Revelation 5:1-10

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[0:00] Good morning. Good morning. Blessed God. Now, flip with me this morning to the last book of the New Testament, the last book of the Bible, the book of Revelation, in chapter 5.

Revelation chapter 5. I don't anticipate preaching the entire chapter this morning, albeit it's only 14 verses. But, Revelation chapter 5, in my personal opinion, actually gives a really good description of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

And folks, it kind of proves that no matter where you're at in the Scripture, whether you're in the Old Testament, the New Testament, whether you're in the book of Revelation, I mean, Revelation, you know, everybody concentrates on future events that happen in Revelation, and prophecies that certainly have not been fulfilled.

And there's a lot of that in there. I'm not going to say that there's not. But anything we read within the Scriptures, whether it be Old Testament, New Testament, whether it be in the Gospels, whether it be in the Epistles, whether it be in the Minor Prophets, the Major Prophets, in the Poetical Books, it doesn't matter.

We need to keep the Gospel of Jesus Christ centered in our mind as we are reading it. Otherwise, we may very well miss the point of a passage of Scripture.

[1:38] Revelation chapter 1, we see John's greeting to the churches of Asia Minor, and we see Jesus Christ in majesty. We see Christ walking through the candlesticks and all this.

Revelation 2 and Revelation 3, we see the seven letters to the churches. And quite frankly, I don't care if you think those are dispensational periods or not. I don't care if you think those are specific church ages or not.

I'm not here to debate that with anyone. I'm not here to even preach about that this morning. Some people think that's the case. Some people don't think that's the case. But regardless, it is the Word of God.

And it was all inspired and God breathed. And it was all inspired by the Holy Ghost of God for John to pin down the things that were written to the churches of Asia Minor.

Then we get to Revelation chapter 4. Revelation chapter 4 concentrates much upon the throne of God. This is the very beginning of Revelation chapter 4. We see John caught up by God in a vision.

[2:41] And he's in the throne room of God. And there's much concentration upon the throne of God and upon the rainbow that's around the throne of God.

Well, everything that's going on around the throne of God. This is Revelation 4. Then we get to Revelation 5. And we're still in the throne room of Almighty God here in Revelation 5.

But it does not concentrate so much upon the throne but upon the one who is on the throne and what the one who is on the throne is holding within His hand.

Now, before we get started, the Bible refers to what's being held by who it is on the throne which would be Almighty God as a scroll or as a book.

But it would be more like a scroll that we would all be more familiar with. Not a book like our Bibles are, like the hymnals are.

But it would be a scroll that is rolled up. But anyway, let's begin in Revelation in chapter 5 beginning at verse 1. It says, And I saw in the right hand of Him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside sealed with seven seals.

And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice who was worthy to open the book and to loose the seals thereof. And no man in heaven nor in earth nor under the earth was able to open the book neither to look thereon.

And I wept much because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book neither to look thereon. And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not.

Behold, the lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, hath prevailed to open the book and to loose the seven seals thereof. And I beheld and lo, in the midst of the throne 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 forth into all the earth.

And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the lamb, having every one of them harps and golden vows full of odors, which are the prayers of the saints.

[5:12] And they sung a new song saying, Thou art worthy to take the book and to open the seals thereof. For Thou wast slain and hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood out of every kindred and tongue and people and nation and hast made us unto our God kings and priests and we shall reign on the earth.

And we'll stop our reading right there for now. Back to verse 1 in Revelation chapter 5. It says, 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.

And again, I want to emphasize that I'm not real concerned with exactly what this scroll is. There's a whole lot of debate.

There's some speculation out there in the theological world. There's speculation by preachers and teachers and theologians and commentators as far as what exactly is on this scroll.

But folks, it's not what exactly is written upon the scroll that is front and center here in the Word of God. It's the fact that there is a scroll that has been written on the front and on the back.

[6:25] It is completely full and it is sealed with seven seals showing the completeness with which it has been filled. Showing the perfection with which it has been sealed.

Whatever it is that Almighty God is holding in His right hand and many times throughout the Scripture we see the right hand and we see the right arm being symbolic of power.

And here is God sitting upon His throne with a scroll in His hand in His right hand being upheld with His right arm and has been sealed with seven seals.

Folks, this shows me that whatever it is that is on that scroll it has the perfect authority of God. It has the awesome authority and the perfect authority of Almighty God.

It has His authority and there is no one else that as per the Scripture what we just read there is no one that is able to loose these seals. Back in the Bible times when a scroll was given when a will was given it was rolled up and it was sealed sometimes with one, two, three, or four seals however many that it may have been it was sealed with the witnesses with the seals of those that have witnessed would have been on it and many times there were copies of it that were made that were opened to the public but the original document was left sealed.

[7:42] Folks, this is a picture of Almighty God sitting upon His throne with whatever it is that He is to decree whatever it is that He wills whatever it is that He wants from the creation of the universe to the consummation of the universe whatever it is that Almighty God wants He has sealed here in His hands and we read that there was none that was able to open the seals or to look upon the book or the scroll thereof.

Verse number 2 it says and I saw an angel proclaiming with a loud voice who is worthy to open the book and to loose the seals thereof.

Folks, it's not that this angel didn't know who was worthy or who wasn't worthy for that matter. This was a proclamation that the angel was making as much as it was an inquiry as to who was worthy to open the seals of this scroll that was in the hands of Almighty God.

It was a proclamation that there were none that were worthy. There was none that were given here. In verse 3 we read and no man in heaven nor on earth neither under the earth was able to open the book neither to look thereon.

No man that was in heaven. No one that was in heaven. No one that was still on the earth. And certainly no one that was underneath the earth. No one that was in hell or in Hades.

[9:06] There was none that was able to open the seals thereof. There was none that was able to walk up to the throne of God and take the scroll thereof and to loose the seals and to reveal the will and the decree of Almighty God.

There's only one that was able to do that. There's only one that was able to do that. There was no man on the earth or under the earth.

No angel was able to do this. No preacher that has ever lived. Charles Spurgeon couldn't do it. Billy Graham couldn't do it. R.C. Sproul couldn't do it. I sure couldn't do it.

And folks there was a search made in heaven. There was a search made on the earth. There was a search made under the earth. And no one was found that was worthy or able to open the seals.

That includes you and that includes me. There was one. There was one. Hallelujah. The light of the tribe of Jews. The root of David.

[10:09] Jesus Christ Himself. He who loved me and gave Himself for me. He who suffered and bled and died upon Golgotha's hill. He who came here lived a perfect sinless life and was given over into the hands of sinful man.

He who was crucified. But praise God the story doesn't end there. He was buried. He was resurrected. And He ascended to the Father where He forever lived to make intercession for the saints forever.

Hallelujah. He is the One. And only He is the One that is able to even approach the throne of God and take this scroll from Him and to loose the seals.

He is the only One. Church, we need to get it out of our heads that we are worthy because we're not. We're not worthy to approach the throne and take the scroll and to loose the seals and to look upon this scroll.

We're not worthy of salvation, period. We're not worthy to utter the name Jehovah. We are not worthy to read the Bible. We are not worthy to say I'm a saved individual.

[11:24] We're not worthy of any of these things. But Christ has made us worthy. And Christ has made us worthy. He has made us able. It is by Him and it is through Jesus Christ that we are able to come to the throne of God.

That we are able to approach the throne of grace and obtain mercy in a time of need. It is only in Jesus Christ and through Jesus Christ that this is possible.

The search was made, folks. And no one, no one was found. Verse 4, And I wept much. Why would He weep much?

Well, He tells us why. And I wept much because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. Folks, John's tears John's tears are our tears.

John's sadness is our sadness. Why? Because we are unworthy. And no one else is worthy, folks. This is a wonderful picture of the depravity of mankind.

[12:31] It says that there was a search made on the earth and in the earth and under the earth and all throughout the heavens. And none was found worthy, folks. This is a wonderful picture of the inability of you or I, either one, to save ourselves.

It is a wonderful picture of the inability for us to save ourselves, for us to come to God, for us to approach God, and the inability of us to make intercession for ourselves or anyone else to God.

Amen. That's why He was weeping. There was no one found that was worthy. There was no one. I know we didn't read it this morning, but in Revelation 4, we see John called up to the throne room and he sees all these things, all these wonderful things.

He sees the throne. He sees the rainbow. He sees the twenty and four elders. He sees the four beasts. He sees all of these things. They're in the throne room.

And they're inviting Him. They're inviting Him to see more. To look more. And to find more. And the angel here in Revelation 5 has made the utterance, who is worthy?

[13:47] Who is worthy to break the seals? Who is worthy to open the scroll? And all these wonderful things that John has seen. And all this search was made in heaven and earth and under the earth.

And none was found worthy. I would have cried too. I would have cried too. But praise God, there's an elder. Praise God, there's somebody that knew what was going on.

Praise God, there's somebody that knew that that angel wasn't just asking a simple question, but that he was making a proclamation at the same time when he said, who is worthy?

This elder knew what was going on. This elder comes to John here in verse number 5. It says, And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not. Behold, the lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, hath prevailed to open the book and to loose the seven seals thereof.

This elder comes to John. John, here in this vision, he's weeping because there was none found that was worthy. And this elder who knew what was going on comes to John and he says, Weep not.

[14:52] He says, the lion of the tribe of Judah. This is an Old Testament reference going all the way back to the book of Genesis in chapter 49 as Jacob is dying and he's given all of his sons prophecies concerning their futures.

The one for Judah was that Judah would be as a lion's will and that the scepter shall not depart from the hand of Judah intimating that it was an eternal kingdom that Judah would possess.

This also goes back to Isaiah in chapter 11 where it talks about the root of the stand of David. Here we're talking about the root of David. It goes back to there.

It goes back to 2 Samuel in chapter 7 where the promise is made to David. God tells David that he should not build the house but that the kingdom that would come from David would rule forever and his throne should be established forever.

And here's this elder thank God for elders thank God for elders in our time thank God for those that actually know what's going on you people who are young in the faith you people who may be immature in the faith when you've got questions seek out an elder seek out somebody that's had their nose in the Bible seek out somebody that has sought the face of God as they're reading seek out someone don't seek out some of these folks that you find on YouTube some of these folks that you find on TikTok I'm not saying that all of them are bad but I believe there's a lot more bad out there than there is good on the internet you seek out an elder seek out someone that you know has studied the Scripture you seek out someone that you know has been in contact with God and hopefully they'll be like this elder here was with John he spoke a word of hope to John John's sitting here it has done been discovered there was none in heaven none in earth none under the earth that was worthy how down that must have made John feel but this elder comes and he speaks hope to John he says weep not weep not why weep not one of the elders saith unto me weep not behold the lion of the tribe of Judah the root of David hath prevailed to open the book he hath prevailed to open the book in other words it's not something that he that he just obtained he hath prevailed he hath overcome something to earn the right and to have the right to open this book and to loose the seals thereof he hath prevailed folks we know that Jesus Christ as per the scriptural accounts he overcame death he overcame hell he overcame the grave he has overcome Satan he has overcome sin he has overcome blackness he has overcome darkness he has overcome evil he has overcome everything that there is to overcome to prevail to open this scroll hallelujah hallelujah that's my Jesus that's my Jesus that saved me that's my Christ that's my Christ that came to me he sent his spirit to me to call me out of darkness into his marvelous light to redeem me to redeem me he bought me with his blood that's my Jesus that we are talking about here says excuse me he hath prevailed to open the book and to loose the seven seals thereof and I beheld and lo in the midst of the throne 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 forth into all the earth oh what did this elder just say to John in verse 6 he said behold the line of the tribe of Judah the root of David but John says he beheld and saw a lamb not the line of the tribe of Judah folks it's the same person it's the same person

I get that that's not what John beheld here I beheld and Io in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts and in the midst of the elders stood a lamb as it had been slain folks this tells how he prevailed to be worthy to open these seals and to look upon this scroll that God held in his hands this verse tells how he prevailed to do that he saw a lamb and there stood a lamb as it had been slain having seven horns and seven eyes which are the seven spirits of God sending it forth into all the earth the seven horns would be would be symbolic of the perfect of the perfect power that is in Jesus Christ we know at the end of the gospel of Matthew Jesus Christ told his disciples and all who were around he said he said behold I am given all power in the earth I am given all power Jesus Christ sending this seven horns this shows the perfect power that he had these seven eyes this shows the perfect knowledge that Jesus Christ has of all things these seven spirits of God there is only one

Holy Spirit to God but we read in the book of Isaiah that there are seven attributes to the spirit truth be known there is more of those because there is more attributes of God than just seven in the scripture where we are talking about the fullness of the Holy Spirit which empowered Jesus while he was here to live the perfect life that he did to do everything that he did to go to the cross as he did this spirit is perfect and it was with Jesus Christ all throughout his ministry and the spirit of God will be with us or is with us now and the spirit of God will be with us throughout all of eternity it is the fullness that we are talking about of the spirit here in this verse but the verse says John says that the cross stood there as a lamb that had been slain as a lamb slain this shows how he prevailed in the previous verse as to what the elder was explaining to John he had been slain and because he had been slain folks this was the very reason that he was able to overcome think about what

John is seeing here in the midst of these elders and in the midst of these beasts read it again and I beheld lo in the midst of the throne of the four beasts and of 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 forth into all the earth folks he saw this lamb as it had been slain as it had been killed as it had been given over as a sacrifice but it was standing this lamb was alive he was seeing the living the breathing the ever eternal cross of God and he was absolutely alive he was resurrected and he was standing here in glory he was standing here in heaven he was standing here at the throne of almighty God he wasn't a dead savior he's a live savior and he is a live savior now and he will be alive forever more hallelujah that's the lamb that John sees here verse 7 and he came back and he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne this lamb which was alive this lamb which stood there this lamb that appeared as if it had been slain because it had been he was very much alive he goes to the throne of God and he removes the scroll from him that sat upon the throne now folks this does

I ain't gonna preach about it this morning or teach about it for that matter this does all kinds of bad things this upturns and causes upheaval in the oneness theology because I can assure you that the lamb of God did not walk to himself upon that throne and take the scroll from himself that sat upon that throne there is God the father there is God the son and there is God the holy spirit it has ever been that way it ever will be that way and these verses here blow oneness theology out of the water with what they say he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne why did he come and do this because he is the only one that was able because he is the only one that was worthy he is the one that gave up himself he is the one that laid his life down as a ransom for many he is the one that was given over in the hands of sinful men he was given over unto the elders given over to the chief priest he is the one that was spat upon he is the one that was mocked he is the one that was crucified risen and is now in heaven he is the only one that was able and that's why he can go to the throne and he can take the scroll out of God's hand and he can loose the seals and he can reveal the will of God unto all the world and if you think about it from chapter chapter 5 actually from chapter 6 on through the rest of the book of Revelation what do we see?

We see judgments we see judgments upon judgment upon judgment but we also see salvation folks there is salvation for the people of God there is salvation for the Jewish nation in my own personal opinion there is salvation for all kinds of people throughout here folks is not this the will of God?

is that not? but the scroll will be the decrees of God concerning not only that but all of human history and only Jesus Christ is able is able to fulfill these things only Jesus Christ is able to reveal these things folks the prophets of the Old Testament when they came and they preached the word of God when they came to the cities and they came to the towns and they came to the villages when they stood in the gates of the cities and when they stood in the middle of the villages wherever they were at and they came and they preached the word of God they were not able to reveal God Himself to these people they were able to reveal a small portion of the will of God but hallelujah that when Jesus Christ came He was able to reveal God to the people for He was and is God He came and He revealed the perfect will of God to a very imperfect people He revealed God perfectly with no sin about Him and with no problem

He revealed God to the people and here He is here is Christ going to God taking the scroll only He was worthy to do so and He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him that sat upon the throne verse 8 and when He had taken the book the four beasts and four twenty elders fell down before the Lamb having every one of them harps and golden vows full of odors which are the prayers of the saints so when He had taken the book don't seem like there was much time that elapsed here between the Lamb that John saw that had been slain going to the throne and receiving the book then it says and when He had taken the book the four beasts and the four twenty elders fell down before the Lamb having every one of them harps and golden vows full of odors which are the prayers of the saints as soon as Christ goes to the throne and as soon as

He takes the book which was His to take and which He had the authority to take and He had the ability to take and He was the only one that could do such a thing as soon as Christ takes this book there is spontaneous worship that breaks out in heaven of the four and the twenty elders the beasts that were around everyone that is around witnessing this thing the angels even take part a little bit later in the chapter but everyone that is around as soon as the Lamb takes the book they break out in to worship and it says that they all have harps well that puts to rest the use of musical instruments in the worship of God but we won't get into that either I'm perfectly fine with using musical instruments to worship God I think scripture backed it up Old and New Testament alike folks if they're in heaven with harps I promise you they're not just holding them those harps are there for a reason and they're there to make music God loves music God loves to be worshipped with music we find much of that in the Old Testament we find much of it throughout the Psalms and throughout some of the other books of the Old Testament but folks we find it in the New Testament as well these elders these four and twenty elders when they fall down before Jesus Christ it says they have harps and they have golden vials or golden bowls and those bowls are filled with the prayers of the saints a child of God don't ever think that your prayer is too small don't ever think that your prayer is insignificant your prayer is part of the eternal will and the eternal eternality really of Almighty God and everything that He has come up with everything that He has decreed for the future everything that is going on here in the present your prayers make a part of this don't ever think that your prayer doesn't matter don't ever think that your prayer doesn't matter your prayers are worship to God your prayers no matter how small they might be is worship to God when Peter when Peter stepped out of the boat we all know the account when he stepped out of the boat and he had his eyes fixed upon Jesus and he was concentrating upon the Lord and we all know that the waves became boisterous and the storm raged all around him and he took his focus off of Christ and that's when he began to sink into the water he prayed one of the greatest prayers that's ever been prayed when he said

Lord save me that was worship to the Lord because he realized the shape that he was in and he realized there was only one there that was able to save him folks that was worship and our prayers to God are worship every time we pray to God every time we pray a true heartfelt sincere prayer to almighty God it is worship to God because we are recognizing whom he is we are recognizing that we are nothing and that we can't answer our own excuse me our own prayers but we are also recognizing that he is everything he is omniscient he is omnipotent he is omnipresent he is all of these things and he is able to answer our prayers these prayers that they have here in these golden vows it says in golden vows full of odors which are the prayers of the saints what were these vows in other translations of the Bible you see that the you see this rendered as bowls folks they burned incense in the bowls what is incense it is something that is pleasant to the nose it is something that is pleasant to the senses and our prayers are pleasant to God our sincere prayers are pleasant pleasant excuse me to God and it is a form of worship to God to worship God in music to worship God with music with lyrics with instruments whatever the case is that is pleasing to God these elders here they bowed down before God they bowed down before Christ at the moment that he took the scroll out of God's hand and they worshipped him with instruments and they worshipped him with the prayers of his people now all this being said

I want to point out that this is a verse that a certain denomination uses as justification for praying to dead saints because many people think that these twenty and four elders there's twelve twelve from the Old Testament assuming that it's the twelve sons of Jacob and there's twelve from the New Testament assuming those are the twelve apostles minus Judas Iscariot but that is not what this is getting at there is absolutely no scripture in the entirety of the Bible that supports that these would just be if that was the case if that's the case if that's who these twenty and four elders are they're simply representatives of all people who have believed all people whom God has saved from the Old Testament through the New Testament if that be the case but it does not give us permission to pray to dead saints so I want to throw that out there real quick verse 9 and they sung a new song saying thou art worthy to take the book and to open the seals thereof for thou wast slain and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred and tongue and people and nation now folks this kind of corroborates what I just said with people saying that these twenty and four elders are representatives of everyone that has been saved from the beginning of time up until this time that we're reading right now and really on into the future because it says that Christ has redeemed us well it wasn't just twenty four people that Christ has redeemed

I can assure you of that we read accounts in the New Testament we read accounts in the [32:57] book of Acts where thousands of people believed at one time which is much more than twenty four but here it says they sung a new song saying thou art worthy to take the book this is the focus of the song that Jesus Christ is worthy to take the book and it goes on and to open the seals thereof for thou wast slain it tells us the focus of the song being that Christ is the only one who is worthy to open the book and to loose the seals but then it gives us the why as to that is which we've already been through this morning it says for thou wast slain and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred and tongue and people and nation Jesus Christ was slain and hast redeemed people from every kindred and every tongue and every nation but he hasn't redeemed them for themselves he has redeemed them for God he has redeemed them to God he has redeemed them for the glory of God and for that alone

> Jesus Christ and he alone has done this thing but folks this this gives us great hope this gives us incredible hope I told you the gospel is all over Revelation chapter 5 Christ died for everyone Christ died for sinners Christ died to redeem lost and fallen man back to God which had put them under a curse from the garden on Christ died to redeem those men and those women and those boys and those girls it wasn't just for a specific group of people that Christ died as to what I'm reading here Christ died to redeem people from every nation from every tongue from every kindred from every skin color from every background from every sin immeasurable Christ died for those people hallelujah and this is what made him worthy this is what made him worthy that he died and was resurrected and is here in this vision that John is having in heaven and he will reign eternal forever and ever verse 10 and has made us unto our God kings and priests and we shall reign on the earth

> Christ has been slain for the redemption of mankind for the redemption of fallen man he has been slain to give everyone in every nation from every tongue and every kindred to give everyone opportunity to receive salvation his blood was for all for all who would receive it for all who would believe the gospel and repent of their wickedness for all who would believe the gospel and trust in Christ and Christ alone for mercy trust in Christ and rest in Christ alone for salvation for it is only in him that you will ever receive true rest verse 10 again and has made us unto our God and has made us going back to these elders going back to the twenty and four elders and has made us unto our God kings and priests we are kings because we stand to reign forever with Jesus Christ he is the king of king and the lord of lords but there is promise upon promise in the scripture of all those that believe and all of those that have repented of their ways shall reign with Jesus Christ therefore we are kings but it doesn't just stop with kings hallelujah we are also priests what is the significance there

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Christ is our high priest folks we can do nothing without him John 15 verse 1 Jesus says I am the vine ye are the branches he that believes in me to bring forth much fruit much fruit without me ye can do nothing amen without me ye can do nothing without Christ being our high priest we can do nothing and we certainly cannot approach God but with him as our high priest folks in the old testament on the day of atonement you read all about it in the book of Leviticus you read the high priest is the one that went back to the holiest place he is the one that took the blood back there the blood of the sacrifice back there he is the one that dipped his hand in and sprinkled it upon the mercy seat and only he was able to do that and folks only Jesus Christ is able to act as high priest I can't be my own high priest you cannot be my high priest and I can't be your high priest only Christ can do this but the priest not the high priest the priest what was their job folks their entire lives were in service to God they were holy unto God they were consecrated and sanctified unto the service of almighty God they are the ones taking care of the shoe bread in the holy place they are the ones that were taking care of the sacrifices as you walked into the door they are the ones that were taking care of all the business at the labor they are the ones that were taking care of the candles they are the ones that were in the service of God they were burning incense that were doing all these things and folks us being kings and priests of God we are kings because we stand of reign forever with Christ and we are priests because we are forever in the service and the holy convocation of Jesus Christ hallelujah we are priests we are priests unto God but folks we cannot forget it is because of Jesus Christ and it is because

Christ and he alone was worthy and is worthy to go to God to take this scroll to loose the seals and to show the decree and the will and the purpose of almighty God to the entire world only Christ was worthy and is worthy and is able to do this thing we are made king and has made us unto our God kings and priests and we shall reign on the earth we shall reign on this earth with Jesus Christ our king of kings and our lord of lords and he is also king of kings and lord of lords to all those that don't believe folks he's king whether you believe him or not he is lord whether you believe him or not he's lord of your life whether you quote unquote allow him to be or not nothing happens in this world without the permission of almighty God he is completely sovereign god bless you all that's my message this morning i appreciate your attention