

The Gospel, Universal Praise, & Local Mission

Revelation 5

Do you know what your purpose is? Living life apart from your God-ordained purpose is frankly lifeless and purposeless. If you are unaware of your purpose, your life will be aimless and directionless. In Revelation 5, the Apostle John has a vision where he sees the universal worthiness of the Lamb of God. He recognizes that the purpose of the universe is to worship the Lamb who created and saved His people. In this vision, we also see our responsibility in building God's Kingdom on the earth for the sake of His glory. We will see two divine truths about the Lamb who gives us purpose.

1. The _____ of the Lamb

In the beginning of his vision, John sees Almighty God holding a scroll in His right hand. John says that the scroll is "written within and on the back", but what message does it contain? Answer: God's sovereign will for all creation (Rev. 4:11). The scroll is being held in God's right hand (v. 1; cf. Isa. 41:10; Ps. 48:10) and it's sealed with seven seals (v. 1 cf. v. 6, 4:5). The Apostle John sees a mighty angel issuing an invitation to every creature in the universe to attempt to retrieve the scroll from the hand of God (v. 2). Immediately after this challenge is issued this is what we see – failed attempted after failed attempt. This situation gets so bad that the Apostle John begins to weep loudly (v. 3). John is weeping because he sees the universe's hopelessness apart from the Lamb of God. John eventually sees the Lord Jesus Christ who is worthy to take the scroll from the hand of the Father.

2. The _____ of the Lamb

After the Lamb takes the scroll from the hand of the Father all the witnesses begin to worship Him. The rest of this text is filled with the universe worshipping the one who sits on the throne and the Lamb: the four living creatures, the twenty-four elders, the myriads of angels, every creature in heaven, on earth, and under the earth, the sea, and all that is in them. Jesus is worthy of the highest, most glorious, universal praise. The Lamb is worthy of universal praise because He is the Lamb that was slain for us. We praise Jesus for the Gospel. We praise Jesus because He is the Gospel. Why is Jesus worthy of universal praise? He is the only hope that the universe has. In Christ, the Church is victorious and can fulfill her mission of making disciples from a local context to the ends of the earth.

There is no one like our Lord Jesus Christ. He alone is completely sovereign, but at the same time He is compassionate towards His people. Jesus deserves universal adoration and worship for His greatness and great love towards us. God's glory is our fuel in carrying out our mission as His Church. The vision of bringing God maximum praise is what motivates us to reach the world around us with the Gospel while the Gospel informs our mission and the spread of it is our mission.