

Around the Throne: The Heavenly Witness of the Redeemed to the Work of the Lamb  
Revelation 4–5; 1 John 2:28–3:3

What did John see that we are invited to participate in? (Notice how often the word throne appears in this text!)

**1. Whatever Else is Going on the Earth, God is on the Throne!**

We've lost something of the majesty that surrounds a throne.

**2. The Current Impediments in the Church on Earth will Cause Any Righteous Soul to Experience Moments of Anxiety (5:1-4)**

John broke down and wept *loudly*; it was a real wail — because the One sitting on the Throne had this scroll in His hands. (The Bible doesn't tell us what it is.)

- ✓ The scroll has something to do with what would happen after this (6:1, 3, 5...). The opening of the seals led to ramifications on the earth.
- ✓ Whoever would hold the scroll and open it would determine what would happen after this. That's why John was concerned — he was anxious about the Christian church and wanted a better day and age for it.

Imagine our country in a state of war — there is only one question that will bother you each day when you wake up: who is winning the war? John was imprisoned on Patmos (ch. 1); in chs. 2-3 the situation had gotten much worse — so many problems within the church.

**3. The Triumph of the Church is Tied Up with the Triumph that Has Already Been Won by the Lord Jesus Christ Through His Atoning Work (5:5-14)**

Jesus is worthy because He was slain. Calvary was not a product of a miscarriage of justice and not an afterthought on the part of God. He was slain before the foundation of the earth.

What is the chief message? Redemption history is not about us; it's about God.