

Worthy is the Lamb

Revelation 5:1-14

Revelation 5 reveals to us the Lamb that stands as though it had been slain, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, who has overcome and is worthy to open the scroll and to lose its seals. Jesus Christ is here shown as receiving the power from the Father to do what no one in all creation was worthy and able to do - to bring and complete the glorious kingdom of God in all creation.

The scroll in the hand of God contains His sovereign will for the ultimate destiny of man and this world. It represents the "title deed" to all that God the Father promised Jesus Christ because of His sacrifice on the cross (Psalm 2:8; Heb. 1:2). This scroll also contains God's judgment at the end of the world (Daniel 8:26 and 12:4).

1. _____?

In verse 2 the strong angel asks; "*Who is worthy and who is able to receive and open the scroll?*" The great silence says that no one is able and no one is worthy of this task. No one can produce the person that could establish and usher in the everlasting kingdom of God. John was utterly frustrated, disappointed and filled with sorrow (v. 4) because if no one opens the scroll then this sin-cursed world will never change, Paradise will never be restored, sin will never be removed, Satan will continue to rule this world and man will never have any hope at all. But in verse 5, John is comforted by one of the elders as he jubilantly announced that there is Someone who is worthy and able to take the scroll and open its seals.

2. _____?

Jesus Christ is worthy because of Who He is.

a. Jesus is the _____ of the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:8-10; Matt. 2:6; Micah 5:2; 2 Sam. 7:12ff; Psalm 78:68-69; 89:28,35-36). Christ is pictured as a Lion because of His role as judge and ruler.

b. Jesus is the Root of _____ (Isaiah 11:1,10). Christ announced and took this title for Himself (Rev. 22:16). Jesus Christ is of the seed of David says Matt.1:1,20; 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30-31; 21:9,15; 22:42).

Jesus Christ has prevailed (to overcome or conquer) to open the scroll and to loose its seals. Christ has overcome the power of death and Satan and the bondage of sin through His death on the cross (John 12:31; Heb. 2:14; 1 John 3:8; Col. 1:13; 2:13-15).

c. Jesus is the _____ of God. A lamb as though it had been slain. If the Lion is the symbol of the exalted Christ, the lamb is the symbol of the humiliation of Christ (Phil. 2:5-8; John 1:29, 1 Peter 1:9; Isaiah 53:7).

The lamb is further described as having seven horns, which represents fullness of power (Deut. 33:17; 1 Sam 2:10; Psalm 18:2; 75:10; 112:9) and seven eyes which symbolizes full and perfect knowledge, God's omniscience (2 Chro.16:9; Zech. 3:9; 4:10; Col 2:3). Jesus Christ is the only qualified and worthy Mediator between God and man. His taking of the scroll from the Father symbolizes His coronation (Heb. 2:8-9; Phil 2:6-11).

3. _____?

As soon as Jesus took the scroll and accepted the office of King of the universe, there was a great burst of triumph and exuberant joy in three doxologies:

- a. The worship of the four living _____ and twenty-four _____
Worship in heaven breaks forth, starting with the four living creatures (Cherubim) and the twenty-four elders. They fell down before the Lamb in recognition of His authority (Gen. 50:18; 1 Kings 1:53; Esther 8:3; Matt. 18:26,29; Mark 3:11 and Luke 5:8) and as their act of worship and reverence (Dan 3:7; Matt 2:11; Acts 10:25; Rev. 19:4; 22:8).
There was singing in a new song (Psalm 33:3; 40:3; 98:1; 96:1; 144:9; 149:1) which spoke of the new mercies of God.

- b. The worship of the myriad of _____
The entire choir of angels also worship God with a loud voice echoing the song of Redemption saying the Lamb is worthy to receive seven things: power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory and blessing (Col. 1:16-17; 2:3-4,9; Rev. 7:20).

- c. The worship of the whole _____
The entire universe in all its parts and with all its creatures joins the chorus of praise (Rom. 8:19-22; Psalm 148). And the four cherubim in verse 14 were constantly saying "Amen" which is the seal of God's approval.

The highest occupation of every living creature in the universe is to worship the true God. The Book of Psalm ends by saying; "*Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!*" (Psalm 150:6). We worship God because He has created us. We worship Him because He has redeemed us but most important of all, we worship Him because HE IS WORTHY!