

Title: THE SCROLL AND THE LAMB, REVELATION 5:11 – 14  
(Chatham, NJ; 04/14/13, AM) [Pc – Descriptive Exegesis]

Theme: In the vision of the Lamb and the scroll, the church is assured that Christ has been granted the Kingdom and rules with complete sovereignty over human history.

Purpose: To present the visual images in such a way that the rule of Christ is affirmed and believed by the audience.

Introduction:

1. What began with words to churches now has become visual images.
2. John passes through a door, 4:1. Imagine what it looks like.
3. He experiences the ultimate transcendent moment, even more powerful than the shepherds in the field, Luke 2:13-14.
4. Unlike Paul, however, in 2 Corinthians 12:4 he can describe the experience.

I. First Image: God on the Throne, Chapter 4

A. Appearance of the throne, 2

1. Someone was seated on it
2. He looked like precious stones: jasper and carnelian
3. Jasper – opaque in red, yellow or gray blue
4. Carnelian – red to orange-red
5. Ezekiel's vision of God contains precious stones and metals
6. Also used to describe the heavenly Jerusalem in 21
7. A rainbow that looked like an emerald (primarily green hue with blue and yellow) surrounded the throne

B. Around the throne

1. Twenty-four thrones around the main throne
2. Twenty-four elders sat on them
3. Clothed in white
4. Golden crowns on their heads
5. Four living creatures on each side of the throne (6-8): wings with eyes, faces of lion, ox, man, eagle
6. Seven torches in front
7. A sea of glass, like crystal

C. Activity in the Throne Room – auditory senses

1. Thunder and lightning from the throne
2. Songs and words fill the room
3. The creatures praise His holiness perpetually, 8
4. Holy, holy, holy – 9
5. The elders also worship him, 10
6. Worthy are you -11
7. Glory and honor and power is given to him alone
8. You created all things
9. The focus is God and the worship of God

II. Second Image – The Scroll, 5:1-4

A. Written on front and back

1. Seven seals were on it
2. Perhaps an allusion to Ez. 2:9-10
3. The words of the scroll were of lamentation, mourning, and woe
4. These were words that the prophet was given to speak to Israel

- B. John weeps loudly
  - 1. An angel seeks to have the scrolls opened, 2-3, but there is no one
  - 2. John is filled with anxiety and he cries. . . loudly
  - 3. Sealed scrolls probably and allusion to Daniel 8:26 & 12:9 where he is told to seal the words until the proper time
  - 4. Source of anxiety: above and Isaiah 29:11
  - 5. God's will is in the seals, and without someone to read it mankind remains in the dark as to the ways of God

### III. Third Image – The Slain Lamb, 5:6-14

- A. Lion and Root, 5
  - 1. One of the elders speaks to John, "Don't cry!"
  - 2. The Lion of Judah, the root of David has triumphed
  - 3. God's prophecies have been fulfilled
  - 4. The King has conquered and taken the throne
- B. Worship focuses on the Lamb
  - 1. A lamb in the middle of the scene
  - 2. Appeared to be slain with 7 horns and eyes, the seven spirits of 1:4
  - 3. He was given the scroll: symbolic act of receiving authority
  - 4. All heaven now worships him
  - 5. The elders hold incense of the "prayers of the saints," 8
  - 6. They sing, 9
  - 7. The heavenly creatures sing, 11-12
  - 8. Earthly creatures also sing, 13
  - 9. Elders and creatures worship him, 14

#### Conclusion:

- 1. The image is clear; Jesus Christ has conquered and is now worshipped.
- 2. John's vision describes what Paul calls the "heavenly places."
- 3. It accords with Eph. 1:19-23.
- 4. Keep these images ever before you.
- 5. Be faithful and encouraged; the King has conquered.
- 6. The future is in his hands.
- 7. Worship him: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"