

THE BOOK SEALED WITH THE SEVEN SEALS

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Read the story about the scroll sealed with seven seals in Revelation, chapter 5. The inner meaning of this story tells us how, when the Lord gave us the Writings, He opened His Word up to us.

John the apostle had his spiritual eyes opened, and he saw a wonderful picture in heaven. There was a throne on which the Lord sat, and around Him was a sea of glass with seven lamps on it. Around the Lord's throne there was a green rainbow. Beyond the sea of glass there were twenty four "elders." The word "elders" means "older men." They were sitting on thrones, and they had crowns on their heads. Between them and the Lord there were four creatures, with wings, full of eyes. One was like a lion, another like a calf, a third like an eagle, and a fourth like a man.

John tells us that he saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a little book, with writing all over it, sealed with seven seals. In those days a book didn't look like the ones we have. It was a long sheet of paper, or parchment, rolled up. It is sometimes called a "scroll."

This scroll was sealed up, and no one, in heaven or on the earth, could break those seals and look at what was in the book. But it was very important that someone look at the book! So John cried. He wept much because not one person could open the book.

But then he was comforted. There was someone who could open that book: "The Lion of the tribe of Judah." John looked, and on the throne where the Lord was, he suddenly saw a lamb instead of the Lord. The lamb came down from the throne. Then it seemed as if the Lord was sitting on the throne and the Lamb was different from Him, even though they were really the same person. The Lamb took the book from the hand of Him who sat on the throne, and, as the story tells later, He opened the seals.

Who was the Lamb? He was the Lord Jesus Christ, our God who came down to earth. What was the book? It was the Word of the Lord. What is meant by the Lamb opening the book? Why, that the Lord Jesus Christ can help us to see all the truths of the Word, especially those which show what is right and what is wrong.

Did you notice that the Lord was spoken of in three ways in this story? First He is seen as "Him who sat upon the throne." The Lord appeared as a Man upon the throne. Then He was seen as a Lamb, who seemed to be right where the

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Lord was sitting. Then the lamb came down and stood on the sea of glass. Then the Lord was also called a lion—the “Lion of the Tribe of Judah.”

From this we learn that the Lord is one God, but He is seen in different ways. He is seen as a Person, because He really is a Person. He is our God, and we are made to be like Him. He is seen as a Lamb because He is very gentle and loving. Lastly, He was said to be a Lion, for the Lord has tremendous strength. A lion is a strong and magnificent animal.

In the Word we see the Lord in lots of different ways. We see Him as a wise and caring Person, our Lord Jesus Christ, who heals us when we are sick, and cares for us when we are unhappy. We can think of Him as someone gentle. He is not really a Lamb, but a lamb is a gentle animal. It reminds us that the Lord is very gentle with us when we are hurt or are doing something wrong and want His help. We can think of Him as strong—stronger than a lion, able to fight off any evil people who want to hurt us.

The Lord is many things to us. He is loving and kind when we are good. He is stern when we do what is wrong. He is forgiving when we are sorry for what we have done. He is helpful when we are in trouble. He is gentle when we need Him to hold us up and keep our enemies away from us.

The Word shows the Lord in many ways. Today, just remember the three ways you heard of Him in this story—as a Man, as a Lamb, and as a Lion.