



The Reverend Dr. David V. Silvernail, Jr.  
Revelation 5:1-14

January 17, 2010  
English Standard Version

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## *“Worthy is the Lamb”*

This is the 14<sup>th</sup> sermon in the series on The Book of Revelation entitled,  
*“The King’s Triumphant Return.”*

### **Revelation 5:1-14**

*“Then I saw in the right hand of Him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. <sup>2</sup> And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” <sup>3</sup> And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, <sup>4</sup> and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. <sup>5</sup> And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that He can open the scroll and its seven seals.” <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> And He went and took the scroll from the right hand of Him who was seated on the throne. <sup>8</sup> And when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. <sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain, and by Your blood You ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, <sup>10</sup> and You have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.” <sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup> saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” <sup>13</sup> And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them,*

saying, “To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”<sup>14</sup> And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.”

*Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us Your Word and making us Your people. As we look at this vision of worship, remind us of what this is all about. Show us that our worship can be so much more because the One we worship is worthy of awe. Remind us that we join a worship service already in progress. Lord, help us to meet Jesus in His glory as we see Him in these words. Do this for each of us, this morning, in the majestic name of Jesus we pray, Amen.*

### **INTRODUCTION: *The Wizard of Oz.***<sup>1</sup>

The movie made from Frank L. Baum’s *The Wizard of Oz* is not only a well-worn film classic but also a parable of American life. Young Dorothy, snatched by a tornado from her farm home in black-and-white Kansas, awakens in the Technicolor world of Oz, dazzling with the delights and terrors of the imagination. And although Oz is full of wonders, Dorothy longs for home and so begins a pilgrimage to the Emerald City, where, she’s told, the great Wizard of Oz can fulfill her dream to return to Kansas.

Along the way she meets fellow pilgrims who join her on her quest to make requests of the wizard: a tin man who needs a heart, a lion who lacks courage, a scarecrow who wants a brain. And so, after many adventures, they finally get there and are granted an audience with the wizard. When they walk in they’re terrified by the awful flashes of light, smoke, and a thunderous voice that assails their eyes and ears — until Dorothy’s little dog, Toto, pulls aside a curtain in one corner of the great hall. And what is revealed is a little old man operating buttons and levers, speaking into a microphone, and looking very much like the medicine-show huckster back in Kansas ... the wonderful Wizard of Oz.

The wizard’s terrifying splendor is merely the product of technology and marketing, so when the pilgrims arrive, he’s unable to grant them what they want. But then again, he no longer has to bestow these gifts upon them, for along the way, the tin man has revealed his compassion, the scarecrow has demonstrated an ability to think, and the lion has proven to be brave.

In other words, through their quest to reach the wizard, **they’ve already saved themselves**, so all the wizard needs to do is to certify their accomplishments. This is the perfect parable for self-reliant, self-sufficient, self-centered American individualism. It also shows a light-hearted cynicism that suspects that nothing in the universe is worth our wonder. People who can fix themselves aren’t easily impressed by anyone who presents himself as bigger or better than they are.

Is anyone or anything intrinsically worthy of awe?

Or can we rest in the confidence that whatever made previous generations marvel can now be explained and rendered ordinary?

The loss of awe in the modern world can be attributed to the expansion of scientific understanding, growing democratic ideals in world politics, or our growing technological capacity to simulate the miraculous in film, television, and computer programs, where we can create a virtual world in which anything can happen ... but nothing actually happens.

The Book of Revelation wages war on the loss of awe.

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<sup>1</sup> **The Introduction** is adapted from *Triumph of the Lamb* by Dr. Dennis Johnson, pages 95-96.

So today we're in Revelation, chapter 5, and we're going to see who and what **is truly worthy of awe**. So let's turn to our text, where we start with ...

**v. 1-4: THE PROBLEM OF THE SCROLL** <sup>2</sup>

*"Then I saw in the right hand of Him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. <sup>2</sup> And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" <sup>3</sup> And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, <sup>4</sup> and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it."*

In his vision, as reported in chapter 4, the Apostle John saw a throne in heaven with someone of great majesty sitting upon it and with heavenly beings ranged around it. As the vision continued, John saw two more things: **first**, a scroll, that is, the sealed record of both history and the unknown future and **second**, a lamb standing before the throne. There are various interpretations of this scroll, but the one that best fits the context is that it's the record of God's plan for the world, a plan that includes both the judgment of the wicked and the salvation of God's people. As the vision continues, the contents of the scroll will carry us both backward and forward in history.

This language about the scroll draws heavily from Ezekiel 2 where it says, **Ezekiel 2:9-10**, *"And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. <sup>10</sup> And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning and woe."*

Because Ezekiel's scroll symbolized the message that he was to deliver to God's people, he was commanded to eat the scroll in preparation for his proclamation. But here in Revelation, there's one great obstacle to John's preaching what's written in the scroll ... the scroll John sees is sealed. The scroll is sealed with seven seals. Seven being the number of completeness, the thought is that the contents of the scroll are completely hidden; **no one** can look inside ahead of time to learn what will come to pass. A sealed scroll couldn't be read until the seals were broken, similar to what we read in **Isaiah 29:11**, *"And the vision of all this has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed. When men give it to one who can read, saying, "Read this," he says, "I cannot, for it is sealed."*

But since the seal symbolized the owner's authority, it couldn't legitimately be broken without His authorization. Herein lies the problem! A strong angel puts it into words, verse 2, **"Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?"**

The breaking of the seals, narrated in chapters 6-8, brings to pass events in the world. That is, the opening of the scroll does not merely disclose an historical record; in John's vision it sets the divine will in motion to accomplish God's purpose and to bring history to its predestined conclusion. The opening of the scroll would not only be an act of executive disclosure but also an act of executive authority, putting its decrees into action. The things written in the scroll **"must take place"** because they constitute God's plan for history, culminating in the vindication of His servants and the unchallenged establishment of His dominion on earth, as it is in Heaven.

The strong angels question is not merely Who is worthy to reveal God's plan? But also

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**2 The Exposition of the text is adapted from the books:** *Triumph of the Lamb* by Dr. Dennis Johnson, pages 103-113; *Discipleship on the Edge* by Dr. Darrell Johnson, pages 143-165; *Unveiled Hope* by Rev. Scotty Smith & Michael Card, pages 76-105 **And the sermon:** *"The Lamb upon the Throne"* by Dr. Robert Rayburn, Faith Presbyterian Church, Tacoma, WA, 11/8/08, [www.faithtacoma.org](http://www.faithtacoma.org)

Who is worthy to carry out God's plan? The question is Who in the created order has sovereign authority over God's plan of judgment and redemption? Of course, God Himself is worthy, as we already saw in chapter 4, but God's not going to open the scroll. He's required that it be opened by someone else. And so John wept because, in terms of the vision, until the scroll is opened history cannot come to its rightful conclusion and if no one's worthy to open the scroll history will not unfold in the interests of the kingdom of God.

Who deserves to receive from the Father's hand all authority in heaven and earth to make the kingdoms of this world into the kingdom of God? As **Revelation 11:15** says, "*Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever."*"

And as our Lord Jesus Himself says in **Matthew 28:18-20**, "*And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

And that's the answer to the problem. We get ...

#### **v. 5-7: THE SOLUTION OF THE SAVIOR**

The suspense and sorrow of John is broken by the voice of one of the elders, answering the angel's question ... "*And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the **Lion** of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that He can open the scroll and its seven seals."<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup> And He went and took the scroll from the right hand of Him who was seated on the throne."*

When Israel bestowed a final blessing on his sons in Genesis 49, he compared Judah with a lion and foresaw a perpetual royal dynasty from Judah's line. God's selection of David as king set the fulfillment in motion. Though the exile in the time of Daniel would make it seem like David's dynasty had ended and been cut off, the prophet Isaiah foresaw a shoot from the stump of David's father Jesse. **Isaiah 11:1, 10**, "*There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ... In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples — of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious."*

These promises were finally to reach fulfillment in **Matthew 1:1**, in the person of "**Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.**" So the first way of identifying the one able to open the scroll is as the Messiah, the King who would arise from the seed of David. And He has triumphed! Throughout the whole course of the book it's going to be clear that the future and final victory of the Messiah and His kingdom is just an extension of the victory He's already won over sin, death, and the Devil at the cross and resurrection.

Clearly the identification of the Lion in verse 5 is the same as the figure now described in verse 6 as a Lamb. **This is key! The Lion is the Lamb!** That is what the Jews did not grasp when Jesus was among them and when He went to the cross. It was the Messiah's primary ministry and calling to offer Himself a sacrifice for the sins of His people. **The Lion is the Lamb!**

The term "**lamb**" always carries with it the implied reference to a sacrificial death. So

the Lion, the King who is going to open the seals is the very one who gave His life to redeem His people. There's no other way to accomplish the divine purpose for the world than through the death of Jesus on the cross. His death on the cross is the victory that makes Him worthy to open the scroll. Therefore the slaughtered sacrifice stands, no longer dead, but alive now and forevermore!

The **Lamb** will open the scroll, which is to say He will interpret and control the course of events that was written beforehand in the scroll. There's two words for **lamb** in the New Testament. One word, **amnos**, means lamb. It's the word used by John the Baptist when he said, **John 1:29**, "*The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, **the Lamb of God**, who takes away the sin of the world!"*"

The second word used is **arnion**, and it means 'little lamb.' Some people think that C.S. Lewis got the name for Narnia, from this word for lamb, **arnion**. It's the word used by the Apostle Peter when he writes, **1 Peter 1:18-19**, "... you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold,<sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot."

But then there's a description of Jesus like you've never seen Him before. The text says He has seven horns and seven eyes. The horn is a typical symbol of strength in the Bible so seven horns serves as a symbol of power or omnipotence; the seven eyes then are a symbol of perfect knowledge or omniscience. Remember Paul's identification of Jesus in **1 Corinthians 1:24** as "**the power of God and the wisdom of God.**"

I've said previously, back in chapter one, that the "**seven spirits**" are John's way of speaking of the fullness of the Holy Spirit and the rest of the New Testament makes clear that it's for the Lord Christ that the Holy Spirit works in the world; He is the Savior's gift to the world and to His church and He carries out Christ's work in the world. As Peter reminds us in his Pentecost sermon, it was Jesus who sent the Holy Spirit and it was because of the Lord's death and resurrection that the Spirit is given to the world.

What simpler or more beautiful way could be found of making the point that history is under God's control and that the Father has appointed His Son, Jesus Christ, to bring it to its proper conclusion than for the Lamb to receive this scroll from the hand of God the Father sitting upon the heavenly throne. Direct authority over the world and its history is, as it were, transferred from the Father to the Son.

So what do we do with all this? We respond the same way everyone responded back in Revelation 5 ... with ...

#### **v. 8-14: THE RESPONSE OF THE NEW SONG**

*"And when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.<sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain, and by Your blood You ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,<sup>10</sup> and You have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."<sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands,<sup>12</sup> saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"<sup>13</sup> And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor*

*and glory and might forever and ever!”<sup>14</sup> And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.”*

When heaven saw the scroll being handed from Father to Son it broke out in a great hymn of praise. The harp was traditionally an instrument used in the praise of God – it’s mentioned frequently in the Psalms – and John will mention it several more times in this book in regard to music played in heaven. Think of it as the string section of the orchestra, providing the dominant sound. From long ago Incense was the symbol of the people’s prayers, because the smoke and the smell of burning incense ascend to heaven. Here these are prayers for the coming of the kingdom of God. In a manner typical of apocalyptic visions John piles one symbol on top of the other.

This strange heavenly choir of creatures and elders and angels breaks out in joyful song. In Zephaniah 3:17 we actually have a reference to the Lord singing. Singing is as important as it is to human life because we have been made in the image of God and God is a musical being, a singing being.

They sing a “*new*” song. “*New*” is a very important word in the Bible and in the Book of Revelation. We read of new songs often in the book of Psalms, songs in which the grace and power of God are celebrated because God’s grace and power makes old, dying and ruined things *new*! Things that are “*new*” are, in the Bible, always connected with salvation and the grace of God. We will hear in Revelation of the *New* Jerusalem, the *new* heaven, the *new* earth all wonderful things that God’s grace brings to pass. In the verses that follow the song is amplified, first by a greater host of angels, and then by all creation, bearing witness to the Jesus Christ’s universal lordship and sovereignty.

The song opens with the same words sung of God at the end of chapter 1. In verses 9-10, very important verses, we read, “*Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain, and by Your blood You ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,<sup>10</sup> and You have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.*”

Christ’s redeeming work is described by saying that He purchased men for God from every tribe, language, people, and nation. This is the perspective of the Bible throughout the Bible. Christ’s redeeming work is effective; it accomplishes its ends; it doesn’t wait upon the meeting of some further condition to gain its ends. Men believe and repent and follow Jesus in obedience **because they have been redeemed by Him**. They have been bought and paid for and belong to Him! And so certain is the eventual consummation of their salvation — those whom Christ has redeemed by His shed blood ... by His sacrificial death — that all of the opposition of the world, the flesh, and the devil **CANNOT** prevent it. **That’s** the theme of the scroll, the scroll that the **Lamb** who appeared to have been slain is now holding in His hand.

That the saints have been made into a kingdom and priests is an important theme in Revelation. Already mentioned in chapter 1, it will be mentioned again in **Revelation 20:6**, “***Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with Him for a thousand years.***”

Over these saints the second death **has no power**. I’ve said before and I’m going to say it again. **Those who are born once die twice. Those who are born twice die once.** That may just be one more thing to remember for you. That may just be a nice saying for you. That may just be theology for you. **This morning, for Betty Parks, that’s reality.** And the Apostle John

wants it to be reality for you just as much as it is for her. We woke up to grieving ... she woke up to glory.

I said earlier that this scroll is the record of God's plan for the world. It's a record of history ... past, present, and future. History is a divine plot. It's a story written in heaven before it happens on earth. It's the outworking of God's purpose for the world, for mankind, and for every human being. It's the manifestation of God's redeeming love and His holy justice. It's the prelude to the consummation of love and justice in eternal heaven and eternal hell. It's the great drama of creation, fall, redemption, and new creation.

**That's** what we are being shown and told here in chapter 5. **That's** the meaning of the scroll sealed seven times, of the Lamb who was slain taking the scroll from the hand of God, and **that's** the meaning of the thrilling worship of the Lamb by the great hosts of heaven. They see what all of this means and what wonder, comfort, encouragement and joy it must be to the saints to know that all that will transpire in the world is the will of their God and Savior.

The history reported in Scripture, from the moment of creation to the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century when Revelation was written, is given an authoritative interpretation and that's what's said about it. It's God's plan and purpose that was being unfolded, the central event of which was the revelation of God's Son, Jesus Christ, and His work as the world's redeemer, and that plan is now relentlessly moving to its consummation at the end of the age when all will be revealed.

History is supercharged with significance precisely because it's the outworking of a divinely written script. In history we encounter God's mind and God's will. The Bible's viewpoint is that everything about your life and everything about the life of this world **at this moment** depends **absolutely** on what has happened in the past in the life and death and resurrection of God's Son and what will come to pass in the future at His coming again.

History is the will of God and all of it, down to the smallest detail, existed first in God's mind before it ever happened in the world. And Jesus Christ, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Lamb who was slain, alone has the power and the authority to rule that history and to bring it to its appointed end. **Without Him** there is no meaning, no goal, no purpose; just a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing. **With Him** there is a certain fulfillment, a glorious conclusion, a triumph, a moral, just, and right consummation for every human being that has ever lived in the world and for the entire world as a whole.

**That's** why vast hosts in heaven are singing a new song to God and about the Lord Jesus Christ, **that's** why they are falling on their faces before Him, and **that's** why Christians through the ages, in even the darkest of days, have known for certain that what happens to them as a part of what's happening in their world, in their time, is precisely what is **supposed** to happen, precisely what was written down as going to happen before the world ever was.

Everything is part of the story that God has written, everything circles around the Lamb, and everything will end at that throne, with vast multitudes of men and angels bowing before it singing new songs.

What effect do you think this vision would have had on the seven churches in Asia Minor? **The persecuted** are deeply encouraged to endure all things on behalf of Him who bore all things for their redemption. **The coldhearted** are invited to be renewed in their affections for Him whose love is their own rebuke. **Jewish Christians** are secured in this new covenant faith as they're reassured that Jesus is, indeed, God's Messiah, the Lion of the tribe of Judah. **The fearful** are given strength, confidence, and hope as they see who really controls history and their

destiny. **The outnumbered** Christians in the Roman world are made aware that they're far from being a minority, for they are part of an uncountable community. **Those deceived** by false teaching are confronted with worship that is done in Spirit and in truth, and therefore pure. **The small churches** in Asia Minor realize that when they gather to worship God they're part of something far more majestic and immense than they could ever dream or imagine. **And the whole Church** is called to affirm afresh, with confidence, passion, and joy, that it is **Jesus**, and not the Roman Emperor, who is Lord and God.

**And He will reign** forever and ever.

### **CONCLUSION: *Itemized Grace***<sup>3</sup>

You've probably heard the story of the couple who resorted to do-it-yourself marriage counseling. They resolved to make a list of each other's faults and then read them aloud. Sounds like a constructive evening, don't you think?

So she made hers and he made his. The wife gave her list of complaints to the husband and he read them aloud. "You snore, you eat in bed, you get home too late and leave too early..." After finishing, the husband did the same. He gave her his list. But when she looked at the paper, she began to smile. He, too, had written his grievances, but next to each he had written, "**I forgive this.**"

**The result was an itemized list of grace.**

You'll receive such a list on judgment day. Remember the primary purpose of judgment: to reveal the grace of the Father. As your sins are announced, God's grace is magnified. Still the question remains, why must our deeds be exposed? According to Jesus, **Luke 12:2**, "***Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.***"

Is Jesus saying that all secrets will be revealed? The secrets of sinners and saints alike? He is, **but** — **and this is essential** — the sins of the saved will be revealed as ***forgiven*** sins. Our transgressions will be announced as ***pardoned*** transgressions. That is the second reason believers will be judged. The first, so our acts can be rewarded and second, so that God's grace can be revealed.

Imagine the event. You are before the judgment seat of Christ. The book is opened and the reading begins — each sin, each deceit, each occasion of destruction and greed. But as soon as the infraction is read, grace is proclaimed.

Disrespectful at age ten.

Lied at fifteen.

Lusted at twenty.

Gossiped at thirty.

Got angry at forty.

Disobeyed God at fifty.

The result? ... God's merciful verdict will echo through the universe.

For the first time in history, we will understand the depth of His goodness. Itemized grace. Catalogued kindness. Registered forgiveness. We will stand in awe as one sin after another is proclaimed ... and then pardoned.

Jealousies revealed, then removed.

Infidelities announced, then cleansed.

Lies exposed, then erased.

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**3 The conclusion** is adapted from *When Christ Comes: The Beginning of The Very Best* by Max Lucado, pages 95-110.

The devil will shrink back in defeat. The angels will step forward in awe. And we saints will stand tall in God's grace. As we see how much He has forgiven us, we will see how much He loves us. And we will worship Him. We will join in the song of the saints, "**Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain, and by Your blood You ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.**"

What a triumph this will be for our Lord!

Perhaps you're thinking, *It will be triumph for him, but humiliation for me.* No, it won't. Scripture promises, **1 Peter 2:6**, "*For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."*

But how can this be? If the hidden is known and the secret is shown, won't I be embarrassed beyond recovery? No, you won't. Here's why.

Shame is a child of self-centeredness. Heaven's occupants are not self-centered, they are Christ-centered. You will be in your sinless state. The sinless don't protect a reputation or project an image. You won't be ashamed. You'll be happy to let God do in heaven what He did on earth — be honored in your weaknesses. Heads bowed in shame? No. Heads bowed in worship.

By the way, won't it feel good to have it all out in the open? No more games. No more make-believe. No more cover-ups. No more status seekers or ladder climbers. The result will be the first genuine community of forgiven people.

Only one is worthy of the applause of heaven, and He's the one with the pierced hands and feet. He is the Lion. And He is the Lamb.

And He will reign forever and ever.

After all, He's the King.

And He's coming back for those He loves.

Think about that. You need to pray.

Take a moment to do that, and then I'll close.

*Heavenly Father, thank You for revealing Jesus to us, thank You for opening the door to heaven for us to see. For those of us who need a new perspective, help us to focus on Jesus. Help us to sing with the company of heaven ... "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" ... in the Name of Your Son, Jesus, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.*

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**Revelation 21:3-5** "*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death*

*shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” And He who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.”*