

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 31ST–SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2024 // REVELATION

WHO IS WORTHY? (REVELATION 5:1–4)

A SCROLL

The heavenly scene continues as the One seated on the throne (God) is seen with a scroll in His right hand (power and authority). The scroll has writing on both sides (comprehensive) and is sealed with seven seals (God's perfect plan for the "what will/must take place after this" in 1:19 and 4:1).

- The scroll alludes to Ezekiel 2:8–10/Daniel 8:26.

UNWORTHY

Since it's sealed, the scroll must be opened to be read. A mighty angel asks the question that must be answered, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" The answer is no one anywhere is worthy.

- When mankind rebelled against God, all creation was marred. **Our only hope is a sinless Savior.**

WITHOUT HOPE

Only one with the power and authority of God could break the seals and look in the scroll. So why couldn't the One on the throne do it? Because we also need a righteous representative, one who can stand in our place.

- **When hope is lost, we only see despair.** John despairs as it seems God's plan cannot be enacted for His glory and our good.

HE IS WORTHY! (REVELATION 5:5–7)

HOPE!

One of the elders offers John hope that there is One who can open the scroll and break the seals. It's the perfect God-man as only God has the power and authority over history, and only a man can represent humanity.

- Human history is really the story of the triune God Who demonstrates His love for us through the death & resurrection of Jesus.

JESUS' HUMANITY

Like Matthew, who shows that Jesus is the Son of Abraham and the Son of David, the elder points to Abraham and David as ancestors of Jesus. He calls Jesus the Lion from the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:9). The elder also calls Jesus the Root of David (Isaiah 11:1–10). Jesus is the fulfillment of both the Abrahamic and Davidic covenants.

HE HAS CONQUERED

As the Lion of Judah and the Root of David, Jesus has conquered all His enemies: Satan, death, sin, hell. He is worthy to enact the plan of God for the consummation of history before the Great Judgment and the new heavens and new earth.

- **We are told not to worry about anything grounded in the sovereignty of Jesus.**

AN UNEXPECTED SIGHT

Hearing of the strength and majesty of the One Who has conquered, John is surprised to see a slaughtered Lamb "standing in the midst of the throne." This is how Jesus conquered—by His death and resurrection.

- That Jesus appears as a slaughtered Lamb reminds us of the Passover lamb in the Exodus and of the lamb in Isaiah 53:7.

NOT LIKE ANY OTHER LAMB

The Lamb is worshiped by the angelic beings. He has seven horns (complete and total power). He has seven eyes (He sees and knows everything) which is the Holy Spirit Who goes on Jesus' behalf into the world.

- **Jesus is God the Son, worthy of worship and reverence, and to take the scroll and oversee history's end.**

FOR ALL PEOPLE (REVELATION 5:8–10)

HE IS LORD

Jesus is God the Son, worthy of worship which is seen in the response of the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures.

- **Only humans created in His image doubt Jesus' deity. All heaven knows He's God. All hell knows he's God (James 2:19). All nature knows He's God (Luke 8:24–25). Do we?**

NOT IN VAIN

Not one of the prayers of the saints goes unheard. The twenty-four elders, as acts of worship, bring those prayers into the very throne room of God.

- John sees what Jesus told the disciples in Matthew 7:7–11. **Our Father hears our prayers and loves to answer our prayers! We never pray in vain!**

A REDEMPTION SONG

We heard a creation song in chapter 4. Now, we hear a new song, a redemption song. Jesus' unexpected means of redeeming a people (paying a ransom) who will bear His Name is through His humble sacrifice.

- **Remembering that Jesus' victory came through suffering and death gives us hope when we suffer and die for our faith.**

NO LONGER A "ONE-NATION" PEOPLE

The good news of the gospel is that Jesus died so that anyone who will repent of their sins and trust in His life, death, and resurrection can receive eternal life! Where Israel failed to be God's Kingdom of priests (Exodus 19:6), **the ones redeemed by Jesus will reign as a Kingdom of priests for all eternity.**

ALL FOR HIM (REVELATION 5:11–14)

A HEAVENLY CHORUS

John hears the voices of an innumerable choir of angels who join with the living creatures and the elders to sing another song praising all Jesus has accomplished and the worship He alone deserves.

- **The practice of heaven is worship. The practice of creation is worship. Is worship our practice?**

HE IS WORTHY TO RECEIVE...

- Power (He wields it wisely)
- Riches (He shares it broadly)
- Wisdom (He gives it freely)
- Strength (He demonstrates it globally)
- Honor (He receives it singly)
- Glory (He jealously guards it)
- Blessing (He deserves it uniquely)
- **It's all about Him and for Him!**

ALL CREATION WORSHIPS

- There is no place in the universe where Jesus will not be worshiped. He is the eternal God-man, Who along with the Father, will be worshiped for eternity. Creation agrees with the angels: **He is worthy to be worshiped forever!** The "amen" of the four living creatures confirms the appropriateness of the worship that's happening.

THE BIBLE IS ONE, UNIFIED STORY

- Much of Chapter 5 is a reference to, and is influenced by, Daniel 7.
- Starting with creation in Genesis 1–2 and ending with the new creation in Revelation 21–22, the Bible tells one story of God's good **creation**, man's **rebellion** and **fall**, God's plan of **redemption** through Jesus, and the **consummation** of all things in Jesus.

WHERE DOES OUR HOPE COME FROM?

- Most things in our lives we can't control, but we can control how we respond. Do we respond with despair or with worship?
- When we sin, and we will, do we run to or from Jesus?
- **Do we believe that Jesus "is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us?"**

DO WE MINIMIZE THE FINISHED WORK OF JESUS?

- Do we live like He is really in control?
- **Do we share the gospel like it really can save anyone who will repent and believe?**
- Do we really pray like Jesus hears our prayers and responds?
- Do we believe that one day we will reign with Jesus over a new earth and heavens?

HUMBLE SUBMISSION

- Jesus models for us the path to eternal life, a path of suffering leading to glory.
- Jesus told His disciples that if we want to follow Him, we must deny ourselves and take up a cross (Matthew 16:24).
- **Do we live for the comforts of this world or as a Kingdom of priests pointing people to their only hope, Jesus?**