

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.  
 THREE MONTHS' STUDIES IN THE WRITINGS OF JOHN.

FOURTH QUARTER: THREE MONTHS' STUDIES IN THE

[Dec. 5.

A. D. 96-98.]

Rev. 5. 1-14.



**LESSON X. WORK**  
[Commit to memory verses 11-13.]  
...to the right hand of

1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the back side, sealed with seven seals.

2 And I saw a strong angel pro-  
claiming with a loud voice, Who is  
worthy to open the book, and to  
loose the seals thereof?

3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to look thereon.

to open the book, neither to look thereon.

able to open the book, neither to look  
And I wept much, because no man was  
book, neither to look

worthy to open and to read the book, because  
thereon.

5 And one of the elders said, Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Ju'da, the root of Da'vid, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose

6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the elders and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out to all the earth.

7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

### General Statement.

After beholding the vision of the glorified Christ, the apostle received a message to be delivered to each of the seven leading churches, and exhorted all, biding some, commanding others, and exhorting all, biding some, commanding others, and exhorting all, biding some, commanding others, and exhorting all.

Explanatory

[illegible]

### Explanatory and

**Verse 1.** And I saw, John, who in a rapt condition had been caught up to heaven. In the right hand. The Greek is, "on the right hand," showing that it was lying on the open palm, as if freely held out to be read. **Of that sat on the throne.** The visible manifestation of the Lord God, which is not described, but is mentioned as a glorious appearance in a form bestowing the likeness of humanity. **A book.** Not a book, but a roll of manuscript, containing the record and volume, like our books, but a roll of manuscript. The best opinion is that this book contained the revelation of God's plan of the salvation of the race. "We call of God's plan" is "the book of redemption," might therefore lay it "on the back." Most ancient manuscripts were written on but one side of the sheet, but this was so full that it covered both sides. Sealed with seven seals. It was not opened, but was tightly rolled, and had seven seals on the head of the page fastening the roll together. (1) God's purposes for men are concealed until the time of their accomplishment. (2) Salvation comes from God, and is wrought by the power of God.

**2. A strong angel.** One who could speak in loud, powerful tones, to be heard throughout the universe. **Who is worthy?** Of rank and power, such that he can venture to break the seal which God has placed upon the future, and reveal the coming events of God's plan of salvation for men. (3) **Redemption is a deep mystery which no human thought can fathom.**

**3. And no man.** The Rev. Ver. is better, "no one," for not only men, but also angels, archangels, and heavenly beings, are referred to. **In heaven** and **heavenly beings** and angels and "living creatures." Among the **throne** and **throne**. **Nor in earth.** No man unaided around the throne. **And the earth.** In the plan came to a comprehension of God's grace in the plan of salvation. **Neither** and **the earth.** In Hades, of thought, as this verse and many others intimate:

### Practical Notes.

**Practical Notes.** solve for us the mystery of redemption. **Was able to open the book.** To penetrate the secret counsels locked up in its pages. **Neither to look thereon.** Such was the blinding glory which surrounded it.

4. **I wept much.** He had been called up to this celestial region, that he might see "the things which must come to pass hereafter." Rev. 4. 1. And now in the very opening of his vision it would seem that he was to be disappointed. "It was a wondrous thing, to see a tear fall on the floor of heaven."—*Bishop Alexander.*

5. And one of the elders. Around the throne of the highest at twenty-four elders, supposed to represent collectively the twelve tribe patriarchs, and the twelve apostles; and thus the unity of the Church under both covenants. **Saith unto me.** It is a tradition of the early Church that this was the patriarch Jacob. **The Lion.** A lion, the symbol of royalty, of the tribe of Judah. The

**The Lion.** A lion, the symbol of strength and of victory. Of the tribe named in the promised Messiah, springing from the tribe named Jacob's dying prophecy. **Gen. 49:9. The Root of David.** The descendant of David, royal house. Hath gained the crown as a root out of Jacob, implying that he foes by his invictory by a struggle. He overcame all his foes by his carnation, his death, and his resurrection. **To open the book.** (4) *The mysteries of redemption are revealed alone through Christ Jesus.*

**6. In the midst of the throne.** Not on the throne, but in the midst of the group surrounding it. The Rev. Ver. gives a much better rendering, "the four living creatures." They are supposed by some, chap. 4, verses 6, 7. They are supposed by others to be symbolical of animated nature, life in its various forms, from the lowest to the highest; by others, to represent redeemed humanity. **Stood a Lamb.** It is not necessary to suppose that John saw a

**Lamb.** It is not necessary to suppose that