

97-04

The Plan

Preparing to Look Into God's Planning Scroll

1 Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" 3 But no-one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. 4 I wept and wept because no-one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. 5 Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

6 Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. 8 And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. 12 In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" 14 The four living creatures said, "Amen", and the elders fell down and worshipped. (NIV)

1. God Wrote It All Down (vv.1-14)

A. *His Documents*

B. *Our Copy*

2. What He's Already Told us about the Things on That Scroll

A. *It Contains* _____

B. *It Contains* _____

C. *It Contains* _____

Discussion Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message and to prepare you for participation in one of our small group studies. If you need more information about when and where CARE groups are meeting this week see the display in the lobby ...

1. How do you think the average non-Christian views the book of Revelation?

Have you ever discussed the content of the book of Revelation with a skeptic? What was that discussion like?

How do you view the book of Revelation?

2. What does it do for you spiritually to know that God has never promised something that has not come true?

How can an absolute confidence in God's future plans for the world change the way you live?

3. How does Paul say that we should respond to the postponement of Israel's kingdom in Romans 11:20-22?

How can we have the wrong attitude about it? *(Note that the stern statements about the church corporately do not apply to the Christian's individual standing as an adopted child of God according to the doctrinal ground already covered in Romans 8:29-29.)*

4. How does it make you feel that God is going to fulfill three to four thousand year old promises to Abraham and his descendants?
5. What can we learn about God in the remaining chapters of Revelation knowing that much of what is detailed there is about the pouring out of his wrath on sinful men and women?

If you are a Christian, what does this do to the value you place on your salvation?