

The Great Breakthrough

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Revelation 5:1-14.

B. Theme: the worship of the Redeemer.

II. The unraveling of the sealed scroll.

A. This is the revelation of the mysteries of God such as the problem of evil.

B. That which is written down in the scroll suggests that it is permanent.

C. John cries out for one that is worthy to open the scroll.

1. Only the King of Jews is able to do this.

2. When John sees the King, he sees the slaughtered Lamb of God.

3. Jesus overcomes by submitting, which ties together the earthly promises of Israel and the church.

4. Israel is being restored again. Israel must be restored for the earth to be restored. (Romans 11)

5. Jesus has the fullness of power because of His death.

6. Jesus could understand man so He was worthy to take the scroll and open it.

D. The creatures engage in the worship of heaven over the Lamb.

1. The redeemed contribute to the work of redemption through the application of it throughout the earth.

2. The death of Jesus is given for the worship of heaven.

3. We who deserve death are given life as a gift of God's grace.

4. Earth will join in the worship of heaven when the final seal is opened—some will gladly confess and others will reluctantly have to acknowledge it. (Philippians 2)

Application questions:

1. What is surprising about the picture of Jesus? What does this tell us about the importance of His work?

2. What does the worship of Jesus suggest about His place in the universe?

3. How many adjectives can you come up with to describe Jesus based upon this passage? List as many as possible in an act of worship before Him.
