

No Man in Heaven, Nor in Earth

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian church

Revelation 5:1-4, "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 is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither 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."

There are so many things that only the Lord can do. Here we see the book that only Jesus could open. No man on earth, or in heaven was worthy to do this, but thanks be to God He provided someone who could. We were, and are, blessed because the Lord knew that unless He made a way for us to be saved, then all the world would be lost. In his love for us, **John 3:16**, God made the sacrifice to take away our sins.

Someone told me once that it was hoped that

I would save that person. It seemed to be a surprise and shock to hear me say that I could not save anyone. Never think that any preacher, no matter how much you might like him, can save you. Just like me, he can't do it. In fact, he could not even save himself. If he truly serves God and man, he can tell you how to be saved according to the word of God. We might preach the gospel, but it is Jesus and him alone that saves the believing, repentant sinner.

Early in my ministry an older preacher told me that when I had been preaching as long as he had, I would be able to look at the congregation and tell who was saved and who was lost. Evidently some men "think" that they are able to do this. **2 Timothy 2:19** says, "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." Nowhere in scripture does it say that a preacher knows them that belong to the Lord. The Lord does and he alone knows the saved, the lost, and the condition of each and every person. In **Acts 14** a crippled man was healed and the

people of Lystra thought that Paul had done it and even started to offer a sacrifice to him and Barnabas. They were able to stop the people by telling them that they didn't have the power to do the healing, Jesus did. No man has the power of himself to speak the words to heal a person, or to cast out an unclean spirit. Only the son of God could do it and those to whom he gave the authority and power to do it in his name.

There are some things that we can do to help folks here in this life. While we should do all that we can to help, we should be aware that there are some things that only the Lord can do. He can save a soul, change a life, give hope and peace. Only he can defeat the evil one and overcome death. When we place our trust in him and obey him, we become partakers of his grace. As no one in heaven or in earth could open the seals and the book, only Jesus can save us. Truly, there is no one like the Lord Jesus. Place your trust and faith in him, for he is the savior of the world. **Acts 4:12**, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

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THE PROPHETS AND POLITICS!

DURING THE YEARS OF THE DIVIDED KINGDOMS, JUDAH AND ISRAEL, THEIR DAYS OF GLORY OVER, WERE HEMMED IN BY ENEMY STATES ON ALL SIDES! THE KINGS, EACH IN HIS TURN, APPEALED TO PROPHETS FOR HELP. BEING A PROPHET IN THOSE DAYS ENTAILED MORE THAN JUST A PASSING KNOWLEDGE OF CURRENT POLITICS! WAS SYRIA AT ODDS WITH EGYPT? DID BABYLON HAVE ITS EYE ON ASSYRIAN TERRITORY? WERE THE MEDES LIKELY TO FORM ALLIANCE WITH MOAB? THESE QUESTIONS HAD TO BE WEIGHED CAREFULLY, FOR JUDAH AND ISRAEL WERE SQUEEZED BETWEEN POWERFUL STATES....



IN THE BOOKS OF THE PROPHETS, WE CAN FIND, AMONGST ADMONITIONS TO THE PEOPLE TO KEEP GOD'S WAYS, MANY BITS OF ADVICE AGAINST ALLIANCES WITH COUNTRIES THAT MIGHT BRING THE WRATH OF ANOTHER POWERFUL STATE SHATTERING DOWN UPON THEIR LUCKLESS HEADS! ISAIAH, JEREMIAH, AMOS, NATHAN, ETC., ALL HAD THEIR SAY IN HOW BEST TO AVOID DESTRUCTION BY SOME ALL-POWERFUL NEIGHBOR—UNFORTUNATELY, KINGS BEING WHAT THEY WERE, THIS ADVICE WAS RARELY TAKEN!

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