**Worthy is the Lamb that was Slain**

*Revelation 5:1-14*

Context

Throughout human history, there has been many who have desired to rule the world. However, there is only One worthy power and ruler who has the authority to assume that role—Jesus Christ. He is Lord of lords and King of kings. He will one day take back what is rightfully His from the evil one, from the many rebels both in the demonic and human realm. Revelation 5 begins that process of His return to redeem His creation.

**Revelation 5:1**—*I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals.*

* **Book** (*biblion*)—referencing a scroll (cf. 6:4) that is a title deed to the earth referencing how Christ will regain His rightful inheritance (i.e. Jeremiah 32).
* **7 seals**—a section of the scroll was recorded then rolled up, sealed, rolled, sealed, rolled, sealed, etc. The greater the number of seals, generally, the greater the content and importance of the document.

**Ezekiel 2:9-10**—*Then I looked, and behold, a hand was extended to me; and lo, a scroll was in it.****10****When He spread it out before me, it was written on the front and back, and written on it were lamentations, mourning and woe.*

3 actions related to The Worthy One

1. **Looking for One who is worthy

Revelation 5:2-4***—And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?”****3****And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it.****4****Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it*.

**Strong Angel**—The angel is not identified (perhaps Michael or Gabriel?), but clearly powerful and one with a very loud voice asking a penetrating question.

**Revelation 10:1—***I saw another strong angel coming down out of heaven, clothed with a cloud; and the rainbow was upon his head, and his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire*

**Revelation 18:21—**Then a strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “So will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer.

***Who is worth…****—It would require Someone with the virtues, strength of will, character, and possessing the divine authority.*

***…in heaven or on the earth or under the earth—****In an all-inclusive search, no one was able to open or look into it.*

***[John] wept***—the type of weeping seen here is an uncontrolled emotion of deep anguish.

***Luke 19:41—****When He [Jesus] approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it.*

***Luke 22:62—****And he [Peter] went out and wept bitterly.*

**II. Identifying the One who is worthy**

**Revelation 5:5-7**—*and one of the elders \*said to me, “Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.”* ***6****And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth.****7****And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.*

***The Lion that is from the tribe of Judah****—the title from one of Jacob’s sons that refers to the Messiah.*

***Genesis 49:8-10—****Judah, your brothers shall praise you;
Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies;
Your father’s sons shall bow down to you.****9****“Judah is a lion’s whelp;
From the prey, my son, you have gone up.
He couches, he lies down as a lion,
And as a lion, who dares rouse him up?****10****“The scepter shall not depart from Judah,
Nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet,
Until Shiloh comes,
And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.*

***Hebrews 7:14****—For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, a tribe with reference to which Moses spoke nothing concerning priests*

***The Root of David****—a messianic title that the Messiah would come from the line of David. Jesus was a descendant of David from both his father [humanly speaking] and mother’s side.*

***Isaiah 11:1-2, 10****—*Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse,
And a branch from his roots will bear fruit.
**2**The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him,
The spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The spirit of counsel and strength,
The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord….

***10***Then in that day The nations will resort to the root of Jesse, Who will stand as a signal for the peoples; And His resting place will be glorious.

***Revelation 22:16****—“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”*

***Jeremiah 23:5-6****—“Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord,
“When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch;
And He will reign as king and act wisely
And do justice and righteousness in the land.****6****“In His days Judah will be saved,
And Israel will dwell securely;
And this is His name by which He will be called,
‘The Lord our righteousness.’”*

***Jeremiah 33:15-17****—In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth.****16****In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell in safety; and this is the name by which she will be called: the Lord is our righteousness.’****17****For thus says the Lord, ‘David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel;*

***Has overcome***—Jesus has overcome sin and death at the cross. He overcame all the forces of hell. As believers in His sacrifice, we are overcomers through Him.

***Romans 8*:3**—*For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh*

***Hebrews 2*:14-15**—*Therefore, since the children share in [*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+2%3A14-15&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-29992a)*]flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,****15****and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.*

***Colossians 2*:15**—*When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.*

***1 Peter 3*:19**—*in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison*

***1 John 5*:5**—*Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

***a Lamb standing, as if slain***—a little or pet lamb. The imagery is reminiscent of the Passover Lamb that was kept by the family for 4 days before surrendering it as a sacrifice (Exodus 12:3-6).

The Lord Jesus could not be the Lion of judgment, or the King of glory, unless He was first “*the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”* (John 1:29).[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. **Singing to the One who is worthy**
**Revelation 5:8-14**—When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. **9**And they \*sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. **10**“You have made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.” **11**Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, **12**saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.” **3**And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, “To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, *be* blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.” **14**And the four living creatures kept saying, “Amen.” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

**And they \*sang a new song**—After Jesus takes the scroll, a chorus of worship crescendos with every created thing ascribing blessing and honor and glory and dominion to the One who is worthy.

**John 17:5**—*Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*

**Ephesians 1:20-22**— which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, **21**far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. **22**And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

**Psalm 2:6-12**— “But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain.” **7**“I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. **8**‘Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the *very* ends of the earth as Your possession. **9**‘You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.’” **10**Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; Take warning, O judges of the earth. **11**Worship the Lord with reverence And rejoice with trembling. **12**Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish *in* the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

1. The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, Revelation 1-11 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)