

JESUS IS WORTHY OF WORSHIP Revelation 5:1-14

(Main Idea of the Biblical Text)

John portrays Jesus as worthy to take a scroll from God that will unleash His wrath upon the earth.

(Main Idea of this study)

Jesus is worthy of our worship.

I. Jesus is worthy of worship because He is the Son of God (1-5).

A. He is the Son of God because of His authority (1-2).

- *right hand*-a place of strength and justice.
- *of Him who sat on the throne*-The word "throne" is found 39 times in the book of Revelation. It is found five times in chapter five alone. Remember that it is God who sits on the throne, according to chapter 4.
- *scroll*-an also be translated "book." Generally, the book/scroll contains the revelation of God's program and purpose for the Tribulation and may have some relationship to Ezekiel' scroll of woe in Ezekiel 2:9-10 or to Daniels' sealed prophecy in Daniel 12:4. It is essentially the title deed of the universe.

Ezekiel 2:9-10: Now when I looked, there was a hand stretched out to me; and behold, a **scroll** of a book was in it. Then He spread it before me; and *there was writing on the inside and on the outside*, and written on it *were* lamentations and mourning and woe.

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."

- *Written*-perfect tense; "It stands written." This further underscores that the scroll was probably written the past.
- *sealed with seven seals*-"Sealed" is also a perfect passive verb. According to Roman law certain documents were required to be sealed by seven witnesses, although the idea of seven seals as used here is undoubtedly governed by the symbolic use of the number seven in Revelation and signifies the absolute inviolability of the scroll.
- *worthy*-Who is worthy to open the scroll that is in God's hand? "Worthy" means "deserving, suitable." The word is found four times in this chapter.

B. He is the Son of God because of His ability (3-4).

- *no one in heaven*-Every redeemed person in the history of the ages does not have the ability to open the scroll. No angel possessed the ability to open the scroll.
- *or on the earth*-Later we read in Revelation of the great 144,000 Jewish evangelists who remained faithful to God, but not even they were able to open the scroll. Neither were the unredeemed, ungodly, rebellious people who remained on the earth able to open the scroll. Not even a creature who lived under the earth was worthy to open the scroll.
- *wept much*-imperfect tense, "I kept on weeping much." John's heart was broken. He was a mess emotionally.

C. He is the Son of God because of His ancestry (5).

- *one of the elders*-Who are the elders? These elders sit on 24 thrones that surround God's throne, according to 4:4.
- *Do not weep*-Literally, "Stop weeping."
- *Lion of the tribe of Judah*- The lion is the king of beasts, and Judah is the royal tribe. Here we have an allusion to Genesis 49:9-10 where it is predicted that the future Ruler of Israel and of the earth would come out of the tribe of Judah, the royal tribe. The Lord Jesus who was of the line of David is a legal descendent by adoption through Joseph (Matt. 1), but also a physical descendent of David through Mary.

Hebrews 7:14: For *it is* evident that our Lord arose from **Judah**, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.

- *Root of David*-The title "the Root of David" means the Messiah would come through the lineage of David as a greater son of David (Luke 1:32-33). He who came after David as the offspring of David was also before him as the root (Rev 22:16).

Isaiah 11:1, 10: There shall come forth a Rod from the **stem of Jesse, and a Branch** shall grow out of his roots. 10 " And in that day there shall be a **Root of Jesse**, who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious."

Revelation 22:16: "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the **Root and the Offspring of David**, the Bright and Morning Star."

- *has prevailed*-"Has subdued." That is, he has acquired this power as the result of a conflict or struggle. The word used here refers to such a conflict or struggle, properly meaning to come off victor, to overcome, to conquer, to subdue. In the Greek the verb comes first in the sentence for emphasis. Hence, translated literally it is "Behold, he has

conquered, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David. At the cross he defeated sin, death, and all the forces of hell. Believers are overcomers through His overcoming.

II. **Jesus is worthy of worship because He is the Lamb of God (6-7).**

A. **A slain lamb (6).**

- *in the midst of the throne*-The scene here is literally in the middle of the throne.
- *and of the four living creatures*-The four living creatures are most likely cherubim based on the similarities here and in Isaiah 6. They were an exalted order of angels frequently associated in Scripture with God's holy power.
- *had been slain*-Passive voice; "It had been slain by someone else." "Slain" means "butcher, slay or kill." The scars from the deadly wound this Lamb received were clearly visible; yet He was alive.

Isaiah 53:7: He was oppressed and he was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a **lamb** to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.

John 1:29: The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The **Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world!

I Peter 1:18-19: knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, **as of a lamb** without blemish and without spot.

B. **A standing lamb (6).**

- *stood a Lamb*-perfect tense; "A lamb that continued to stand." Who is the Lamb? He mentioned specifically 26 times in the book of Revelation. The allusion is clear. The Lamb of God, Jesus, has been slain but is now resurrected.

C. **A strong lamb (6).**

- *having seven horns*-Seven is a number of completion or perfection. Horns throughout the Bible, and especially in Revelation, indicate power. He has perfect power, He is omnipotent.

D. **A searching lamb (6).**

- *and seven eyes*-Again seven is perfection. The eyes of the Lamb are perfect and have the ability to search throughout the universe. Eyes are symbolic of Christ's omniscience, wisdom and insight. The seven eyes represent the fullness of Christ's divine wisdom and discernment.
- *seven Spirits of God*-This is a reference to the fullness and completeness of God's Holy Spirit. The Lamb is all-knowing as well as

all-powerful. This is one Lamb who can't have the wool pulled over His eyes!

E. A sovereign lamb (7).

- *he came and took the scroll*-Christ shows Himself as powerful and worthy when He removes the scroll from God's own hand.

III. Jesus is worthy of worship because He is the Lord of lords (8-14).

A. His Lordship celebrated in heaven (8-12).

- *fell down before the Lamb*-prostrate in worship and homage to the Lamb.
- *having a harp*-A harp was a common instrument for worship. King David played the harp for King Saul.
- *golden bowls full of incense*- In the Old Testament the offering of incense was a priestly duty so these angels were functioning in a priestly capacity. These wide-mouthed bowls were used in the tabernacle and the temple where they were connected with the altar. They symbolized the priestly work of intercession for the people.
- *prayers of the saints*- These prayers are the pleadings of saints already in heaven, requesting God to make right every wrong on the earth. These prayers are petitions offered to God to vindicate His name on the earth by pouring out His judgments upon an unbelieving world.
- *sang a new song*-As opposed to an old song. This means new in kind or quality, for a new day of salvation has dawned through the Lamb. Literally, the Greek text says, "and they sing a new song," present tense of the verb, which means "to sing," but in the NT it is used of praise to God. "Song" is used in the NT to refer to a sacred song or a song of praise. The use of the present tense is interesting, "they continued to sing."
- *You are worthy*-The worshippers identify four reasons in verses 9-10 why the Lamb is worthy:
- *you were slain and have redeemed us to God*-Christ is never described as "slain" anywhere else in the bible but in Revelation. "Redeemed" is a purchasing term.
- *out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation*- At the cross, the Lord Jesus Christ paid the purchase price to redeem men from every tribe (descent) and tongue (language) and people (race) and nation (culture) from the slave market of sin.
- *made us kings*-points to a further present effect of the cross, the establishment of a kingdom.
- *priest to our God*- Priesthood involves immediate access into God's presence for praise and worship as well as the privilege of priestly service. This stresses our present representative character.
- *shall reign on the earth*-The fourth is the blessing of His people by allowing them to rule on the earth (during the millennium). The present

priesthood of believers foreshadows that future day when we will have total access to and perfect communion with God.

- *Ten thousand times*-It is a “myriad” of angels.
- *to receive power*-“Dunamis” in Greek, like the power of the HS. Power is mentioned first perhaps because the immediate situation calls for the need of great power to accomplish His purposes in the earth.
- *riches*-refers to the wealth of the universe. All this is His by creation and now by redemption and reclamation.
- *wisdom*-refers to the Lord’s omniscience and its wise use in carrying out the purposes of God in the world.
- *strength*- refers to working might or power in action and stresses His omnipotence to carry out God’s will.
- *honor*-refers to the esteem, the value and respect which is due to Christ because of who He is and what He has and will accomplish to the glory of God, and the benefit of the world.
- *glory*-refers to the tribute and public display of adoration that should accrue to Christ.
- *blessing*-refers to the praise that should be given to the Lord because of His wonderful acts of redemption and reclamation.

B. He is Lordship celebrated on earth (13-14).

- *and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea*- There’s no one left, but those on the earth to worship the Lord.
- *Amen*-It is written to show that the four living creatures cry “Amen” after each of the seven attributes of v. 12 and the four of v. 13. As the cherubim say “Amen,” the elders fall down in worship. In response to what every creature on earth said, the living creatures provided a hearty “Amen.”
- *fell down and worshipped*- The elders are then seen worshipping by prostrating themselves before God’s throne.

Philippians 2:9-11: Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.