

# **BITTER HONEY: THE REVELATION**

Rodger Dalman

## **CHAPTER 5: THE SEALED BOOK**

### **Verses 1-7**

The reigning Christ had in His hand a book that was sealed with seven seals. No one in heaven or earth was worthy to open the book. The history of this sealed book can be traced back to the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah 29:1-4 predicted that Jerusalem would be destroyed, but that her voice would continue to speak from the dust. Isaiah 29:5-8 then foretold the complete destruction of Israel's enemies. These enemies would be instantly turned to dust. This was a common description for Armageddon (cf. Daniel 2:35). Isaiah was making a very brief summary of the end times. Then in Isaiah 29:9-12, God commanded Israel to blind themselves for the Lord had poured on them a spirit of deep sleep, "And the entire vision shall be to you like the words of a sealed book, which when they give it to the one who is literate, saying, 'Please read this,' he will say, 'I cannot, for it is sealed.'" God made prophecies about the end times, but He took away the ability of His people to understand. God blinded His people because of their sins.

When God blinded men, they could not understand His word. They can not even understand their own actions. Isaiah ridiculed idol worshipers, saying, "They do not know, nor do they understand, for He has smeared over their eyes so that they cannot see and their hearts so that they cannot comprehend" (Isaiah 44:189). When people chose to sin, God blinded them to their own folly. By Isaiah's day, Israel had become so blind that Isaiah ordered his disciples to seal God's law and testimony (Isaiah 8:16).

Another type of blinding occurred in Daniel. This prophet spoke about the future very clearly. In Daniel 10:21, Christ appeared to Daniel to explain the history of the last days. The Lord said, "I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth." This writing of truth may be the book in Christ's hand in Revelation 5. Daniel 11 explained the vision, then in Daniel 12:4, the prophet was told to "conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time." In Daniel 12:8-9, Daniel claimed that he did not understand the vision, and he was told that it had been sealed up until the end of time. At Christ's command, the vision had been sealed, and Daniel could not understand it despite the long interpretation of it that he had just received. Daniel was told that in the last days, knowledge would increase and people would understand his vision. The book that God sealed in Isaiah and Daniel would be opened after Revelation 8. The content of this book would be the history of the last days.

The book was sealed by the reigning Christ who held it in His hand. It was sealed in judgment on man's sins, so it could only be opened by Christ's death and resurrection. No one in heaven, on earth, or under the earth was worthy to open the book. John wept when he saw man's sin and unworthiness to hear God. Then John was told to "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals." Then John saw the Lamb of God, standing as if slain. By His death, Christ overcame and became worthy to open the book of history. The slain Lamb took the book and was about to open its seals.

### **Verses 8-14**

When Christ had taken the book, the cherubim and the 24 elders fell down before Him. They sang a new song, saying, "Worthy art Thou to take the book, and to break its seals; for Thou wast slain, and didst purchase for God with Thy blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. And Thou hast made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth." Then millions of angels joined the cherubim and the elders saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing." Finally, all of creation would be overwhelmed with Christ's glory. Every created thing in heaven, on earth, under the earth, and in the sea would cry, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor

and glory and dominion forever and ever.” As praise overflowed from every corner of creation, the elders fell speechless before the Lord, and the cherubim kept crying out Amen, Amen.