitting on the right hand of the Father, a βιβλίον, a book or scroll. John can also clearly see that there is writing, not only on the inside of this scroll/book, but also on the outside of this item as well. He recognizes, as a result, what this would be.

The position of the scroll in God’s possession indicates its divine source, the supreme authority of the revelation contained in it, and the assurance of adequate power to translate its contents into action. (Thomas 1992, 375)

It is nothing less than the title deed to the earth itself. (Morris 1983, 96)

Earth belongs completely to the Lord, He has never given up ownership. Recall what took place in Genesis with Adam.

Genesis 1:26–31

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.” (ESV)

Man was given dominion over the earth by God with specific instructions as to how to exercise that dominion. Adam was also told what he was not supposed to do.

Genesis 2:15–17

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (ESV)

As we know, in Genesis 3, Adam and Eve failed, something happened regarding dominion over the planet, but not ownership.

Psalms 24:1

“The earth is the LORD’S, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.” (NASB95)

When Adam and Eve failed in the Garden, something else took place as well, Adam lost dominion and willingly gave it to someone else, we get a hint of that in 2 Corinthians

2 Corinthians 4:3–4

“If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.” (NLT)

Just as an Israelite could sell or lose his land for a time, so apparently Adam lost his God-given dominion over the earth. (Morris 1983, 96)

In Israel, we see the development of something called “the Kinsman Redeemer.” There, under certain circumstances, a lost estate could be purchased by a kinsman, if they have the purchase price.

To help us understand what it is that God has on His hand, the Holy Spirit had Jeremiah write down something in chapter 32 that now becomes valuable for us to review.

Jeremiah 32:6–22

“So now, Jeremiah said, “The LORD told me, ‘Hanamel, the son of your uncle Shallum, will come to you soon. He will say to you, “Buy my field at Anathoth because you are entitled as my closest relative to buy it.” ’Now it happened just as the LORD had said! My cousin Hanamel came to me in the courtyard of the guardhouse. He said to me, ‘Buy my field which is at Anathoth in the territory of the tribe of Benjamin. Buy it for yourself since you are entitled as my closest relative to take possession of it for yourself.’ When this happened, I recognized that the LORD had indeed spoken to me. So I bought the field at Anathoth from

my cousin Hanamel. I weighed out seven ounces of silver and gave it to him to pay for it. I signed the deed of purchase, sealed it, and had some men serve as witnesses to the purchase. I weighed out the silver for him on a scale. There were two copies of the deed of purchase. One was sealed and contained the order of transfer and the conditions of purchase. The other was left unsealed. I took both copies of the deed of purchase and gave them to Baruch son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah. I gave them to him in the presence of my cousin Hanamel, the witnesses who had signed the deed of purchase, and all the Judeans who were housed in the courtyard of the guardhouse. In the presence of all these people I instructed Baruch, 'The LORD God of Israel who rules over all says, "Take these documents, both the sealed copy of the deed of purchase and the unsealed copy. Put them in a clay jar so that they may be preserved for a long time to come."' For the LORD God of Israel who rules over all says, "Houses, fields, and vineyards will again be bought in this land." ' "After I had given the copies of the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah, I prayed to the LORD, 'Oh, Lord GOD, you did indeed make heaven and earth by your mighty power and great strength. Nothing is too hard for you! You show unfailing love to thousands. But you also punish children for the sins of their parents. You are the great and powerful God who is known as the LORD who rules over all. You plan great things and you do mighty deeds. You see everything people do. You reward each of them for the way they live and for the things they do. You did miracles and amazing deeds in the land of Egypt which have had lasting effect. By this means you gained both in Israel and among humankind a renown that lasts to this day. You used your mighty power and your great strength to perform miracles and amazing deeds and to bring great terror on the Egyptians. By this means you brought your people Israel out of the land of Egypt. You kept the promise that you swore on oath to their ancestors. You gave them a land flowing with milk and honey.'" (NET)

Notice that in Jeremiah, we see that the deed of purchase, the formal contract, was sealed and that there were also terms and conditions on the outside of the formal contract along with the seals.

Scrolls with writing on both sides have been called "opisthographs" (a transliteration of ὀπισθεν [opisthen, on the other side] here). Such documents, especially those sealed, were usually private contracts kept from the public. Copies of them were not sealed. "Seals" were wax or clay blobs placed where the scroll ended and often sealed further with a signet ring to make the document official. The purpose of the seals here is to keep the contents secret until the time of fulfillment, a common apocalyptic theme (Dan. 8:26; 12:9). (Osborne 2002, 248)

The document being described by John here in Revelation is a deed, a deed for something, owned by the Father, but has been purchased. The deed has witnesses to it, thus the seals, and it has terms and conditions, thus the writing on the outside.

All the seals are on the outside; see illustration 2. The scroll is a deed dating from the end of the first century A.D. or the beginning of the second, so it is roughly contemporary with Revelation and shows that contracts or legal documents with seven witnesses were known and in use at that time. Such documents, however, could not be opened until all seven seals were broken. (Ford 2008, 92)

Babylonian Talmud

Said R. Hanina, "Said Scripture, 'Men shall buy fields for money and subscribe the deeds and seal them and procure the evidence of witnesses' (Jer. 32:44). Thus: 'Men shall buy fields for money and subscribe the deeds:' [160B] this refers to an unfolded document. '... and seal them:' this refers to a folded document. '... and procure the evidence of witnesses:' 'evidence' refers to two, and 'witnesses,' to three. How so? two for an unfolded document, and three for a folded one."

C. Maybe it's the opposite?

D. Because the folded one has more folds, it also has to have more witnesses as signatories.

E. Rafka said, "Proof of that proposition derives from the following: 'So I took the deed of the purchase, both that which was sealed, containing the terms and conditions, and that which was open' (Jer. 32:11)—'So I took the deed of the purchase,'—this refers to an unfolded document. '... both that which was sealed,'—this refers to a folded document. '... containing the terms and conditions'—this refers to the

laws that differentiate the plain from the folded document. How so? The one requires two witnesses, and the other three; witnesses of the one sign on the obverse, on the other, the reverse side.”

F. Maybe it's the opposite?

G. Because the folded one has more folds, it also has to have more witnesses as signatories (Neusner 2011, 478)

Just as the kinsman redeemer could purchase back a piece of property, as we saw with Jeremiah, Jesus is also a picture of the ultimate kinsman redeemer. The book of Ruth is written around this theme. A kinsman would have the duty of redeemer, if they were able and willing and could provide the purchase price.

Leviticus 25:23–27

“The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine. For you are strangers and sojourners with me. And in all the country you possess, you shall allow a redemption of the land. If your brother becomes poor and sells part of his property, then his nearest redeemer shall come and redeem what his brother has sold. If a man has no one to redeem it and then himself becomes prosperous and finds sufficient means to redeem it, let him calculate the years since he sold it and pay back the balance to the man to whom he sold it, and then return to his property.” (ESV)

There is also one other duty a kinsman would have...the avenger of blood.

Numbers 35:9–34

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan, then you shall select cities to be cities of refuge for you, that the manslayer who kills any person without intent may flee there. The cities shall be for you a refuge from the avenger, that the manslayer may not die until he stands before the congregation for judgment. And the cities that you give shall be your six cities of refuge. You shall give three cities beyond the Jordan, and three cities in the land of Canaan, to be cities of refuge. These six cities shall be for refuge for the people of Israel, and for the stranger and for the sojourner among them, that anyone who kills any person without intent may flee there. But if he struck him down with an iron object, so that he died, he is a murderer. The murderer shall be put to death. And if he struck him down with a stone tool that could cause death, and he died, he is a murderer. The murderer shall be put to death. Or if he struck him down with a wooden tool that could cause death, and he died, he is a murderer. The murderer shall be put to death. The avenger of blood shall himself put the murderer to death; when he meets him, he shall put him to death. And if he pushed him out of hatred or hurled something at him, lying in wait, so that he died, or in enmity struck him down with his hand, so that he died, then he who struck the blow shall be put to death. He is a murderer. The avenger of blood shall put the murderer to death when he meets him. But if he pushed him suddenly without enmity, or hurled anything on him without lying in wait or used a stone that could cause death, and without seeing him dropped it on him, so that he died, though he was not his enemy and did not seek his harm, then the congregation shall judge between the manslayer and the avenger of blood, in accordance with these rules. And the congregation shall rescue the manslayer from the hand of the avenger of blood, and the congregation shall restore him to his city of refuge to which he had fled, and he shall live in it until the death of the high priest who was anointed with the holy oil. But if the manslayer shall at any time go beyond the boundaries of his city of refuge to which he fled, and the avenger of blood finds him outside the boundaries of his city of refuge, and the avenger of blood kills the manslayer, he shall not be guilty of blood. For he must remain in his city of refuge until the death of the high priest, but after the death of the high priest the manslayer may return to the land of his possession. And these things shall be for a statute and rule for you throughout your generations in all your dwelling places. If anyone kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death on the evidence of witnesses. But no person shall be put to death on the testimony of one witness. Moreover, you shall accept no ransom for the life of a murderer, who is guilty of death, but he shall be put to death. And you shall accept no ransom for him who has fled to his city of refuge, that he may return to dwell in the land before the death of the high priest. You shall not pollute the land in which you live, for blood pollutes the land, and no atonement can be made for the land for the blood that is shed in it, except by the blood of the one who shed it. You shall not defile the

land in which you live, in the midst of which I dwell, for I the LORD dwell in the midst of the people of Israel.” (ESV)

The document seen by John, the scroll with seven seals, is the deed for the planet earth. As in Israel, something took place that resulted in a temporary use of the right of ownership, just like what would take place in Israel. And just like in Israel, a kinsman redeemer is needed to buy back the property, Jesus, fully God and fully man, is our kinsman redeemer and He paid the price. Not only the price necessary to redeem earth, but also the price to redeem us, we were sold into slavery to sin, Jesus has set us free from that slavery. He is our redeemer.

John 19:30

“Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.” (NASB95)

Τετέλεσται – tetelastai – from τελέω (teleo,) to complete an activity or process, bring to an end, finish, complete, to carry out an obligation or demand, carry out, accomplish, perform, fulfill, to pay what is due. (Arndt, et al. 2000, 997)

1 Peter 1:17–19

“If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth; knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.” (NASB95)

But even after the price was paid, the great usurper must still be expelled from the redeemed estate before the redemption of the purchased possession would be complete. For a long time, however, the Lamb of God, the rightful owner, has been away in heaven, preparing a great city as a home for his redeemed ones, to bring back with Him when He returns to take possession of the earth. (Morris 1983, 96)

Now we know what the book is, the confusion over the term also may be due to the manner in which contracts were done by Jews. They were called Gets.

The Hebrew document which resembles the apocalyptic scroll most closely is the get mequššar, the tied (folded and sealed) deed. This was one which each witness folded, signed on the back, then folded and signed again; cf. Jer 32:9–25. Although the interpreters of the Mishnah do not appear to know exactly what it was, or exactly what it looked like, the deed appears to have required more than two witnesses, at least three, although there is dispute concerning the actual number. (Ford 2008, 92-93)

An unfolded document [has] the signatures within [at the bottom of a single page of writing]. And one which is folded has the signatures behind [each fold]. An unfolded document, on which its witnesses signed at the back, or a folded document, on which its witnesses signed on the inside— both of them are invalid. F R. Hananiah b. Gamaliel says, “One which is folded, on the inside of which its witnesses signed their names, is valid, “because one can unfold it.” Rabban Simeon b. Gamaliel says, “Everything is in accord with local custom.” (Neusner, The Mishnah: A New Translation 1988, 580)

Revelation 5:1–3

“I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?” And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it.” (NASB95)

There are numerous guesses as to who the strong angel is. In reality, we do not know as we are not told. But we do know this, the search for the one who is worthy is universal and will be heard by all in the universe.

John notes that not a single known creature, human or angelic or demonic, had either the authority or ability to break the seven seals and thus to “open the scroll” so as to see what was written on it. (Fee 2011, 77)

Man, who thinks they can find another way to heaven or even earn their way there, is not worthy to open the document, and the search included all of those in sheol, heaven as well as on earth. No one speaks up. There is no one worthy found anywhere even among the divine beings in all three locations, no one speaks up.

Revelation 5:4–5

“Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it; and one of the elders said to me, “Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.” (NASB95)

The challenge has gone out to all those dwelling throughout the entire creation, and no one is able to accept it. (Mounce 1997, 130)

John is weeping as he knows where he is, and he knows what is at stake, the redemption of the world and the reestablishment of Eden, which has been God’s plan all along.

He wept at the prospect of an indefinite postponement of God’s final and decisive action. The universe itself was morally incapable of effecting its own destiny. (Mounce 1997, 131)

William Ernest Henley’s poem, *Invictus*, gives us man’s view:

Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll.
I am the master of my fate:
I am the captain of my soul. (Henley 1875)

But as we see here, man is completely and totally incapable of being able to effect destiny. There is no one in creation who can do this as “the question posed by the angelic being and the response in 5:2–4 concern who is able not only to unveil the full contents of the document together with their meaning (cf. 10:7; 17:7) but also to put the contents into force.” (Beale 1999, 345-346)

All appears lost to John, as far as he can see, no one can open the scroll, investigate the scroll, or even read it much less take action on the conditions connected with it.

John has drawn the attention of one of the elders. The Greek used for weeping in verse 4 is ἔκλαιον (eklaion) which comes from the word κλαίω (klaio) - weep, cry, weep for, bewail. (Arndt, et al. 2000, 545)

He is a Jew, he takes crying seriously, he is wailing...loudly...the elders get it, they have been there longer than John and they are in their glorified bodies. The elder understands, here it is not an angel who comforts John, but someone who has been just where he is at some past point in life.

He tells John to 'stop wailing', for the seals will be opened. (L. Morris 1987, 97)

Revelation 5:5

and one of the elders said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals." (NASB95)

The elder wants John and us to get it, we all need to know who the only one who has overcome "Ἐνίκησεν (enikēsen, has overcome) appears first in the sentence for emphasis, and the aorist (verb tense) refers possibly to his life as a victory over the powers of evil (global aorist) or, more likely in this context, to his sacrificial death as the great "victory" over Satan (punctiliar force). This is the same verb used in the seven letters for the "overcomer" or "conqueror" and probably means that Jesus' victory is the basis for ours. It is the cross, as in 5:6, that is the heart of all spiritual power over evil. Here lies the great paradox of Christianity: victory comes from apparent defeat; evil is conquered through the terrible sacrificial suffering of the cross (1 Cor. 15:54). The NT is very clear on this. When Satan placed Christ on the cross, it was his greatest tactical error, for he took part in his own defeat. (Osborne 2002, 252-253)

The verb is also active, His victory at a point in time is so great, that the results of His conquering continues on. He is the ultimate overcomer, the example for all of us.

The Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David is Jesus Christ, Messiah.

The elder is using terms to describe Jesus that a Jew would get, they are Messianic terms.

Genesis 49:9–10

"Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples." (ESV)

As the victor, Jesus is ὁ λέων (ho leōn, the lion), the most mentioned animal in the OT (150 times in the LXX), often used in a figurative sense for power and strength (a symbol for the Davidic throne in 1 Kings 10:19–20) or for carnivorous menace (the "devil" as a "roaring lion looking for someone to devour," 1 Pet. 5:8). Yahweh as divine warrior is often depicted as a lion (Job 10:16; Isa. 31:4; Jer. 50:44; Hos. 5:14; Amos 3:8), and Jesus now assumes that role as divine warrior. (Osborne 2002, 253)

By use of this term, 'The Lion of the Tribe of Judah,' the elder is identifying Jesus as the kinsman redeemer, the avenger of blood who is willing and capable of serving in that role.

Isaiah 31:4

Indeed, this is what the LORD says to me: "The LORD will be like a growling lion, like a young lion growling over its prey. Though a whole group of shepherds gathers against it, it is not afraid of their shouts or intimidated by their yelling. In this same way the LORD who commands armies will descend to do battle on Mount Zion and on its hill." (NET)

There is a reason why Jesus stopped at the point He did when He read from Isaiah 61 in the synagogue in Luke 4

Luke 4:16–21

And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written, "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT

ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD.” And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” (NASB95)

As the Lion, Jesus is coming to fulfill those things He did not read from in Isaiah 61.

Isaiah 61:1–7

“The spirit of the sovereign LORD is upon me, because the LORD has chosen me. He has commissioned me to encourage the poor, to help the brokenhearted, to decree the release of captives, and the freeing of prisoners, to announce the year when the LORD will show his favor, the day when our God will seek vengeance, to console all who mourn, to strengthen those who mourn in Zion, by giving them a turban, instead of ashes, oil symbolizing joy, instead of mourning, a garment symbolizing praise, instead of discouragement. They will be called oaks of righteousness, trees planted by the LORD to reveal his splendor. They will rebuild the perpetual ruins and restore the places that were desolate; they will reestablish the ruined cities, the places that have been desolate since ancient times. Foreigners will take care of your sheep; foreigners will work in your fields and vineyards. You will be called, ‘the LORD’s priests, servants of our God.’ You will enjoy the wealth of nations and boast about the riches you receive from them. Instead of shame, you will get a double portion; instead of humiliation, they will rejoice over the land they receive. Yes, they will possess a double portion in their land and experience lasting joy.” (NET)

And He is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, another Messianic term.

Isaiah 11:1–5

“A shoot will grow out of Jesse’s root stock, a bud will sprout from his roots. The LORD’s spirit will rest on him— a spirit that gives extraordinary wisdom, a spirit that provides the ability to execute plans, a spirit that produces absolute loyalty to the LORD. He will take delight in obeying the LORD. He will not judge by mere appearances, or make decisions on the basis of hearsay. He will treat the poor fairly, and make right decisions for the downtrodden of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and order the wicked to be executed. Justice will be like a belt around his waist, integrity will be like a belt around his hips.” (NET)

What we see are terms that are related to the Messiah as a military commander, as the avenger of blood, the one who will step up for His people.

As the royal Messiah, Jesus wages a messianic war against evil, and the major weapon that defeats the enemies of God is the cross. This cosmic victory enables him “to open” the scroll. (Osborne 2002, 254)

We need Jesus...He is the only one who can open the scroll.

He told us clearly in John 14:6 “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” (NASB95)

Now we see the truth of that statement.

If not for Jesus, if He had not conquered and been faithful to death, then the scroll would not be opened.

If the scroll were not opened,

- 5:9, Jesus would not be worshiped as worthy to open the scroll.
- 5:9, Jesus would not be worshiped as the world’s Redeemer.
- 6:10, the martyrs of the faith would not be avenged.
- 8:4, 5, the prayers of the saints (“Your will be done; your kingdom come”) would not be answered.
- 9:15, God’s appointed plan would not come to pass.
- 11:15, the kingdom of the world would not become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ.

- 16–18, the wicked would not be judged.
- 19, 20, Jesus would not come back.
- 21, 22, God would not reign in glory in the new heavens and the new earth.

In short, if that scroll isn't opened, the Bible's promises don't come true. Hope is defeated. (Hamilton, Jr. 2012, 153)

But Jesus was faithful, He did not sin...ever. He paid the price for you and me on the cross and then rose from the dead.

1 Corinthians 15:1–4

“Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,” (NASB95)

Hebrews 1:1–4

“God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.” (NASB95)

Jesus conquered by getting killed. It is the greatest paradox in the world: the almighty King overcame all his enemies as his enemies seemingly overcame him. Satan surely thought he had won the decisive battle. He tricked God's chosen people into murdering their very own deliverer. Jesus was dead. But out of the ashes of the crucifixion rose salvation for the world. (Hamilton, Jr. 2012, 155)

Romans 5:6

“For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.” (NASB95)

1 Corinthians 2:6–9

“Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; but just as it is written, “THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.” (NASB95)

He is the only one who is worthy to take the scroll and open it. The Father knows this as the next scene John reports to us shows us

Revelation 5:6–7

“And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.” (NASB95)

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