



**Turmoil In Heaven**  
**Revelation 5:1-14**

## Turmoil In Heaven

- Oxymoron - a combination of contradictory or incongruous words (such as I'm being cruel to show my kindness)
  - Word combinations
    - Congressional Ethics
    - Peace Keeper Missiles



**DRY CREEK  
WATER PARK**



## Turmoil In Heaven

- Oxymoron - a combination of contradictory or incongruous words (such as I'm being cruel to show my kindness)
  - Statements
    - This is a genuine imitation Rolex watch
    - I will ask the professor for his unbiased opinion
    - The story was based on the concept of a true myth
    - The sermon lasted for an endless hour
  - Dolly Parton, "It costs a lot of money to look this cheap."
  - Mae West, "I like restraint - if it doesn't go too far."
  - Carrie Fisher, "Instant gratification takes too long."

## Turmoil In Heaven

- Turmoil In Heaven sounds like an oxymoron statement
  - Turmoil - a state of great commotion, confusion, or disturbance; agitation; disquiet: mental turmoil caused by difficult circumstances
- Could there be a time when there was turmoil in Heaven?
  - I'm going to guess there was some turmoil when a portion of the angels followed Lucifer in rebellion against God ([Isa. 12:13-15](#))
  - God's messenger to Daniel was prevented from reaching him for 21 days ([Dan. 10:13](#))
  - Scripture records one incident where the Apostle John experiences turmoil in the heavenly realm of splendor

## Turmoil In Heaven

- **Revelation 3:14-17 NIV**, 14 “To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. 17 You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.”
  - Can you imagine the sorrow in John’s heart after seeing this?
- **Revelation 4:1-2 NIV**, “At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a door standing open in Heaven, behold a loud voice from Heaven, behold a throne and someone seated on the throne.”
  - John’s finite heart must be about to explode trying to grasp this experience

## Scripture

- **Revelation 5:1-4 NIV**, 1 Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?” 3 But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. 4 I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.
  - John’s focus shifts from the throne to the scroll
  - You can almost hear him say, “Behold a scroll in the right hand of God the Father

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  - When a scroll was finished in Roman times, it was fastened with strings and the strings were sealed with wax at the knots
  - Roman law required a will to be sealed seven times with each knot representing a witness
  - Much like a notary today



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  - The seven sealed scroll therefore is the comprehensive program of God ending with the second coming of Christ, a new Heaven and a new Earth
  - God has a book in which the history of the universe is already written, in advance
  - It is so easy to get caught up in the scene trying to understand all the pieces parts that we might fail to grasp John’s turmoil

## **So often turmoil comes into our lives following seemingly unanswerable questions**

- Questions like
  - How can I get by or what's going to happen now?
  - Why was I rejected or abused?
  - How can I ever pay for that?
  - What other medical procedure can we try?
  - What is the answer to “put your earnest, deep question here”?

## So often turmoil comes into our lives following seemingly unanswerable questions

- **Vs. 2**, And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?”
  - Who has the authority to take the scroll from right hand of power of God?
  - Who has the sovereignty/authority/right to untie the seals and open the scroll?
  - Who has the worthiness to execute the will of God found in the scroll?

## So often turmoil comes into our lives following seemingly unanswerable questions

- **Vs. 3,** But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it
  - This is a challenge no creature can answer because no creature is worthy to open this particular scroll, not even the mighty angel
  - This brought turmoil into John's life

## So often turmoil comes into our lives following seemingly unanswerable questions

- **Vs. 4**, I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.
  - There appeared to be no answer to the question and John becomes hopeless
  - This was the weeping of a soul given completely to hopelessness
  - What about a previous promise to see the future that may now be denied?  
**(Rev. 4:1)**
  - Could the completion of history now be indefinitely postponed?
  - What about the second coming of Christ, the New Heaven and New Earth?
  - Has God's hand been successfully challenged, is He really in control?

## **So often turmoil comes into our lives following seemingly unanswerable questions**

- There was no answer to the strong angel's challenge because creation is utterly incapable being worthy to take the scroll from God's hand and open it
- Have you ever been here or maybe you are here now?

## The only true answer to the turmoil in our lives is seeing Jesus

- **Vs. 5 ESV**, And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has (*already*) conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”
  - One of the elders, not an angel, rescued John from his grief – what did he do?
    - He pointed out the one John had failed to identify and see in his turmoil
  - The Elder points John to Scripture
    - The Old Testament - the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David
    - The New Testament - who has already triumphed, conquered, been proven worthy

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  - Jesus was there all the time, but John failed to identify Him
    - Can you give yourself and others some grace in their turmoil?



## The only true answer to the turmoil in our lives is seeing Jesus

- **Revelation 5:6 ESV**, 6 And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.
  - John was so fixed on the throne, scroll, on the question he fails to see Jesus in the middle of his turmoil
  - Jesus is standing in the gap before the throne of God and all of creation
    - **Ezekiel 22:30 NIV**, “I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one.”

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  - Jesus is standing in perfect and complete power
  - Jesus is standing in perfect and complete wisdom and understanding
  - Jesus is pictured being among the redeemed people of God
  - He still is shown bearing the marks of salvation which are precious in heaven
  - So important is the sacrificial offering of Christ in the sight of God that he is still represented as being in the very act of pouring out his blood for the sins of man

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  - The coming judgment beginning in chapter six is dictated and administrated by the Lamb who already offered an escape from judgment by taking judgment upon Himself
  - This gives great advantage to faith; when any soul comes to the throne of grace, he finds a sacrifice there provided for him to offer to God
  - John did not need to be in turmoil because Jesus was in the middle of it with him
  - How different would your turmoil be fully knowing and trusting the Lamb of God standing in the gap in your turmoil

## When you fully grasp the presence of the Lamb in your turmoil then praise is natural

- John's turmoil was turned into a praise service with the recognition of the Lamb of God who takes away sin
- **Revelation 5:7-10 NIV**, 7 He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. 8 And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. 9 And they sang a new song, saying:
  - "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

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  - Do you need a new song in your turmoil?
    - A song that focuses on the complete redemption of God’s people
    - A song that honors the price of redemption: for You were slain
    - A song that honors the work of redemption: You have purchased/redeemed us

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  - Do you need a new song in your turmoil?
    - A song that honors the destination of redemption: You have redeemed us to God
    - A song that honors the payment of redemption: by Your blood
    - A song that honors the scope of redemption: every tribe and tongue and people and nation

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  - Do you need a new song in your turmoil?
    - A song that honors the length of redemption: have made us kings and priests to our God
    - A song that honors the result of redemption: and we shall reign on the earth

## When you fully grasp the presence of the Lamb in your turmoil then praise is natural

- Praise in the middle of turmoil is contagious
- The angels get involved in the praise
  - **Revelation 5:11-12 NIV**, 11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.  
12 In a loud voice they were saying:
    - “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”



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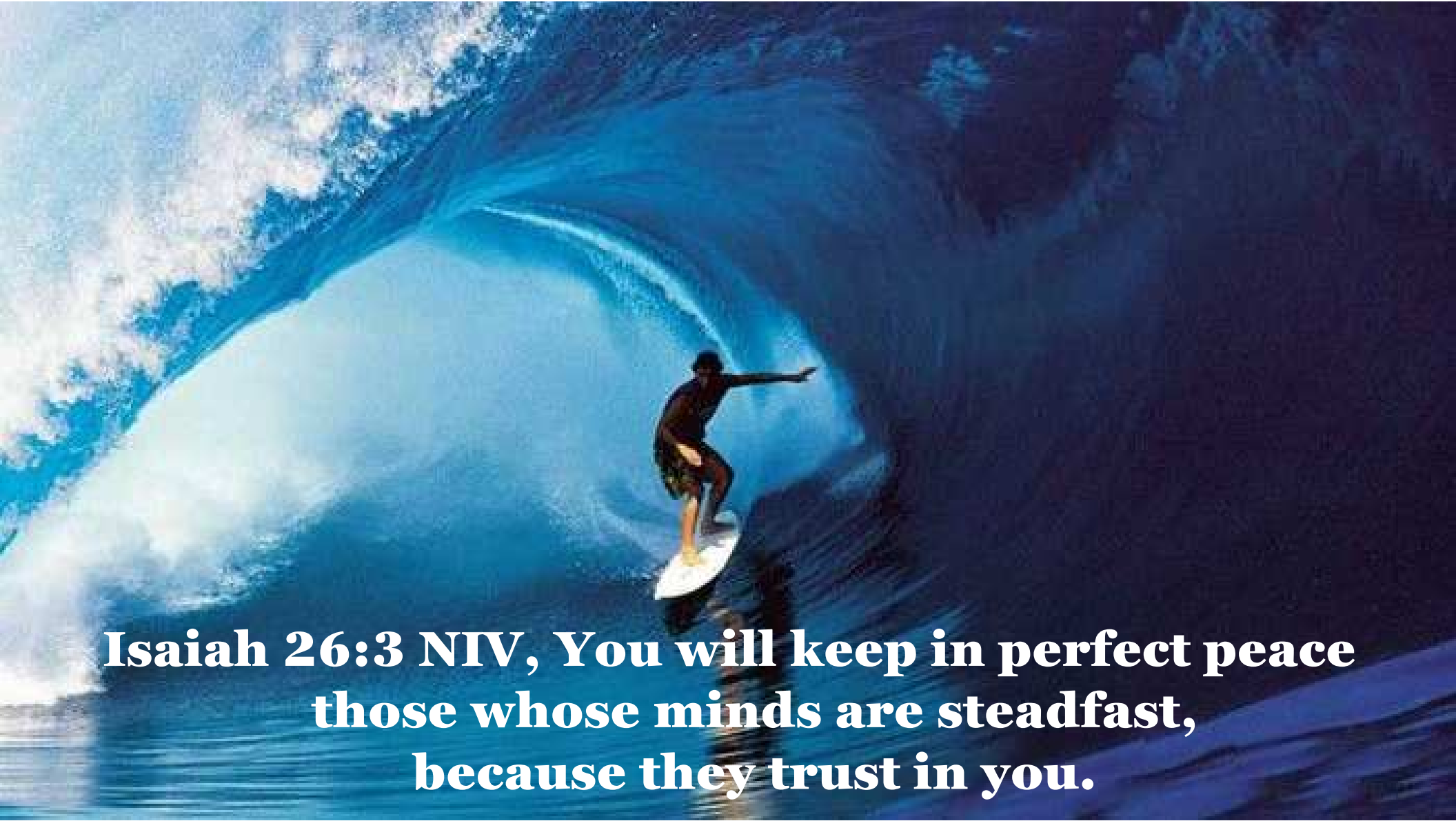
- Then finally all of creation will praise with you
  - **Revelation 5:13-14 NIV**, 13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:
    - “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!” 14 The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.
- Turmoil to praise is the ordained path of God

## Turmoil In Heaven

- There really was no turmoil in heaven only in John
  - In heaven there was complete and unwavering trust and recognition in the Lamb who is worthy
- Satan longs to drag you down in your turmoil to his earthly level
  - Heaven longs to lift you up to His glory
    - **Psalm 23:4 ESV**, “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”
    - **2 Corinthians 4:8-9 ESV**, “We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed”

## Turmoil In Heaven

- There really was no turmoil in heaven only in John
  - **Zephaniah 3:17 ESV**, “The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.”
  - **Isaiah 41:10 ESV**, “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”
  - **Psalms 42:11 NIV**, “Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.”



**Isaiah 26:3 NIV, You will keep in perfect peace  
those whose minds are steadfast,  
because they trust in you.**