

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## REVELATION 4-5

“Cribs” was a TV show that first aired in September 2000. It took its viewers on a tour of the residences of famous people. The show spun off various versions.

There was a *MTV Cribs* for hipsters, a *CMT Cribs* for country music fans, and a *Teen Cribs* for teenagers. To take a tour of Mariah Carey’s penthouse, or Carmelo Anthony’s country estate, catch an episode of *Cribs*.

And if you want to see God’s Crib turn to [Revelation 4-5...](#) The Apostle John takes us on a tour of *the King of the universe’s Crib*. The curtain separating time from eternity pulls back and Heaven’s door swings open...

Verse 1, “After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.” Here are a few questions to ask...

First, John is about to be shown “*things which must take place after this...*” What then, is the “*this*”?

Well, for the last two chapters in Revelation we’ve been discussing the Church. What John sees from here on apparently takes place after the church age.

And since *we are the church*, the plagues depicted in Chapters 6-19, called “[Great Tribulation,](#)” are future!

Which leads to another question, *if all this happens after the Church age what happens to the Church?*

Well, John is a member of the Church, and look at what happens to him: *Heaven's door opens - there's the sound of a trumpet - and he's invited to come up...*

This sounds like 1 Thessalonians 4. Jesus descends in the clouds and snatches to heaven His Church. I believe Revelation 4:1 is a picture of **"the rapture."**

In Revelation 2-3, the term **"church"** is used 19 times, but not once does the word appear in Chapters 6-19.

The NT teaches that **before judgment comes down, the Church goes up.** Jesus catches away His Church.

The Church is in Heaven when the great tribulation rocks this wicked world. And John is included in the Church. From Heaven's press box, John reports on the future.

First though, he describes his surroundings in Chapters 4-5. *He takes us on a tour of the King's crib.*

John starts in verse 2, **"Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne..."** Note, all this happened **"Immediately."**

So often we think of the rapture as a slow ascent. Our feet feel light - we have lift-off - we float through the clouds... That's not how it's described in the Bible.

1 Corinthians 15:52 tells us the rapture occurs **"in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye."** That's immediate.

Understand, a blink of the eye takes 1/50 of a second. That's pretty fast,[CLIP] but a twinkle is even faster.

John was taken to Heaven *“Immediately”* - and when he opened his eyes he tells us what he saw... *“behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne...”*

John is in heaven! Imagine what he could've written about: *streets of gold, saints of old, mysteries untold!*

But none of that is what grabs his attention! John's eyes are fixated on a centerpiece. Everything in Heaven revolves around a throne and its Occupant.

Listen to John's description, *“And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance...”*

Jasper sparkles like a diamond. Sardius is ruby red.

Vivid colors are bursting from the throne of God.

*“And there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.”* A rainbow provides the whole spectrum of color. Here it's framed in emerald green. On Earth, we are treated to half rainbows, but in heaven, a circular rainbow surrounds God's throne.

*Around the throne were twenty-four thrones* (mini-thrones), *and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.”* In the OT, Ezekiel and Isaiah received a similar vision of Heaven, but John sees something the Hebrew prophets didn't... *these elders.*

Ephesians 3 tells us the Church was hidden from the prophets, *a mystery*. This is why *the elders* are absent from OT visions of Heaven. They spoke of *the Church, clothed in the white robes of Christ's righteousness.*

The NT teaches us all believers will reign with Jesus.

Perhaps God rotates His elders in Heaven like we do at CC. Maybe we'll all get an opportunity to sit here.

And notice, the *“crowns of gold on their heads.”* This is the Greek word *“stephanos”* - not the *kingly crown*, but *the victor's crown*. It's was the Olympic wreath placed on the champion - the one who had prevailed.

These crowns are **rewards** that Jesus passes out to His faithful servants. The NT mentions various crowns as an incentive for us to serve. *We can win a crown!*

And it's vital we do... *as we'll see a little later...*

Verse 5, *“And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices.”* Wow, God's throne is not a quiet, peaceful refuge. It's a charged atmosphere!

*Color radiates. Energy pulsates.* It's as if the throne is plugged into an outlet that's sending it high voltage current. Lightning cracks, thunder rolls, voices shout...

*“Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. (Again the seven-fold ministry of the Holy Spirit.) Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal.”* A huge body of motionless water stretched out before God's throne.

And imagine the acoustics as the lightning, and thunder, and voices reverberate off the reflective water.

This was a sensory experience unrivaled by anything John had experienced on Earth. Even today all the pyrotechnics in the world couldn't reproduce the scene.

Here's a color and light show complete with surround sound. God's throne is like an overheated reactor. It boils, and glows, and rumbles, and sparks, and growls.

Where did people ever get the notion that Heaven is boring and drab - *it's a labyrinth of sterile white hospital corridors? Or a bank of puffy, fluffy cumulus clouds?*

Nothing could be further from the truth! Heaven, **God's Crib**, explodes with color, and light, and sound.

And John doesn't just describe the **appearance** of God's throne, he's also impressed with the **activity** going on around the throne! There's perpetual motion.

Heaven is eye-popping and feet-hopping! No one stands idle with hands in his pockets or twiddling his thumbs. No one in Heaven is bored or confused about what to do. *Heaven is consumed with one activity...*

John reports in verse 6, "**And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.**" Here's a creature with its head of a swivel. It never dozes off - never takes a nap. Its eyes stay locked on the target.

It's interesting to me that what has been all but forgotten by the vast majority of people on Earth - ***the throne of God*** - is all these creatures care to gaze at.

Not once do they tune-in the news, or catch the scores, or see how their stocks did, or check Facebook or Twitter. They're solely mesmerized by God's glory.

At the time of this vision, John was still very much a citizen on earth. He had earthly ties. But when he sees into Heaven all he thinks about is God and His throne.

And when he returned from heaven to Patmos, I can promise you he never saw life the same way again!

The world is a jungle, but it isn't as foreboding or appealing once you realize Jesus is King of the Jungle!

The living creatures John sees not only have eyes in front and back, but they have faces... **"The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle."**

These four faces represent attributes of God... **Here's a 4 x 4 advertisement for the glory of God...**

God is like **a lion** with power and majesty... like **a calf** in service and sacrifice... like **a man**, i.e. his intellect and creativity... and like **an eagle**, in that He soars above the earth and reigns over all His creation.

It's interestingly, the Gospels also paint this same picture. **Matthew** depicts Jesus as **the Lion of Judah**, the king - **Mark**, the ox or **suffering servant** - **Luke**, the **perfect man** - and **John**, the sovereign **Son of God**...

Verse 8 continues, **"The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within."**

The Bible speaks of two types of angels: **cherubim** and **seraphim**. Both are warriors - fearsome creatures.

Ezekiel saw **cherubim** with four faces like in verse 7. Isaiah saw **seraphim** with six wings like in verse 8. **The four living creatures John sees have both features.**

**These living creatures seem to be angelic special-ops that guard God's throne - Heaven's Secret Service.**

And notice their movement - it's ceaseless. They're always on duty... **"And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"** They praise God. Three times they shout **"holy"** in deference to the Triune God.

And they acknowledge His timelessness. God dwells outside the time domain... He's the God of the **past**. *History* is **His Story**... He's the God of the **present** - the Great **I am**... And He's the God of the **future**. The world is headed to a climax that serves His purposes.

He **"was and is and is to come"** all at the same time.

Heaven is full of activity, and John notes that it's not all spontaneous - rather it's a synchronized response.

He describes the orderliness in verse 9, **"Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever..."** *That's the cue!* At that very moment, **"The twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever..."**

**The priority of Heaven is the worship of God.**

And notice worship in heaven isn't passive. The elders *fall on their faces* and *lift up their voices*. Sadly, I've been to churches that you'd think were a morgue.

Their worship is like an old, tired hound dog, who rarely budes... In contrast, heaven is like an energetic puppy. There's expectation, enthusiasm, joy. ***Dog gone it***, when we worship we should act like puppies!

Worship is not a time on your weekly schedule - or an event to attend - or a church program. **Worship is a verb!** It's something we do. It's our response to God!

**Worship is Heaven's most serious business!**

And notice, the elders **“cast their crowns before the throne...”** 1 Corinthians 3 tells us that one day all believers will appear at the Judgment Seat of Christ where the motives behind our deeds will be tested. *Did we serve unselfishly or were we promoting ourselves?*

There, crowns will be rewarded accordingly...

But notice here, **what do the elders do with their crowns?** **They cast them before the throne in worship!**

I've heard Christians say, **“When I arrive in heaven I'll just be glad I'm there. I won't be worried about a reward.”** But that is a very short-sighted perspective!

Imagine yourself in heaven. *You see the King... the nail prints in His hands, and scars on His brow... you are overwhelmed by what Jesus has done for you!* Expressing your gratitude is now your utmost desire...

Then out of the corner of your eye you see the elders casting their crowns at His feet. And you think, **“Yea, that's**



*what I'll do. I'll show gratitude to Jesus by giving Him my crowns."* **But what if you have no crowns?**

How frustrating will it be to finally have the opportunity to give to Jesus a little of the love He's given to you *and find yourself empty-handed?* I can't imagine a more frustrating situation. Gaining crowns by serving Jesus isn't a selfish activity, it's ultimately an act of worship!

Verse 11 tells us, the elders "*cast their crowns before the throne, saying: "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."* I love the OKJ version, "*Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created."* *Here's why we were created?* To please God. We're for His pleasure.

You'll never figure out where you're going in life until you first accept why you exist... *To bring God pleasure!*

The elders in heaven tell us we were created for God's pleasure... *and we need to listen to our elders!*

You've heard the phrase, "*I Play, therefore I Am.*" The idea being that *life is all about leisure, fun, good times.* But the motto is a letter off. It should read, "*I Pray, therefore I Am.*" The reason you exist is to fellowship with God - to bring Him honor and pleasure.

Think of a fish lying on the dock. It's drying up. It's dying. But put it in the stream and suddenly, it comes back to life. *Why?* Fish were made for water not land.

And so it is with us. Apart from God, we're like a fish out of water. But get us in fellowship with God and we come to life. *We were created for Him and His worship!*

**Chapter 5...** A big part of the American dream is home ownership, but what if I told you that according to Revelation 5 owning your own property is a myth?

Jesus holds the title deed to all of planet Earth.

The land acquisition that takes place here in Chapter 5 super-cedes all other real estate transactions. We can **say** we own *our* parcel, but we're just squatters!

Revelation 5 revolves around **seven S's...** a **Scroll**, a **Sob**, a **Sibling**, seven **Seals**, some **Scars**, the **Supplications** of the saints, and a new **Song...**

First, John sees a **scroll**. Verse 1, "And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals."

The only other biblical reference to a sealed scroll is in Jeremiah 32. It's a **title deed to a parcel of land**.

Ancient deeds were written on double-sided scrolls or **opisthographs**. Written on the outside was a legal description of the property and its owner. The inside contained covenants and terms required to take possession. Often scrolls were lengthy, and bound at intervals with waxed seals. *This scroll has seven seals.*

When a property changed hands, and the price was paid, the seals were broken. The parcel belonged to a new owner,

but the breaking of the seals disclosed the steps he had to follow to take possession of the land.

That this scroll appears in heaven tips us off to its significance. A very strategic real estate transaction is about to take place. *A deed is about to change hands!*

Verse 2, “Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?” And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.”

We see a scroll - and now John **sobs** because no one is worthy to enforce the deed! All real estate deals are agonizing ordeals. A house closing requires tedious detail, weeks on end, and there’s a mountains of paperwork. It’s enough to cause the two parties to sob.

Yet John’s sobbing is a bit different than ours! It’s not the process that causes him to weep - *it’s what’s at stake!* You can’t overestimate the value of this parcel.

I believe, like many Bible students, that the scroll in Revelation 5:1 is actually the title deed to the universe. John is sobbing because he sees no one worthy to open the scroll, and take possession of God’s creation.

When God created the heavens and earth He put the man and woman in a garden to till and cultivate, and enjoy its fruit. They were given dominion - supremacy and control - over all God’s creation. In naming the animals mankind expressed his authority over nature.

*You can't imagine the beauty of life in the garden!* Work was no sweat. Man inherited a perfect utopia.

But when Adam and Eve rebelled they wrecked paradise! Overnight life devolved. Everything under man's dominion bucked against his authority. Creation became subject to randomness. Mother Nature went nuts. Illness and natural disasters began to plague us.

And ever since, Satan has had a field day. Now blind to God and the things of God, Satan preys on man's ignorance. We're easily snookered and deceived. And Satan has easily wrestled the world from man's control.

This is why in **John 12:31** Jesus called Satan **"the ruler of this world."** He's a usurper. When man divorced himself from God, the devil stole control of the neighborhood. Today, our world lies in his clutches.

And this explains the hot mess we've become. **Our fallen condition is not God's fault.** If you've blamed God for disease, or crime, or injustice, or war - you owe Him an apology! Our world today is not as God created it to be. It was made perfect; then gifted to man... then forfeited to Satan... and this is why John sobs! I like this paraphrase of verse 4, **"I wept and wept and wept."**

Remember it was **"a strong angel"** who offered the challenge, **"Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"** This is perhaps an archangel, but he can't open the scroll... If *strong angels are out; then who's left?* Any human hero is certainly a step down...

Verse 3 makes it official, *“No one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it...”* No wonder John cries like a baby!

It reminds me of the newlyweds, *with very little money*, shopping for their first house. When they told the realtor how much money they made, they asked, *“Do you think you have a house in our price range?”*

The agent replied, *“Oh, yes, its current owner is a German Shepherd named “Prince.”* And this is why John sobs profusely... *all mankind is in the doghouse!*

Which brings us to the third “S” – **the sibling.**

God knew mankind would foolishly throw away his dominion, so He embedded in His law - *the laws of Israel* - a redemption provision. Every land transaction came with a clause. The original owner had the right to buy back the land if he could afford a redemption price.

In ancient Israel, family land was lost in two ways.

The owner died without an heir, or the land was used as collateral on an unpaid loan. In both cases, before the family lost permanent ownership, a sibling had the right to step in and redeem the land for the family. This relative was known as a **“Goel”** or a **“sibling redeemer.”**

*John knew the Law of Redemption.* Thus, he scans heaven for a *rich relative*. When he finds no one, he fears this *fallen world* will be stuck in its *fallen state*.

But that’s when John hears good news. Verse 5, *“But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the*

tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." There is a person who has prevailed. A Lion from Judah is able and qualified to *bankroll the scroll!*

Realize, **Revelation 5:5 is one of the most strategic moments in history.** The opportunity to retrieve a fallen world is about to expire - *when suddenly, One emerges who can right all wrongs and redeem what's been lost.*

Jesus had the right pedigree. He was our **sibling redeemer.** Jewish kings came from the tribe of Judah and family of David. Jesus was a lion from the right pride, a limb from the right trunk. *He had credentials.*

*He was our rich relative!* Through *His perfect life and sacrificial death* He earned enough equity in righteousness to pay all the debts our sin had caused. Jesus was able to pop the scroll and loose the seals.

Which brings us to the fourth "S" - **what about those seven seals?** Jesus doesn't just open the scroll, He breaks the seals. Little wax seals bound up the deed.

It's one thing to buy back a piece of land, but it is quite another issue to force the person living on it to vacate the premises. Thus, breaking the seven seals is the necessary step toward evicting the squatter.

I heard of **a homeless man who pitched a tent in the front yard of the public library and stayed put. The city tried to negotiate a peaceful relocation. But this was the library. You can't just take over the library.** When negotiations failed, the man was removed by force.

*But what if you were in route to the library when you saw police manhandling this poor, homeless fellow? You'd cry, "police brutality." Unless you knew the story!*

And this is why Chapter 5 is crucial to what happens in the rest of Revelation. Jesus is going to rough-up this rebel planet. He'll evict Satan, his demons, and the legions of rebellious humans who join their coup d'etat.

Each time Jesus pops a seal in Heaven sparks fly on Earth. Terrible judgments are unleashed. And every time you shudder with horror, don't forget Revelation 5!

Jesus holds the title. Our world rightly belongs to Him. Today, He's negotiating a peaceful resolution. But then He'll eliminate all who stand in the way of His rule.

Again, in verse 5 the elder refers to the *sibling*, our Redeemer, as "The Lion of the tribe of Judah."

The lion is considered the king of beasts. Go to the zoo and watch a lion swagger as he walks. The other animals quiver in fear when they hear him roar.

Examine his jaws, his teeth, the sweep of his paws.

A lion is a picture of courage, power, dominance, agility, ferociousness... *and a perfect type of Jesus!*

There's an excerpt from the fiction of CS Lewis. Lucy is talking to the Beavers about the lion, Aslan. She asks, "*Who is Aslan?*" This surprises Mr. Beaver, "*Don't you know? He's the King, the Lord of the whole wood.*"

Lucy replies, "*Is He safe? I'll feel quite nervous about meeting a lion.*" Mrs. Beaver jumps in, "*That you will, dearie,*

anyone who appears before Aslan without their knees knocking is either braver than most, or just silly.”

Again, Lucy asks, “*But is He safe?*” That’s when Mr. Beaver utters, “Safe? Who said anything about safe? Of course, He isn’t safe, but He’s good. He’s the King, I tell you.” And Revelation proves Jesus isn’t a tame lion.

Jesus will one day bring evil men to their knees. He’ll finally clean up the mess we’ve made. The Righteous Judge will bring to order a universe that’s in contempt.

Notice another “S” - it’s a *surprise*. Jesus takes the *scroll*, and ends the *sob*, and is the *sibling*, and breaks the *seals*, **but whatever you do, don’t miss the scars.**

The elder calls Jesus a lion, but when John turns his head, we’re told in verse 6, “*And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.*”

“*Horns*” are a symbol of strength. “*Seven eyes*” speak of His omnipresence. He’s empowered with the seven-fold anointing of the one Holy Spirit. He’s King.

*But surprise!... The Lion looks like a Lamb. The word translated “Lamb” is “little lamb.” “Mary had a little lamb” and He’s now the conqueror - the roaring Lamb.*

Lambs or sheep are the most talked about animals in the Bible, but usually in connection with **sacrifice**. A river of blood



flowed from the Temple. The only way Israel could come before God was through a sacrifice.

And all those sacrifices were leading to the ultimate, perfect sacrifice. John the Baptist called Jesus, "The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

Imagine now the drama we find in Revelation 5. God's Son steps up to take back the deed to His creation and opens the seals of judgment on the earth. Heaven and its angels have always known Jesus as the Lion. *But here He appears as a sacrificed Lamb...*

If I asked you, "What are the only man-made things in heaven?" You should answer, "the scars of Jesus."

After the resurrection, the Bible says Jesus' disciples saw the scars in His hands and the hole in His side. And if *those* scars were visible, *why not all His scars?*

How about the scars on His brow from the crown of thorns? Isaiah tells us prophetically, they plucked out Jesus' beard. *How badly did that disfigure His face?*

Could this be why Mary saw the risen Lord and didn't recognize Him? She mistook Him as the gardener.

Isaiah 52:14 prophesies of Jesus, "His visage was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men." Hebrew scholars Kiel and Delitzch translate that verse, "So disfigured, His appearance was not human, and His form not like that of the children of men." He was beaten beyond recognition.

I believe when our Lord Jesus was taken off the cross His face looked like it belonged to a fighter who'd just gone 15

**rounds in a slugfest.** His body was torn and tethered as if in a devastating airplane crash. If there'd been a funeral it would've been *closed-casket!*

Thus, when John sees Jesus, *he expects a Lion*, yet **“(there) stood a Lamb as though it had been slain...”**

And I think we too will be shocked. Our first look into Jesus' face will not be what we thought. *Brace yourself for His scars...* Yet it won't take long before those scars become a *source of pride* and a *catalyst for praise*. His scars will be eternal reminders of the Savior's love...

Here's **the revelation of Jesus!** He still bears the scars of His sacrifice, *but the Lion suffers no more!* There's now fire in His eyes. He roars from His throne.

Hands that cradled babies, and opened blind eyes, now break open seals that wreak havoc on the earth.

Here is where John's faith matured. In Heaven today, God's throne is called the **“mercyseat”** - but soon that same throne will be a *judgment seat*. John knew Jesus as He once was, the Lamb, but now and forever Jesus is more than a sacrifice, **He is the King of the Jungle!**

Before this Revelation, John's faith was a lot like our fragile faith. He quibbled over life's illnesses and injustices. How could a *good God* allow *bad stuff*?

But **AFTER** this vision, he stopped his quibbling, and wondering, and doubting... He knows that soon - very soon - righteousness will prevail. Our fractured world will be reset. Evil will be punished and faith rewarded.

From now on John hangs, not only his hopes for his own soul, but for the whole world on the roaring Lamb.

And John joins the heavenly host in verse 8, “Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.” Here’s another “S...” the **supplications** - or *requests* - of the saints.

Realize your prayers do matter. At times, it’s hard for us to see this truth from our current vantage point. But here we get a glimpse of heaven - God’s throne - *and guess what’s there?* **A bowl full of our prayers.**

Don’t say the prayers you hoist up to God get lost in the shuffle, or don’t really matter, or get ignored. To the contrary, God puts angels and elders in charge of your prayers. They’re kept in close proximity to His throne.

And later God will address this bowl of prayers.

Eventually, every cry for justice, and deliverance, and blessing, and peace - even retribution - is answered by God - but *in His way and in His time*, not our own.

And notice our final “S” - a **song!** It’s true, “**In the end, every prayer will become a praise.**” It may take 10 days or 10 years, or 10 thousand years, but it will happen.

Verse 9 tells us, “**And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have**

made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."

Who is this in heaven singing? *Who but the church can sing such a song? Who else fits this description, "redeemed out of every tribe, tongue, people, nation."*

This isn't Israel. Only Jesus' blood-bought Church can sing this song of redemption! This means that when the seals are broken - in essence, *when the gloves come off, and God pummels the Earth with judgment* - the Church is in heaven singing His praise.

Verses 11-12, "Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands..." In other words, too many angels to count.

"Saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

Notice, Heaven is most amazed NOT by the Lion's claws, or paws, or teeth, or roar... *but by His scars.*

For time eternal whenever we see His scars, we'll bow and declare "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain..."

And the worship never grows silent in Heaven. About the time one voice fades another erupts. "And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them..." All creation joins Heaven in adoring the Lamb.

“I heard (them) saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!" Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.”

Here's what I think, it's time to stop *our* quibbling.

Yes, we live in a fallen world. Life isn't always fair. *Injustices occur. Accidents happen. Disasters strike.* Life doesn't always turn out the way we had hoped.

But a grown-up faith realizes there's a roaring Lamb in Heaven worthy to rule! He'll return with a deed in His hand, to settle every score, and to take what's His.

Stop *wondering* and *worrying*, and start *worshipping!*

John's few moments in heaven taught him to remember those scars, *but don't stop there...* Don't just see Jesus as He once was - see Him as He will be. John learned to hang all his hopes - for a better life *and* a better world - on Jesus, the Roaring Lamb!