

The Apocalypse of St. John

Chapter Five

Review: We have begun the third phase of the book (cf. 1:19) begins as the Spirit lifts John into heaven at the invitation of Christ. John bombarded with a spectacular display and angels and saints worshipping the Lord and the Lamb. The next two chapters focus on this same focus of worship: Rev 4 praises the Father as the maker of all, and Rev 5 praise the Son as the Savior of all.

Read 5:1

Orthodox Study Bible (OSB) Note 5:1

Ignatius Catholic Bible Study (ICBS): The scroll is written on both sides like the tablets of the Decalogue (Ex 32:15) and the judgment oracle of Ezekiel (2:9-10).

Read 5:2-3

Read 5:4-5

Add: The word in verse five translated "prevailed" looked a little suspicious. So I looked it up and, sure enough, it was "Nikao" (from nee-kay).

νικάω nikáō, nik-ah'-o; from [G3529](#); to subdue (literally or figuratively):—conquer, overcome, prevail, get the victory. -It is the same word used by our Lord in Jn 16:33.

OSB Note 5:2-5

Add: Jesus came to make known the Father's will to us: See Jn 17. He is the ultimate revelation of God. Therefore only He can open the scroll.

Read 5:6-7

ICBS: John expects to see a Lion (5:5) but turns to see a wounded lamb (this is the first of 28 times that Christ is depicted as a Lamb in Revelation (CCC 608).

The Lamb is seen as slain b/c Christ forever appears as a sacrificial lamb, having taken the scars of His Crucifixion with Him into heaven (Jn 20:27). His standing upright symbolizes his victory (nee-kay) conquering of death by death (Rev 1:18).

σφάζω spházō, sfad'-zo; a primary verb; to butcher (especially an animal for food or in sacrifice) or (generally) to slaughter, or (specially), to maim (violently):—kill, slay, wound.

OSB Note 5:6,7

Read 5:8

OSB Note 5:8

ICBS: The harp was a traditional accompaniment for liturgical song in old Israel (Ps 32:2 LXX).

Read 5:9-10

Kings = βασιλεύς basileús, bas-il-yooce'; probably from [G939](#) (through the notion of a foundation of power); a sovereign (abstractly, relatively, or figuratively):—king.

Priests = ἱερεύς hiereús, hee-er-yooce'; from [G2413](#); a priest (literally or figuratively):—(high) priest.

“Kingdom of priests” in CCC:

CCC #1546 Christ, high priest and unique mediator, has made of the Church "a kingdom, priests for his God and Father." (Note 20 *Rev* 1:6; cf. *Rev* 5:9-10; *1 Pet* 2:5,9). The whole community of believers is, as such, priestly. The faithful exercise their baptismal priesthood through their participation, each according to his own vocation, in Christ's mission as priest, prophet, and king. Through the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation the faithful are "consecrated to be . . . a holy priesthood." (Note 21 *Lumen Gentium* 10 § 1).

As Fr. Alexander Schmemmann used to say we are all called to be Doxological-Eucharistic beings and offer back to God all of creation in glory & thanksgiving.

OSB Note 5:9-14A

ICBS: The three songs that are sung are similar to the one sung by the Israelites in Ex 15 (cf. 15:11) after they were delivered by the blood of the passover lambs. For Christians, Jesus is our Passover or Paschal Lamb (according to St. Paul, 1 Cor 5:7) whose blood ransoms all nations from sin and consecrates us to serve him as a royal priesthood (CC 608, 1546).

πάσχα páscha, pas'-khah; of Chaldee origin (compare [H6453](#)); the Passover (the meal, the day, the festival or the special sacrifices connected with it):—Easter, Passover.

ICBS: New songs (5:9) were composed and sung every time the Lord performed mighty acts to save His people (32:2, 39:3; 143:9; Is 42:10).

Read 5:11-12

OSB Note 5:9-14B

Read 5:13-14

5:14 καὶ τὰ τέσσαρα ζῶα ἔλεγον, Ἀμήν, καὶ οἱ εἴκοσιτέσσαρες πρεσβύτεροι ἔπεσαν καὶ προσεκύνησαν ζῶντι εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων

ICBS the thousands and thousands of angels remind Christians of a similar vision in Daniel 7:10 where thousands and thousands of angels ministered to Him.

ADD: This means an innumerable amount, uncountable.

5:11 καὶ εἶδον καὶ ἤκουσα φωνὴν ἀγγέλων πολλῶν κύκλω τοῦ θρόνου καὶ τῶν ζώων καὶ τῶν πρεσβυτέρων καὶ ἦν ὁ ἀριθμὸς αὐτῶν μυριάδες μυριάδων καὶ χιλιάδες χιλιάδων

OSB Note 5:9-14C

Summary: The Heavenly Worship described in the Apocalypse as explained in the Catechism of the Catholic Church #1137-1139