



The Worthy King

Revelation 5:8-14

ANNOUNCE

Good Friday - carpool 2nd service come after 7

sunrise service - 6:30 am

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Rev 5:8-14 NKJV] 8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. **9** And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, **10** And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." **11** Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, **12** saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!" **13** And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power [Be] to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and

ever!" 14 Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

INTRO

The Dilemma

Last week we took a look at the first half of chapter 5. The scene in heaven begins to shift as John observes a dilemma surrounding the title deed and ultimate redemption of the physical universe. The scroll that contains all the terms of ownership must be read and the scrolls must be broken to put into motion the righteous judgments of God upon the unbelieving world so that all things would come under the ultimate authority of Jesus.

- Right now, Jesus has all authority, but not everyone bows to his authority. But in order for sin to cease and for evil to be ultimately and forever overcome, the world must be dealt with and Jesus must put all things in subjection under His feet. This is what the opening of the scroll and the breaking of the seals accomplishes.

[Heb 2:8 NKJV] 8 You have put all things in subjection under his feet." For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him.

[1Co 15:24-26 NKJV] 24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

John's heart begins to break when the search for one who is worthy to fulfill the terms and open the scroll yields no viable candidates. He begins to violently weep at the thought of all creation staying under the influence of sin and Satan.

Can't we relate?

- What did we observe last week at Covenant School in Nashville where three children and three adult staff lost their lives in an evil event?
- We saw why a justice system of law and order is so important. Some very heroic police officers undoubtedly saved many more lives. It gives us an idea of why God's justice is so important for the future of the world.
- But we also saw the great need for truth and righteousness to flood the earth. This is not about guns. If not guns, knives. If not knives fists.

- We saw a person who completely was ripped off by Satan and His demonic minions go and spread death to others. And we should weep, not only for the innocent lives that were taken but that a young girl obeyed Satan's lies and opened her eyes in eternity only to realize that she believed the wrong voice and rejected the hope that could have saved her soul from eternal hell, separated from God forever.

THE DELIVERER:

- John's weeping is met with comfort when attention is drawn to the Lion, who is the lamb. Jesus, the Promised Messiah and Savior, prevailed in opening the scroll and losing its seals. You could sum up John's thoughts at that moment in one sentence:

"Everything's going to turn out alright because Jesus has PREVAILED!"

Where sin brings despair, Jesus brings delight. Where sin breaks hearts, Jesus brings hope. Where sin brings guilt, Jesus brings grace. Where sin rips off, Jesus restores. Where sin pierces, Jesus prevails!

3 The Doxology

DOXA

The word Doxology literally means - a hymn or form of words containing an ascription of praise to God. From the Greek word Doxa, which means glory.

EXAMPLE: Driving home from KC the other day and staring at the beautiful sunset sky of purple and blue and red. When glory catches your eye, it demands a response. The greater the glory, the greater the response.

- **The praise of the church**
- **The praise of the heaven**
- **The praise of creation**

And the theme of the songs? WORTHY!

CONNECTION TO PALM SUNDAY

2000 years ago, Jesus fulfilled prophecy, to the day, when he rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, declaring his rightful and worthy place as the king of Israel. (Hallel Psalm 118 - Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD)

[Zec 9:9 NKJV] 9 "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey."

Jesus rode in the worthy king. It was His promised day, and all of Israel missed it. There were a few who temporarily got excited at the thought of Jesus using his miracle-working power to overthrow the Romans, but as quickly as the shouts of "Hosanna" began, they faded into shouts of "Crucify Him." The only crown they gave their king was a crown of thorns.

if they dont, even the rocks...

In heaven, we see the same king, the crucified lamb who overcame death, and the lion of the tribe of Judah, approaching the throne to take the scroll. Heaven doesn't miss what's taking place! All heaven breaks forth in praise, but this time it won't fade; it will last for all eternity.

The King receives all authority, praise, and power in heaven because He first came on Palm Sunday. Israel's rejection of their King then led to the events we read in Revelation 5.

- **When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, He was worthy to take the throne, but instead, he chose the cross. The cross wasn't second place. It wasn't a consolation prize. Jesus had to take the cross before he took the crown. WHY? Because he was the only one found worthy! No one else could have died for your sins, reconciled you to God, secured the promise of eternal life, or redeemed you for God's purposes. ONLY HE could have done it, and so He willingly delayed the glory and embraced the gory.**

HE IS WORTHY!

- Creation - worthy!
- Temple - worthy!
- Hosanna in the highest - worthy!
- Donkey - worthy!
- Palm branches and praise - worthy!

- Bearing the cross - worthy!
 - Walking out of the grave and ascending to heaven to live forever - worthy!
 - Taking the scroll and losing its seals - worthy!
 - Returning in glory and reigning as King over all - worthy!
 - Judging the nations and establishing everlasting righteousness - worthy!
 - Creating a new heavens and earth where righteousness dwells forever - worthy!
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BIBLE PASSAGE

8-10 - Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.”

A. THE SONG OF THE REDEEMED

First, let's look at the song of the redeemed. In verses 8-10, the 24 elders and the four living creatures once again come together to praise Jesus. You might remember their song in chapter 1. Here they are given instruments and they start playing and singing.

- This is surely where the idea that we all have harps in heaven came from. I'm thinking maybe we all get electric guitars! One day you will have musical talent. It really intrigues me when I see the role of music in the Bible. It's everywhere, and it's significant. We all might have different musical tastes, but you can't deny the significance of putting thoughts of our hearts into music. It is an extremely effective means of communicating our worship and praise to God.
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A SONG OF THE WORTHINESS OF JESUS

The bowls of the prayers – I don't believe this represents that our prayers as Christians have to go through the angels or this group in heaven in order to get to God. The Bible tells us that there is one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus.

- The bowls of the prayers most likely tell us that the song that is about to be sung is a song that is from the believer to Jesus.
- Notice the themes of the elder's songs. These themes will help direct us even now in our worship:
 - **Chapter 4:10-11 - When He creates**
 - **Chapter 5:14 – When He redeems**
 - **Chapter 11:17 – When He reigns**
 - **Chapter 19:4 – When He judges.**

We worship for the same reasons today! We worship God because of all the things he created. We praise Him for being the Lord of all creation. We also praise Him for His redemption (songs like nothing but the blood and Jesus paid it all). We worship God because He is the king who reigns on high. And yes, we even worship God for His righteous judgment.

After the elders start their song, the angels join in, and then all of creation joins in the praise.

- There is much debate here as to whether or not the elders are singing this song about themselves or about others. Some translations say “us” and other translations say “men” and “them”.
- I really don't think that is as important as what the song declares. That's really the important thing here. The message of the first song in heaven is that Jesus is worthy to rule and reign.

Jesus is worthy of praise for what He did in the past, what he's doing in the present, and what will happen in the future.

If you hold to the King James translation, there is really no one else this could be than the church, the redeemed of God. Who but the church can sing this song? Not Israel or the angels. Only the blood-bought church can sing this song.

APPLICATION

THE SONG OF THE LAMB'S REDEMPTIVE WORK.

“You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.”

1. **The price of redemption - *You were slain*.** We are about to celebrate Good Friday together. It's important to remember that what comes freely to us through God's grace requires a great price, the sacrificial death of the spotless, perfect lamb of God. NOTE: Jesus being slain wasn't a sign of weakness or defeat. It was the very thing that made him worthy. No one took his life, He laid it down willingly.
2. **The product of redemption - *Redeemed us*.** Jesus wasn't slain simply because people hated him. Jesus isn't our martyr, he's our Savior! The redemption means to purchase back. We are all sold under sin, slaves to the devil and our flesh, condemned by the perfect law of God. Jesus, through His sacrifice, purchased us and restored us back to fellowship with God.
3. **The placement of redemption - *To God*.** We weren't simply redeemed to live a better life. Jesus didn't redeem us so that we could have a happier existence here on earth. Jesus redeemed us so that we could be restored to our creator. Jesus isn't a self-help tool. He's not something you add to your life to have a more holistic life. No, Jesus takes someone who is dead in their sin, without hope and without God in the world, and reconnects them to a place of favor and relationship with God.
4. **The payment of redemption - *By your blood*.** The Bible teaches us that without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sin. Your life is in your blood. Jesus didn't merely endure pain, or make a difficult sacrifice. He didn't give things that could one day lose their value for our redemption. **[1Pe 1:18-19 NKJV] 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.**
5. **The people of redemption - *Every tribe, tongue, people, and nation*.** At the tower of Babel, wicked humanity was scattered and divided. On the day of Pentecost, the gospel went out in every language, and in one day, the people of all nations were reunited under the gospel and empowered by the Spirit. One day we will all be united in heaven to declare with one voice the glory of Jesus. EXAMPLE: Going all over the world, about to go to Kenya. I LOVE it because it's so different. It stretches and enhances our worship.
6. **The Position of Redemption - *have made us kings and priests to our God*;**
7. **The promise of redemption - *and we shall reign on the earth*.** The promise is for HERE and NOW and THERE and LATER. Our current status is that we represent the kingdom and kingship of Christ here on this earth, and as priests, we have been entrusted with the ministry of reconciliation as we take the message of His sacrifice and salvation to the world. But one day, that role will be very physical as we are entrusted with kingdoms and positions of leadership in the future kingdom.

THE SONG OF ALL HEAVENLY BEINGS

When the church declares the redemptive work of Christ, all of heaven breaks forth in unrestrained worship.

[Rev 5:11-12 NKJV] 11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

Apparently, there are innumerable angels, saints, and other heavenly beings in heaven. The phrase here, "ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands," means that it was a number beyond John's ability to count. If this truly does represent the angels, the church, and the creatures of heaven, the number would be in the billions.

EXAMPLE: Three Largest gatherings ever recorded in history are all either Hindu or Muslim religious pilgrimages; the highest recorded was **Kumbh Mela at 120 million people.**

- I'm excited that we are going to have a couple of thousand people here on Good Friday. But wait until you hear billions with glorious voices and melodies that the human imagination has yet to fathom or comprehend, all blaring forth unending praise and worship; at the center of it all, Jesus, the worthy king!

I enjoy a good sports game every once in a while. If you've ever been, you know that 20-50,000 people can get pretty loud, almost thunderous. I once heard someone at a funeral describe heaven as going to a chiefs game with 20,000 other fans. Trust me, Mahomes might be worthy of a trophy, but only Jesus is worthy of the endless, perfect praise of all creation! Here John witnesses countless numbers, all saying in unison, "Worthy is the Lamb!"

What a concert, what an experience. I can't wait to hear it. It sets Goosebumps on your arm just thinking about it. And you and I get to be part of the worship service.

12 saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

The Other side of the cross - Jesus showed us that suffering is only the path to glory.

Here is the Lamb, slain... but he is receiving power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, power, and a blessing! For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross, despising the shame and has not been set at the right hand of the Father.

- We can often see suffering as the thing that will end us, but what we need to understand is what's beyond the cross.
- **[Rom 8:18 NKJV] 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.**
- Paul tells us in Philippians that Jesus humbled himself, took the form of a slave, was obedient to the death on a cross... but the story doesn't end there. He finishes that passage by telling us that He has now been exalted and carries the name above every name, that at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord!

Church, you can embrace suffering here and now because as you move through that suffering with Christ, identifying with His suffering, keep in mind what it's building in eternity! No, we won't be the one's receiving the praise of all creation, but the Bible says that each one of us will receive our praise from God, and we will reign with Him in perfection.

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Rev 5:13-14 NKJV] 13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power [Be] to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

ALL CREATION

Every creature means just that. Little fido, the goldfish, every creature. Quite a day to be at the zoo, that's for sure.

Blessing and honor and glory and power – there is not one thing that Jesus does not deserve. These four things encompass all that we could give to Jesus.

He deserves all blessing - To declare praise, to speak highly of. God doesn't deserve us blaming Him, accusing Him, or inditing Him. He is worthy of all blessing. Bless the Lord, O

my soul, and all that is within me; bless His holy name.

He deserves all honor - a monetary term that speaks of value. Jesus deserves the place of highest worth or value. **There's nothing in this life that you could give up for Jesus that He is not worthy or deserving of.**

He deserves all glory - to shine radiantly with splendor and majesty. Jesus doesn't have to compete with anyone or anything. He's not in competition with Taylor Swift or a president or a king. When you and I see His glory on the other side of this life, we are going to shyly be embarrassed about the things we were so enamored with here and now.

He deserves all power - The throne of the universe rightly belongs to Christ Jesus. Of all the world leaders today, would you say that any of them "deserve" it? No, authority is bigger than what any human deserves. It's a grace from God that He raises up kings. And Nebuchadnezzar learned the hard way that God will humble those who think they deserve more than they do, or don't recognize that God is the one who gives the stewardship of power. But not so with Jesus. When Jesus is in charge, it's because He deserves it.

APPLICATION

Is it clear by now that heaven's centerpiece is the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who will be so glorious that nothing will be able to hold their praise within themselves? Our vision of God now is so clouded by this life, so weakened by our flesh, weaknesses, and limitations, but then, it will be unrestrained, unrestricted, and forever bliss in His presence and glory!

I agree with Charles Spurgeon who wrote,

QUOTE

“*Depend upon it, my hearer, you never will go to heaven unless you are prepared to worship Jesus Christ as God. They are all doing it there: you will have to come to it, and if you entertain the notion that he is a mere man, or that he is anything less than God, I am afraid*

you will have to begin at the beginning and learn what true religion means. You have a poor foundation to rest upon. I could not trust my soul with a mere man, or believe in an atonement made by a mere man: I must see God himself putting his hand to so gigantic a work."

Spurgeon

BIBLE PASSAGE

14 Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

WHO LIVES FOREVER AND EVER

What a great intro to Resurrection Sunday next week! Jesus lives forever and ever! He conquered death once and for all, is alive forevermore, is coming back in glory, and He is WORTHY!

Palm Sunday 2000 years ago, the people to whom the prophecied coming of the King was written missed their day. It was a moment that caused Jesus to weep. [Mat 23:37 NIV]
37 "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing."

Jesus is coming again. His return and reign are prophesied. When the seals in heaven are broken, they will culminate in His glorious return. That is a day you don't want to miss.