

General Church Education



# **FAMILY LESSON: REVELATION 5 THE SEALED SCROLL**

[Family Talk](#)      [Level 3](#)

[Level 1](#)              [Level 4](#)

[Level 2](#)              [Level 5](#)

Family Lesson 34 - B

*The Sealed Scroll*  
*Revelation 5*

**FAMILY TALK:**  
**THE BOOK SEALED WITH THE SEVEN SEALS**

by the Rt. Rev. Peter M. Buss

Read the story about the scroll sealed with seven seals in Revelation, chapter 5. The inner meaning of this story tells us how, when the Lord gave us the Writings, He opened His Word up to us.

John the apostle had his spiritual eyes opened, and he saw a wonderful picture in heaven. There was a throne on which the Lord sat, and around Him was a sea of glass with seven lamps on it. Around the Lord's throne there was a green rainbow. Beyond the sea of glass there were twenty-four "elders." The word "elders" means "older men." They were sitting on thrones, and they had crowns on their heads. Between them and the Lord there were four creatures, with wings, full of eyes. One was like a lion, another like a calf, a third like an eagle, and a fourth like a man.

John tells us that he saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a little book, with writing all over it, sealed with seven seals. In those days a book didn't look like the ones we have. It was a long sheet of paper, or parchment, rolled up. It is sometimes called a "scroll."

This scroll was sealed up, and no one, in heaven or on the earth, could break those seals and look at what was in the book. But it was very important that someone look at the book! So John cried. He wept much because not one person could open the book.

But then he was comforted. There was someone who could open that book: "The Lion of the tribe of Judah." John looked, and on the throne where the Lord was, he suddenly saw a lamb instead of the Lord. The lamb came down from the throne. Then it seemed as if the Lord was sitting on the throne and the Lamb was different from Him, even though they were really the same person. The Lamb took the book from the hand of Him who sat on the throne, and, as the story tells later, He opened the seals.

Who was the Lamb? He was the Lord Jesus Christ, our God who came down to earth. What was the book? It was the Word of the Lord. What is meant by the Lamb opening the book? Why, that the Lord Jesus Christ can help us to see all the truths of the Word, especially those which show what is right and what is wrong.

Did you notice that the Lord was spoken of in three ways in this story? First He is seen as "Him who sat upon the throne." The Lord appeared as a Man

upon the throne. Then He was seen as a Lamb, who seemed to be right where the Lord was sitting. Then the lamb came down and stood on the sea of glass. Then the Lord was also called a lion - the "Lion of the Tribe of Judah."

From this we learn that the Lord is one God, but He is seen in different ways. He is seen as a Person, because He really is a Person. He is our God, and we are made to be like Him. He is seen as a Lamb because He is very gentle and loving. Lastly, He was said to be a Lion, for the Lord has tremendous strength. A lion is a strong and magnificent animal.

In the Word we see the Lord in lots of different ways. We see Him as a wise and caring Person, our Lord Jesus Christ, who heals us when we are sick, and cares for us when we are unhappy. We can think of Him as someone gentle. He is not really a Lamb, but a lamb is a gentle animal. It reminds us that the Lord is very gentle with us when we are hurt or are doing something wrong and want His help. We can think of Him as strong - stronger than a lion, able to fight off any evil people who want to hurt us.

The Lord is many things to us. He is loving and kind when we are good. He is stern when we do what is wrong. He is forgiving when we are sorry for what we have done. He is helpful when we are in trouble. He is gentle when we need Him to hold us up and keep our enemies away from us.

The Word shows the Lord in many ways. Today, just remember the three ways you heard of Him in this story - as a Man, as a Lamb, and as a Lion.

## ***The Sealed Scroll***

### ***Revelation 5***

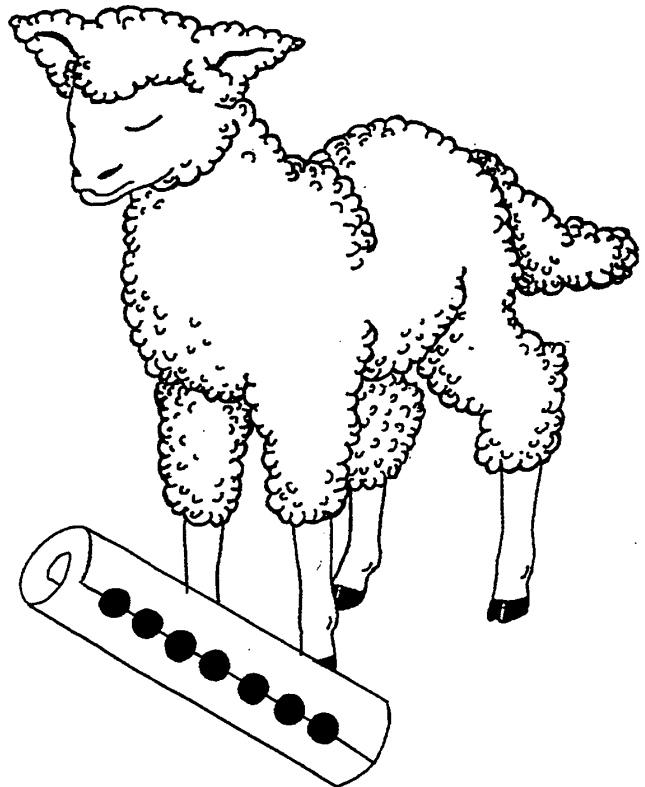
#### **LEVEL 1 – THE LAMB AND THE SCROLL**

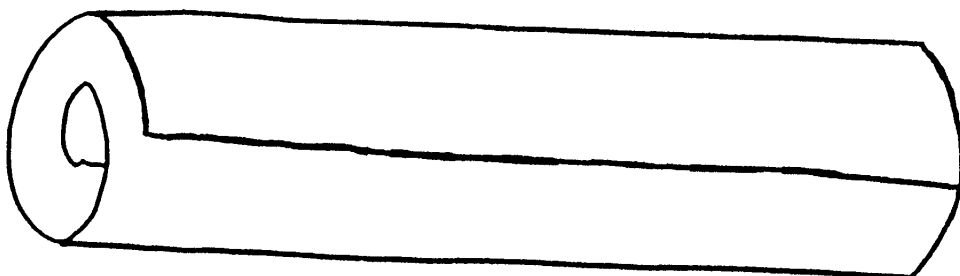
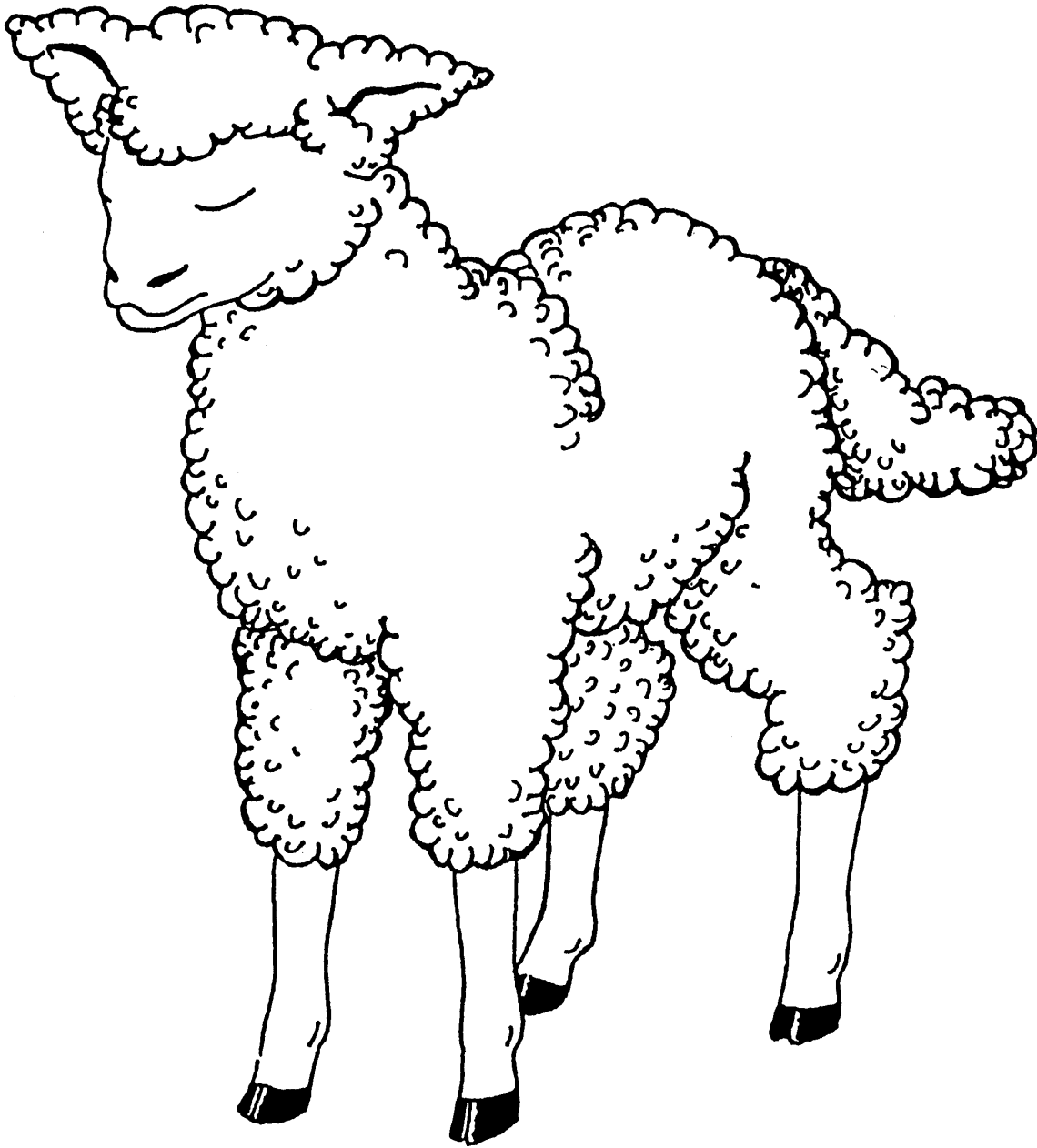
##### **MATERIALS NEEDED**

Cotton balls  
Glue and scissors  
Crayon or pencil  
7 gold seals

##### Directions for project

1. Stick cotton balls onto the picture of the Lamb on the next page to make it woolly.
2. Place the seven gold seals on the scroll, or draw seven seals on the scroll on the next page and color them.
3. Cut along the dotted line.
4. Cut out the scroll and glue it at the Lamb's feet.
5. If you wish, mount your picture on colored paper, and hang it on the wall.

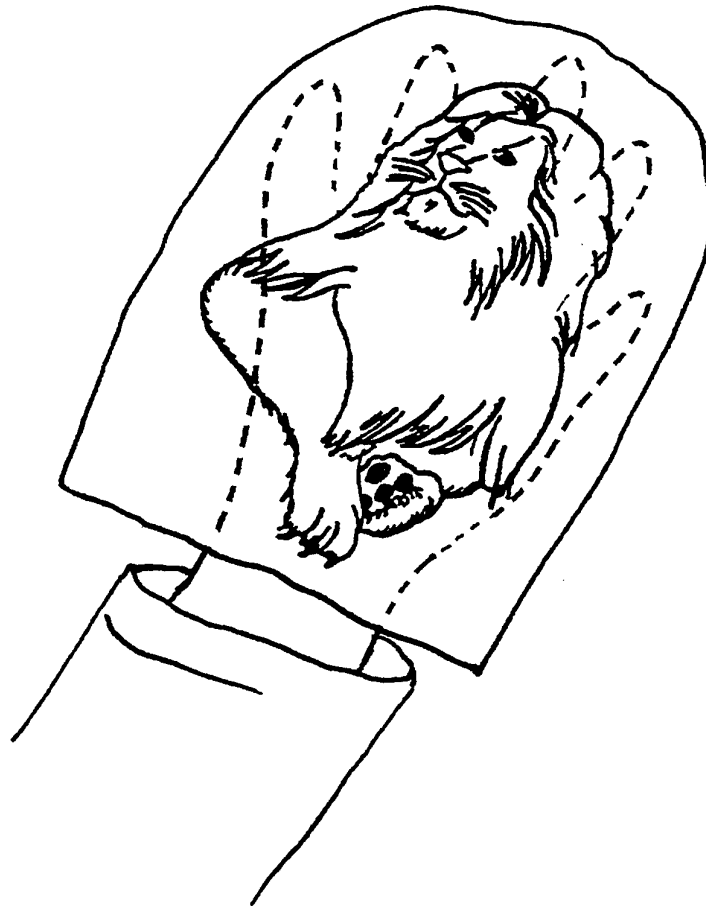




***The Sealed Scroll***  
***Revelation 5***  
**LEVEL 2 – THE LION AND THE LAMB**

**MATERIALS NEEDED**

Scissors, crayons,  
glue or stapler

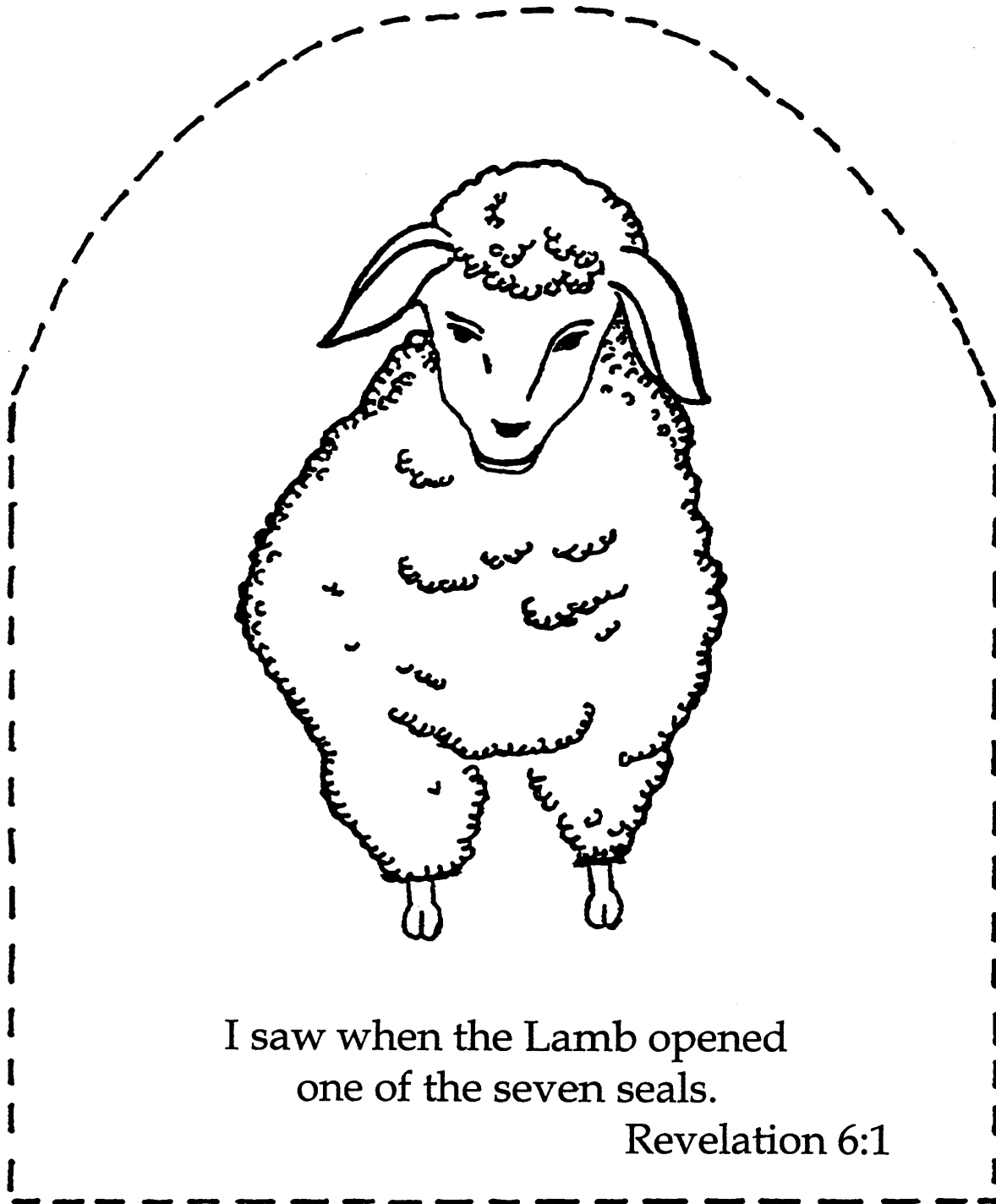


1. Color the Lion on page 2 and the Lamb on page 3.
2. Cut out each picture around the dotted lines.
3. Glue or staple the two pieces together around the edges, picture sides out, leaving the bottom open to form a mitten.
4. Slip your hand in and turn the mitten to see the two sides of God.



The Lion of the tribe of Judah has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.

Revelation 5:5





***The Sealed Scroll***  
***Revelation 5***  
**LEVEL 3 – NAMES OF THE LORD**

**MATERIALS NEEDED**

Pen or pencil  
The Word or Bible

Who is the Lion of the tribe of Judah? Who is the Lamb that was slain? In John's vision the Lion was able to open the scroll and the Lamb took the scroll from "Him who sat on the throne." The Lion and the Lamb are both names used for the Lord.

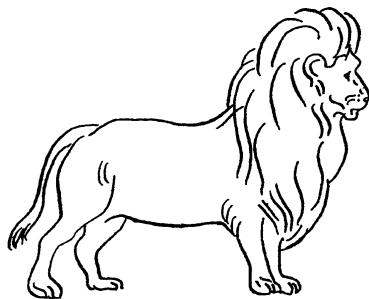


Do you have more than one name that people call you? Sometimes do people call you by your whole name first and last, and sometimes just your first or just your last name and sometimes do they call you a nickname?

Sometimes you may be called a friend or a classmate or a student. No matter what you are called are you still the same one person, not different people? Of course, you are the same person. The Lord is still the same one God no matter what name we choose to call Him.

Why do we have different names for the Lord? We use different names because we think of the Lord in different ways. When we pray we say "Our Father" to the Lord because this is how we are thinking of Him, as a father who will help us with our problems.

John saw a Lion in his vision because he was thinking of the Lord's power. The Lion is a powerful animal. The Lord is the only one powerful enough to open the scroll. The scroll was the Word. When John lived on earth things were written on scrolls not in books like we have today.



The Word is opened when people understand it. The Lord was called a Lion in John's vision because only the power of the Lord's Divine Truth can help us understand the Word.

The Lord was also called the Lamb that was slain. He was called the Lamb when John was thinking of how the Lord came on earth and taught people truth to help them open the Word in their minds and understand its teachings. But many people did not believe that the Lord was God on earth and did not believe His teachings so the Word or scroll stayed closed to them. Since many people did not believe in the Lord when He was on earth and did not understand the Word, the Lord sent His Truth to earth again so that people could know what the Word means. The Lord did this in the Writings of the New Church. John's vision in Revelation tells how the Lord sent His Truth.

## **Projects**

### 1. Names of the Lord Word search

The Lord uses many names for Himself in the Word. Use the grid on the following page to make a hidden word puzzle of some of the Lord's names. Use the list of names provided and think up some on your own if you wish. Begin by placing the names in the grid, one letter per box. The names can run across, down, or diagonally. Then hide the words by filling the rest of the boxes with any letters. Give the puzzle to a family member to complete by circling each name found in the puzzle until all the names are crossed off the list.

### 2. Lamb and Lion Pillow

This project will take some time, but results in a charming keepsake. The list of materials and directions are on pages 4 and 5 (after the word search).



## Lamb and Lion Pillow

### **MATERIALS NEEDED**

Pattern pieces

2 pieces 8 1/2" x 11" paper, taped together on the long side

Sewing scissors, small and regular size

Straight pins

White furry fabric; blue, pink, yellow, and brown felt; pillow fabric

Black ballpoint pen, Elmer's glue

Needle and thread or sewing machine

Fiberfill (for stuffing)

### **DIRECTIONS**

#### **Pillow**

Fold pillow fabric in half so that the right sides are together (if applicable). Make a 10 inch by 10 inch square from the papers taped together to use as a pillow pattern piece. Place pattern piece on folded fabric. Pin pattern piece at edges to the fabric. Cut around pattern piece. Remove pins and pattern and set pillow pieces aside.

**Lamb Face** (Have an envelope or plastic bag ready to put small pieces in.)

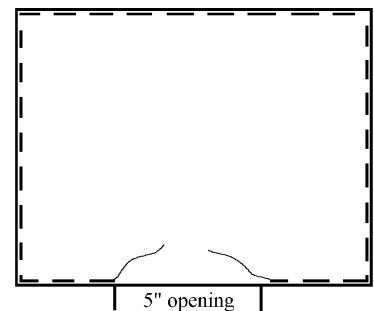
1. Cut out the lamb head pattern piece and place it on the backside of the furry, white fabric. Trace around the pattern piece. (A ballpoint pen works well.) Cut the lamb head out from fabric.
2. With small sewing scissors, cut the eyes and the nose/mouth out of the head pattern piece. (You may need help from a parent with this.) Stencil the eyes onto the light blue felt, the nose/ mouth onto the pink felt.
3. Cut the ear pattern piece out. Place it onto the backside of the furry, white fabric and trace around it. Make two ears. Cut the ears out from the fabric.
4. With small scissors, cut along inner line of the ear pattern piece. Place the ear pattern piece on the pink felt and stencil inner cut-out. Do this twice. Cut both pieces out. These pieces will be the pink inside of the lamb ears.
5. Glue or hand stitch the eyes, nose/mouth, and ears onto the lamb's head. Glue or hand stitch the pink inside of the ear to the furry white ear. (Note: If using glue, apply a thick layer and allow it to dry completely before handling.)

**Lion Face** (Have an envelope or plastic bag ready to put small pieces in.)

1. Cut out the lion head pattern piece and place it onto the yellow felt. Trace around the pattern piece. Cut the lion head out from the felt.
2. With small sewing scissors, cut the eyes and the nose/mouth out of the head pattern piece. Stencil the eyes and the nose/mouth onto the brown felt and cut them out.
3. Cut out the mane pattern piece by cutting on the dark line only. Place the pattern piece onto the yellow felt and trace around it. Cut out the mane from the felt. Cut a fringe in the mane as shown on the pattern piece.
4. Glue or hand stitch the mane onto the lion's head. (The head pattern piece shows where to begin and end the mane.) Glue or hand stitch the eyes and nose/mouth onto the lion's head. (Remember, if using glue, apply a thick layer and allow it to dry completely before handling.)
5. With a black ballpoint pen, draw dots on the lion's face, as shown on pattern piece.

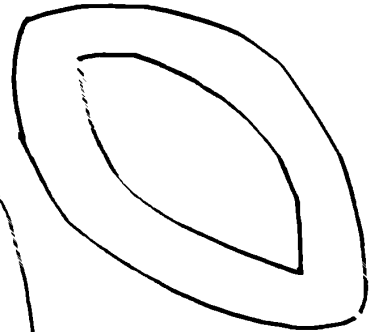
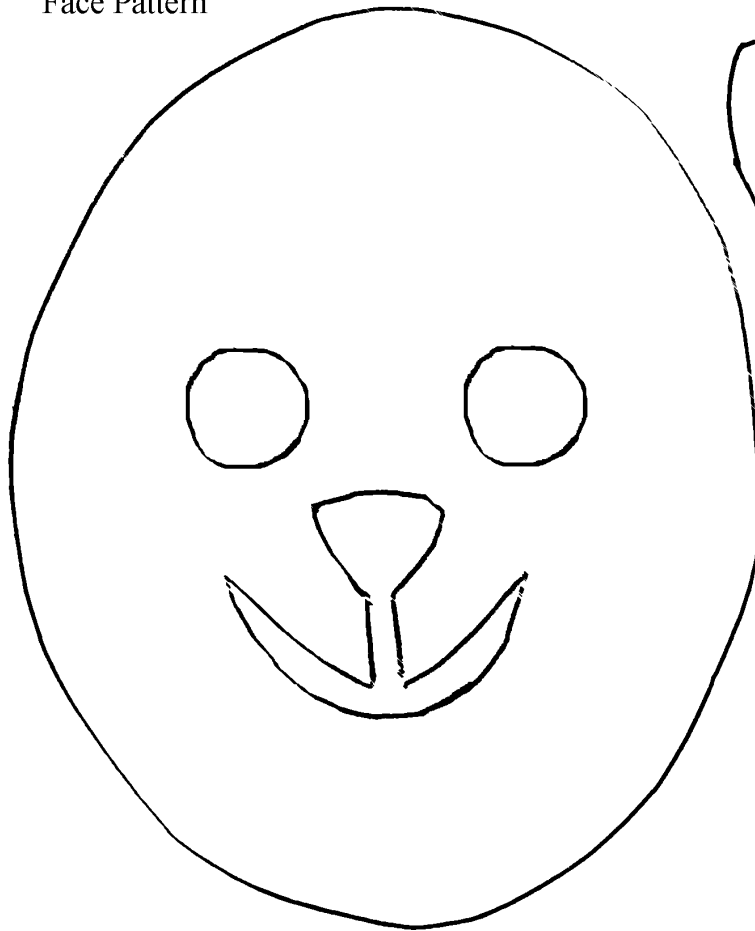
**Putting the Pillow Together**

1. Center the lamb head on the right side of one piece of pillow fabric. Machine or hand stitch around the edge of the head.
2. Repeat with the lion head on the other piece of pillow fabric.
3. Take the two pieces of pillow fabric and place the lamb and lion heads together, both the heads pointing the same direction. Line up the edges of the pillow fabric and pin them together. Machine or hand stitch the fabric pieces together, making a half-inch seam. Be sure to leave a 5-inch opening on one side, as shown.
4. Turn the pillow right side out, poking out the corners.
5. Stuff the pillow with batting. Hand sew the 5-inch hole closed.



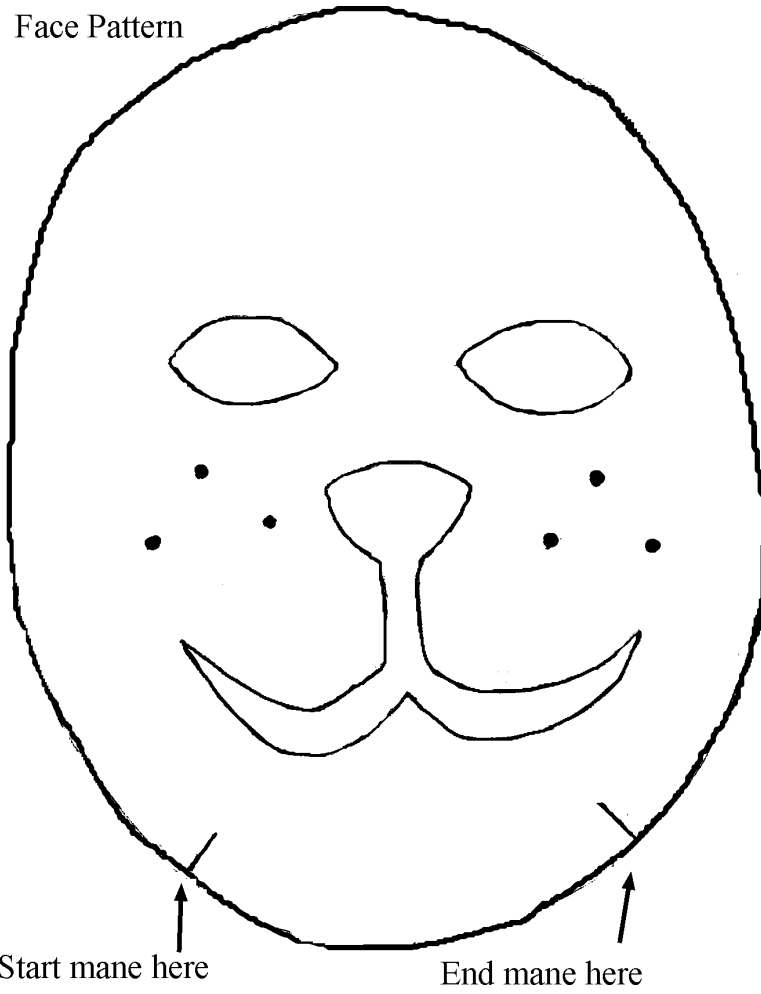
Lam Patterns

Face Pattern

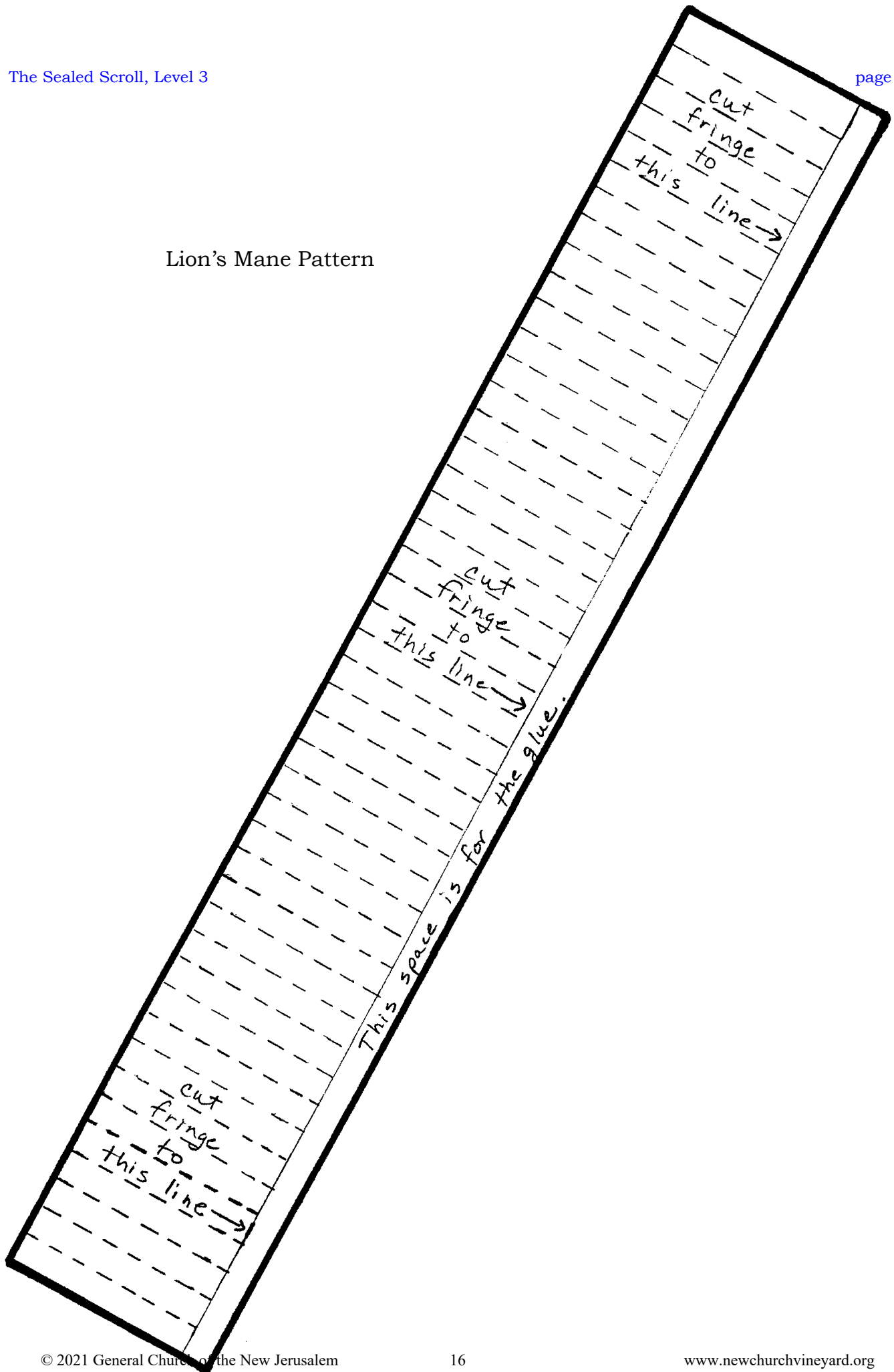


Ear Pattern

### Lion Patterns



Lion's Mane Pattern





## **The Sealed Scroll**

### **Revelation 5**

### **LEVEL 4 – THE OPEN WORD**

Have you ever looked through the peephole of one of those fancy Easter eggs with a spring scene inside? Have you ever looked through a microscope, or a telescope and been amazed at what you could see? Wouldn't it be amazing if there were someplace you could go and look through a peephole in the sky and see the whole universe - how it was made and where it is going and *why* everything is the way it is?

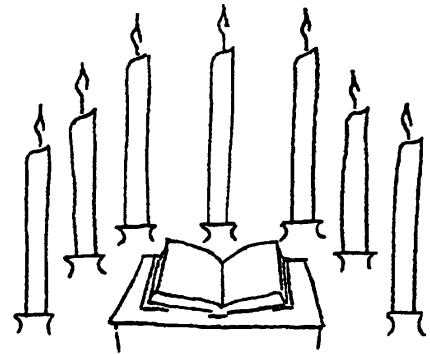
There is one! And there always has been!

From the very beginning of the world the Lord built in a peep-hole so that the people who lived in the world could see out and know why and who they were.

Can you guess what it is?

Read the first words of the book of John:

**“IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD...”**



The WORD. The Lord gave the Word right from the beginning so that we would have a chance to see out of the natural world we were all born into. We can learn to see through it to the spiritual world we are going to go to someday.

At first the Word just looks like a book. Most books just take us in our imagination to another place and time. The Word can do much more. When we read it we notice different styles. The first part, which has been on the earth for thousands of thousands of years, seems to be just stories—Adam and Eve, Noah's Ark, the Tower of Babel. When we learn enough about them, we can see through those stories to great truths about our own creation and lives.

The next part is the stories of Abraham and Moses and King David. It seems like a history book. The rest of the Word is more history, or prophecies, or beautiful psalms.

But the Word is not just stories and history. The story we read from the Word tells of the Lamb opening the book. The Lord has “opened” the Word so we can see through it to all knowledge of heaven and earth, creation and life, even see all the way to the Lord Himself. The Heavenly Doctrines, sometimes called the Writings, turn the light on at the peephole. The Lord has opened the Word for those who want to look through it. All we have to do is practice reading, and love the chance to learn from them.

## **Assignment**

On the next 2 pages are 8 pictures. The Writings tell us that the Word is like each one of those things—they all *correspond* to the Word.

1. *First read the ideas below to give you ideas about what the Word is, and how it works in our lives.*
2. *Then turn to the pictures on the next page. Next to each picture try to write in your own words why it is like the Word.*

Ideas to help you think about the Lord:

The stories of the Word contain within them many spiritual truths. It is the dwelling place of the Lord—the King of Kings.

The Word is like a storehouse of truths that can feed our spirit and keep it alive and healthy to eternity.

When we are thirsty for knowledge about the Lord and heaven and how to lead our lives, we can find the truths we are looking for in the Word. They are quietly waiting there for us to “drink”.

The Word is a continuous source of beautiful truths—like cool, clear water springing up before our eyes and refreshing our spirits.

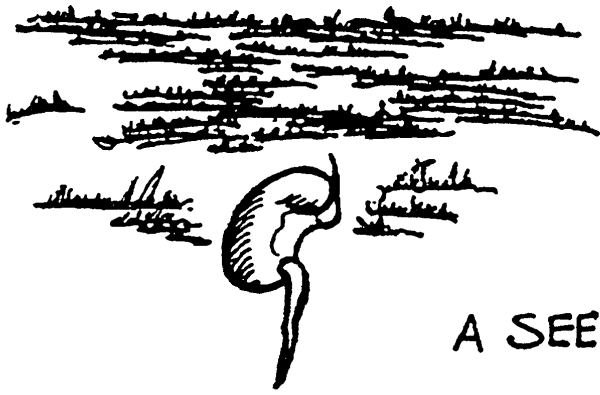
In the Word are all the laws that we need for a happy, orderly life in this world and in heaven. We learn the rules that will lead us to a good life, and help us to make others happy

The true things that we learn from the Word are like a leader and a guide for our life. They lead us through the troubles and difficult times we meet on our journey to heaven.

Do you remember the Garden of Eden. The least little truth that a person uses in his or her life can grow and blossom and lead to more and more good things. Eventually we can be surrounded by a beautiful garden.

The truths of the Word are sometimes protected and hidden for a time. Later the Lord “opens” them so we can see and understand them.

Look at the set of 8 pictures on pages 3 and 4. The Writings tell us that the Word is like each one of those things—they all *correspond* to the Word.



The Word is like a Seed...

---



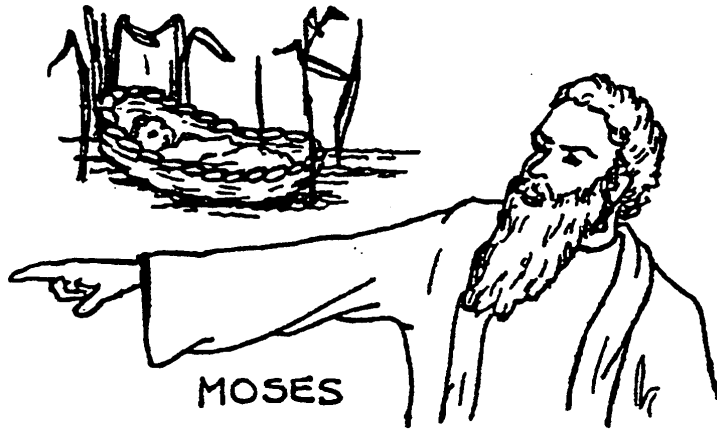
---



---



---



The Word is like Moses...

---



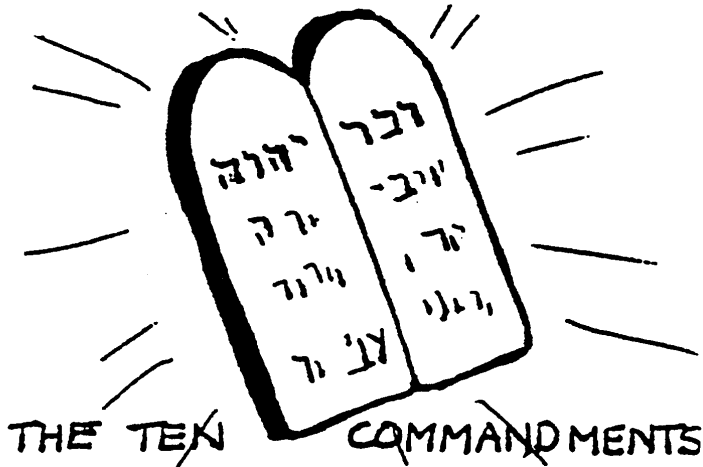
---



---



---



The Word is like the Ten Commandments...

---



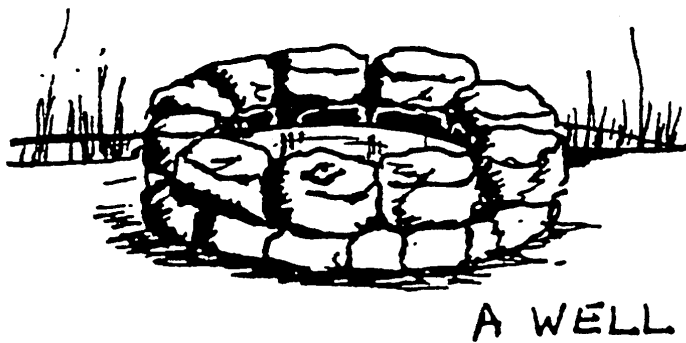
---



---



---



The Word is like a Well...

---



---



---



---



A FOUNTAIN

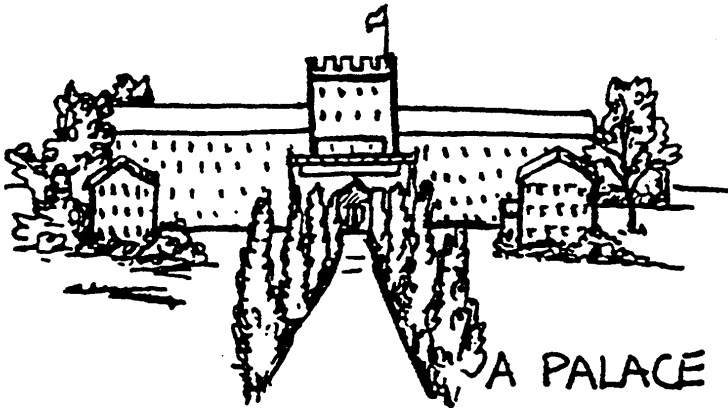
The Word is like a Fountain...

---

---

---

---



A PALACE

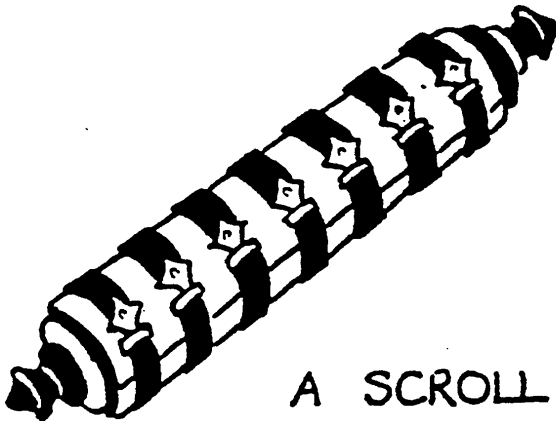
The Word is like a Palace...

---

---

---

---



A SCROLL

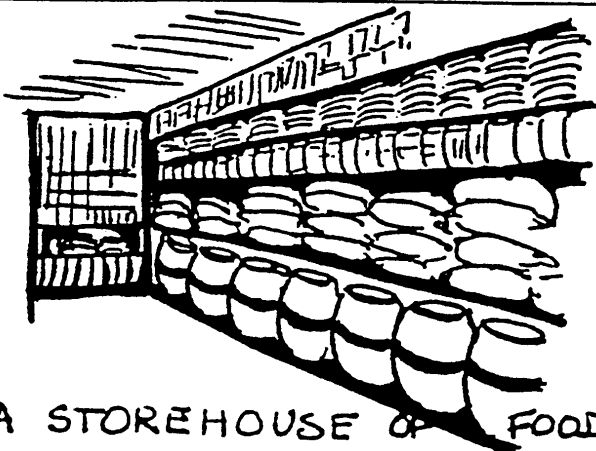
The Word is like a Scroll...

---

---

---

---



A STOREHOUSE OF FOOD

The Word is like a Storehouse of Food...

---

---

---

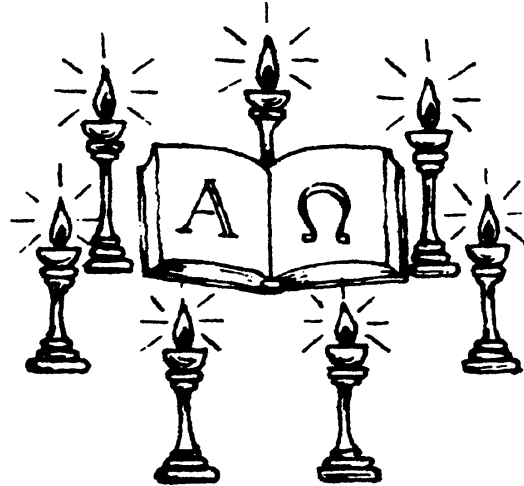
---

**The Sealed Scroll**  
**Revelation 5**  
**LEVEL 5 – JUDGING OTHERS**

How can we tell what the people around us are like? How much can we know about their characters? For example, there are those who say, “Don't be judgmental. We are not allowed to judge other people at all.” Others will argue, “If I can't make judgments, how can I choose with whom to make friends?”

The story in Revelation Chapter 5, speaks of judgment. The book sealed with the seven seals is the Word. With all the truth of the Word, it seems that we can judge what sorts of people our friends are! But “no one in heaven nor on the earth was able to open the book (or scroll), or to look in it” (Rev. 5:3). People can't tell what the lives of others are really like.

The Lamb could open the book. The Lord alone sees what people are truly like, so He alone can judge whether they are good or evil.



The question, then, is: What things can we tell about another person, and what are the things the Lord alone knows? Look at the following situations.

1. You entrusted a secret to a friend. You learn that he told it to someone else, but the next time you see him, he assures you that he has told no one. Are you allowed to “judge” that he has told you a lie? Are you allowed to judge that maybe he's not completely trustworthy?
2. Your school is having student elections and two people are running for the position of student leader. You know them both well, and feel you can trust one of them to be honest and sincere, but you really don't trust the other one because you have seen him or her be hypocritical in the past. Are you allowed to act on that judgment?
3. You want to buy a car from someone. It looks like a good car, and he assures you there's nothing wrong with it, and if there is, he'll get it fixed. You don't really trust him. Will you go with your □judgment□ about his trustworthiness, and make him put his assurance in writing?
4. You are the boss of a company and you want to hire an assistant manager for the company. You conduct interviews of several people. You will probably make a “judgment” on which is the person who will do the best job. Is that passing judgment?



You see, we judge all the time. We have to. The Writings say that we must, for example, judge who is fit for public office. That is what you do when you vote for president or for other office bearers.

The Writings say that we judge people's acts. In fact, we must do so in order to make good decisions.

What we can't judge is whether they are going to heaven or to hell. We don't know if in their inner hearts they are truly sincere or insincere.

We do not know their motives. For example, suppose a person lies to you. You can judge that he lied. If you know that he often lies, you may also be able to judge that he is untrustworthy. What you don't know is whether that is because he loves to lie or because he has problems which he is trying to overcome. He might be an evil person. On the other hand, he might be someone who is being weak at that moment and is trying to get the better of himself. Only the Lord knows that.

“Man looks at the outward appearance,” the Word says, “but the Lord looks on the heart” (I Samuel 16, verse 7).

Do we sometimes judge too harshly? Yes, we do. It's easy to find fault with other people. The Writings give us three sets of rules which help us think more justly and kindly about others.

- First: The angels notice only the good things with a person, and put a good interpretation on his or her faults. This is the ideal (it is taught in AC 1079).
- Second: Here on earth we are allowed to see the faults in another person, but we must admit that we only see the “externals,” the outward appearance (see CL 523).
- Third: This, I think, is the most applicable. We must not look for the faults in another person unless at the same time we look for his goods (AC 10381). Think about this. When you get into a group of people and they are criticizing someone who is not present, try to think of the good things of the person as well. That way you see the whole person, not just his faults.

If we truly apply this principle, we can learn to be fair in what we say and think about someone.

**Assignment:**

1. Read the rules over again.
2. Read the references from the Writings below to deepen your understanding of these rules.
3. On the next page, write these rules in your own words.

**References from the Writings for the New Church:**

It is strange that any one can find fault with another for his evil intentions, and say 'Do not do that because it is a sin,' and yet find it difficult to say this to himself; but this is because the latter touches the will, but the former only the thought.

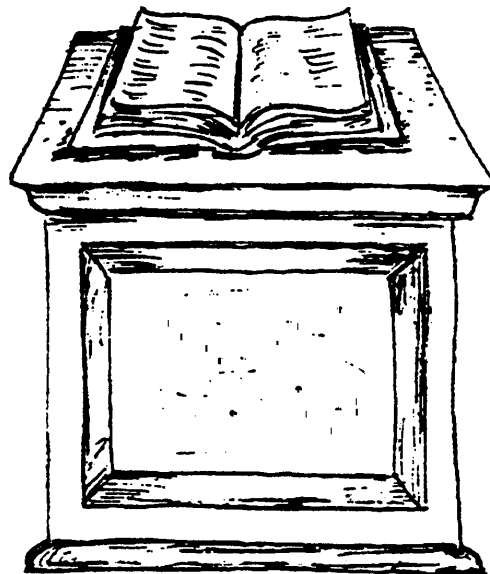
True Christian Religion #535

The Lord says, 'Judge not, that you be not condemned' (Matthew 7:1). This cannot in the least mean judging of someone's moral and civil life in the world, but judging of someone's spiritual and heavenly life. Who does not see that if people were not allowed to judge of the moral life of those dwelling in the world, society would collapse? What would become of society if there were no public courts of law, and if no one was permitted to have his judgement of another?

Conjugal Love # 523

But to judge what the inner mind or soul is like within, thus what a person's spiritual state is and so his fate after heath, of this one is not permitted to judge, because it is known to the Lord alone. Nor does the Lord reveal it until after death, in order that everyone may do what he does in freedom.

Conjugal Love # 523



# *Rules for Judging People Fairly*

*Rule 1*

*Rule 2*

*Rule 3*