

The Unveiling of Jesus Christ



Worthy Is the Lamb
Revelation 5

Seven-headed Beast from the Luther Bible

Previously in Revelation

Previously in Revelation

- In **Chapter 1**, we saw **John** on the island of **Patmos**, where **Christ** appeared to him in a dramatic vision.
- In **Chapters 2 & 3**, Christ dictated **7 letters** to John, which were sent to **7 specific churches** in Asia.

Previously in Revelation

Our Outline from Revelation 1:19

- The things which you have seen meaning the glorified Christ of Chapter 1.
- Those that are or things pertaining to the church in Chapters 2 & 3.
- Those that are to take place after this – a series of visions relating to the times of the end.

Previously in Revelation

- Let's now read **Revelation 4** as an introduction.

Previously in Revelation

The worship of God as Creator sets the stage for subsequent chapters in which God is depicted as moving into creation and setting it right from the effects of sin. This entire scene is a lead-up to chapter five, in which Jesus Christ is introduced.

*— Tony Evans,
pastor and Bible teacher*



Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5

- And now we can read Revelation 5.

Worthy Is the Lamb
Revelation 5:1

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:1

- Him who was seated on the throne
- This would be God the Father.
- A scroll written within and on the back
- The inside would be the front.
- Normally scrolls were only written on one side.
- The writing on both sides signifies the fullness of the contents.

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:1

- Sealed with seven seals
- Important documents like wills or contracts were often sealed with wax seals as a means of security.
- A 3D imprint was pushed into the warm wax to form a seal.

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:1

- The big question now is, **What Is the Scroll?**
- There are several good thoughts on this from different commentators.

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:1

1. The Lamb's Book of Life.

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:1

1. The Lamb's Book of Life.

- This makes sense from the standpoint of Jesus being the one who is worthy to open it.
- It also does justice to the fullness of the contents. (written inside and on the back).

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:1

1. The Lamb's Book of Life.

- As the scroll is opened, however, judgment comes forth at the opening of each seal.
- Connecting judgment with the opening of the Book of Life is difficult.
- That seems to be a fatal flaw in this perspective.

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:1

2. The title deed to the earth.

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:1

2. The title deed to the earth.

- This view makes sense of the judgments.
- Christ claims the earth back for Himself from both Satan and rebellious humanity.
- And yet, the title deed is not in Satan's hands, but in the right hand of God the Father.

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:1

2. The title deed to the earth.

- This shows that the earth is the Lord's.
- We can say this even though Satan has been exercising authority over it for a very long time.
- The Father is ultimately giving the earth to the Son.

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:1

3. The book of the prophecies leading up to the end.

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:1

3. The book of the prophecies leading up to the end.

- The fullness of the contents would speak of the completeness of the vision.
- In the OT, the prophet Daniel was also given visions of the end.
- He was told to shut up the words and seal the book.

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:1

3. The book of the prophecies leading up to the end.

- Daniel 12:4

But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:1

3. The book of the prophecies leading up to the end.

- Now such a book is being opened. As the scroll is opened by Jesus, the prophecies unfold.
- The fact that the Father gives Jesus the prophecies would also tie in with **Rev 1:1**.
- God the Father gives the Revelation to Jesus Christ.

Worthy Is the Lamb
Revelation 5:2

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:2

- Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?
- The angel's question is the key to the chapter.

Worthy Is the Lamb
Revelation 5:3

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:3

- And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it,
- No one worthy was found.

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:3



Neither angels, men, nor demons can know anything of the plans of God until He is pleased to reveal them. They may possess great wisdom either angelic wisdom, human wisdom, or Satanic wisdom. This avails nothing.

*– Donald Grey Barnhouse
(1895 – 1960), Presbyterian pastor
and early radio Bible teacher*

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:3

Without someone to open the scroll:

- The prophecies will not unfold.
- The earth will not be reclaimed.
- Ultimately, the human race would remain in the bondage of Satan, sin and death.
- And there is no hope of deliverance.

Worthy Is the Lamb
Revelation 5:4

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:4

- And I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.
- John evidently understood what was at stake, so he had ample cause for weeping.
- No one was found who could rescue us from the awful situation we find ourselves in – until v.5.

Worthy Is the Lamb
Revelation 5:5

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:5

- The Lion of the tribe of Judah
- This reference goes all the way back to Genesis.

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:5

- Genesis 49:8-10

8 Judah, your brothers shall praise you;
your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies;
your father's sons shall bow down before you.

9 Judah is a lion's cub;
from the prey, my son, you have gone up.
He stooped down; he crouched as a lion ...

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Revelation 5:5

- Genesis 49:8-10

... and as a lioness; who dares rouse him?

10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah,
nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,
until tribute comes to him;
and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

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Revelation 5:5

- Root of David can refer either to “source” or “offspring.”
- Jesus is the descendant of David, but also the source of David’s authority.
- In Psalm 110, David calls the Messiah “Lord.”

Worthy Is the Lamb
Revelation 5:6

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:6

- We might now expect to see this conquering lion.
- Instead, in the middle of this awe-inspiring scene, we see a lamb.
- He is alive but bears the marks of His death.

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:6

- Christ won the victory for all of us by submitting to His death on the cross.
- The sacrificed lamb and the conquering lion are one and the same.

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:6

- Seven horns speak of His strength.
- Seven eyes represent the Holy Spirit who proceeds from both the Father and the Son.
- The Spirit is such an integral part of the living God that He is represented as the Lamb's very eyes.

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:6

- Don't imagine that the Holy Spirit is some lesser being or impersonal spiritual force.
- He is God.
- The seven-ness of Him points to the completeness and diversity of His work.

Worthy Is the Lamb
Revelation 5:7

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:7

- **The Lamb** – who alone is worthy – now takes possession of the scroll.

Worthy Is the Lamb
Revelation 5:8-10

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:8-10

- The worship begins.
- There are bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.
- Your prayers are perfume to God.
- Even the sad ones are very pleasant to Him.

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:8-10

- David once prayed and said,
- Psalm 141:1-2

1 O Lord, I call upon you; hasten to me!

Give ear to my voice when I call to you!

2 Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,
and the lifting up of my hands as the evening
sacrifice!

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:8-10



How God loves for you to commune with Him! How He loves for you to just sit down and open your heart to Him, expressing to Him your love and worship! He hears your prayers, and they are a sweet smell to Him. They are precious to Him.

*– Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013),
Calvary Chapel of Costa Mesa*

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:8-10

- Christ's sacrifice is the focal point of the worship here pictured in heaven.
- Look at the words of this song about the redeemed.
- They come out of “every tribe and language and people and nation,.”
- All the families of the earth are blessed by the blood of Christ.

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:8-10

- Genesis 12:1-3

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:8-10

- You ransomed people for God
- Christ purchased us with his blood.
- He paid our ransom.
- He bought us.

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Revelation 5:8-10

- The *Complete Word Study Dictionary* explains,
The consequence of something or someone having been bought is that the buyer has the right of possession. In the redemptive work of Christ the idea is that Christ, by offering Himself for us as due satisfaction, freed us from our liability in paying it ourselves. He, having paid the price, binds us to Himself.

Worthy Is the Lamb
Revelation 5:11-12

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:11-12

- Now an innumerable company of angels joins in.
- A **myriad** is ten thousand.
- **Angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands**
- This is the ancient Greek way of saying “**a whopping enormous number.**”
- John sees more angels than he can count.

Worthy Is the Lamb
Revelation 5:13-14

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:13-14

- Now all of creation joins in.
- We might think of Paul's passage from **Philippians**.

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:13-14

- **Philippians 2:8-11**

8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:13-14



He shared in the sinless weaknesses of humanity as He hungered, thirsted, and became weary. Today in glory, He possesses all strength. On earth, He experienced humiliation and shame as sinners ridiculed and reviled Him ...

*– Warren W. Wiersbe
(1929 – 2019)*

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:13-14



... They laughed at His kingship and attired Him in a mock robe, crown, and scepter. But all of that is changed now! He has received all honor and glory!

*– Warren W. Wiersbe
(1929 – 2019)*

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5

Conclusions

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Worship as a Logical Response

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5

Conclusions

Worship as a Logical Response

- Consider for a moment the sheer awesomeness of Christ.
- This alone gives us ample reason to worship Him.
- But what more can we do to cultivate a worshipful heart?
- What can cause praise to spontaneously spring up within us?

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Revelation 5

Conclusions

Worship as a Logical Response

- One way might be to start with the reality of sin, which is the reason the atonement is needed.

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Revelation 5

Conclusions

Worship as a Logical Response

- Since all of us have sinned, we all stand flawed and imperfect before God.
- Our rebellion has corrupted us and there is nothing we ourselves can do to remedy our situation.

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5

Conclusions

Worship as a Logical Response

- We've offended our Creator who loved us.
- We then found ourselves in bondage to the most wicked master in the universe.
- He rebelled against God before we did.
- He is a master who hated us thoroughly – not least for being made in the image of his arch enemy – God.

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5

Conclusions

Worship as a Logical Response

- And now consider this: Christ died for our sins.
- He is the sinless, spotless Lamb that was slain.
- He suffered and died on the cross for perfectly loving reasons:
 - His loving obedience to the Father
 - His great love and compassion toward us.

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5

Conclusions

Worship as a Logical Response

- Let us be reminded that the triune God was lacking nothing without us.
- It was not any need of His own, but our need that sent Christ to the cross.
- He died for us because He wanted to see us saved.

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5

Conclusions

Worship as a Logical Response

- In our position as the redeemed, is there any logical response other than worship?
- Let's read **Revelation 5:9-14** one last time.