

## THE BOOK ON THE HAND OF GOD – REV 5:1

In (rather, *on*) the right hand of the eternal God, John saw a book, a book written within and without, bound shut, and sealed with seven seals (vv. 1- 4). This book is the book of God's eternal decrees. It represents God's eternal plan and purpose of grace, his purpose of predestination, which includes all things. It is to this book that our great Surety referred when he said, 'Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God' (Ps. 40:7-8; Heb. 10:5-10). William Hendriksen said of this book, 'It symbolizes God's purpose with respect to the entire universe throughout history, and concerning all creatures in all ages and unto all eternity.' Our God is a God of purpose, eternal, unalterable purpose (Isa. 46:9-11). God's purpose of predestination includes all things (Eph. 1:11). The object of God's eternal purpose of predestination is the salvation of his elect (Rom. 8:28-30). Everything that comes to pass in time was purposed by God in eternity (Rom. 11:36). And the object of God in all that he does is the effectual accomplishment of the everlasting salvation of his elect. In election, God chose a people whom he would save. In predestination, he sovereignly ordained all things that come to pass to secure the salvation of his chosen. And in providence, he accomplishes in time what he purposed from eternity. As John saw it, the book of God was closed, a mystery sealed with seven seals. These seven seals do not represent an imaginary 'seven dispensations' of time. The writing within and on the back and the seven seals simply mean that God's purpose is full, complete, perfect, and unalterable. Nothing can

be added to it. Nothing can be taken from it. The seven seals also tell us that God's purpose of grace is unknown, unrevealed, a secret known only to God, until Christ revealed it. He revealed it at first in the types, shadows, and prophecies of the Old Testament. Then, in these last days, he has revealed it to us more fully in the gospel. And in the last day, when the restitution of all things is made, our Lord will perfectly reveal God's purpose in all things. The closed book indicated that God's plan was both unrevealed and unexecuted. If the book should remain closed, God's eternal purpose would not be realized. His plan would not be executed. The thought of God's purpose being shut up, unrevealed, and unfulfilled, caused John great lamentation and grief. And he began to weep. If God's book is opened, if the seals are broken, then the universe is ruled and governed in the interest of God's elect, according to the purpose of his grace. Then God's glorious purpose of redemption would be accomplished. But if it is not opened and fulfilled, then the purpose of God himself would be thwarted. The grace of God would be frustrated. The plan of God would go unfulfilled. God himself would lose his glory. But there is no cause to weep! (Rev5:5-7).

*Don Fortner*

**NOTICE** – We will not be able to livestream a service next Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Please make use of the plentiful material for streaming and download at [www.freegraceradio.com](http://www.freegraceradio.com) or other channels such as <https://www.newfocus.church>. We plan to livestream our service on 9<sup>th</sup> April.

# Biblical Gospel Church

*Preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ - Ephesians 3:8*

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**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**11:00 am (GMT+1) Service**

*Revelation 5*

*"The Book of God's Triumphant Kingdom"*

Traditional worship with hymns, prayer, Bible readings and a sermon based on a passage of the Bible.

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## Reading Genesis 49:8-12

415 to 526

*J Allen*

1 Glory to God on high!  
Let earth and skies reply,  
Praise ye his name!  
His love and grace adore,  
Who all our sorrow bore;  
Sing aloud evermore,  
Worthy the Lamb!

2 Jesus, our Lord and God,  
Bore sin's tremendous load!  
Praise ye his name!  
Tell what his arm has done,  
What spoils from death he won,  
Sing his great name alone;  
Worthy the Lamb!

3 While they around the throne  
Cheerfully join in one,  
Praising his name,  
Ye who have felt his blood  
Sealing your peace with God,  
Sound his dear fame abroad;  
Worthy the Lamb!

## Prayer

## Reading Revelation 5

### Prayer

19 to 229

*I Watts*

1 Behold the glories of the Lamb,  
Amidst his Father's throne;  
Prepare new honours for his name,  
And songs before unknown.

4 Eternal Father, who shall look  
Into thy secret will?  
Who but the Son shall take that book,  
And open every seal?

5 He shall fulfil thy great decrees;  
The Son deserves it well;  
Lo! in his hands the sovereign keys  
Of heaven, and death, and hell.

6 Now to the Lamb that once was slain,  
Be endless blessings paid;  
Salvation, glory, joy remain  
For ever on thy head.

7 Thou hast redeemed our souls with blood,  
Hast set the prisoners free,  
Hast made us kings and priests to God,  
And we shall reign with thee.

## Sermon

1005 to 858

*I Watts*

1 Come, let us join our cheerful songs  
With angels round the throne;  
Ten thousand thousand are their tongues,  
But all their joys are one.

2 "Worthy the Lamb that died," they cry,  
"To be exalted thus."  
"Worthy the Lamb," our lips reply,  
"For he was slain for us."

3 Jesus is worthy to receive  
Honour and power divine;  
And blessings more than we can give,  
Be, Lord, for ever thine.

4 Let all that dwell above the sky,  
And air, and earth, and seas,  
Conspire to lift thy glories high,  
And speak thy endless praise.

5 The whole creation join in one,  
To bless the sacred name  
Of him that sits upon the throne,  
And to adore the Lamb.