



Empowering People to Change the World

## **Worthy is the Lamb Part I**

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## Worthy Is The Lamb

### Revelation 5:1-7

And I saw in the right *hand* of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?” 3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.

4 So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. 5 But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”

6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

- Last time, we saw the Lamb is the only one who can take the scroll, the Lamb is the only one worthy.
- We might have a question as to how it is that the Lion of Judah “has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seals”.
- The slain lamb has become the prevailing Lion! The Lamb of God can take the scroll for he went to Calvary and purchased our freedom through being the perfect sinless sacrifice, but it didn't end there!
- The Lamb became the Lion!! The Lamb was slain that Jesus might prevail in this life and the next.
- Remember the first 3 chapters are all about being an overcomer. Being an overcomer is not just through the Lamb that was slain, that's only the beginning. That's only the door into prevailing. Jesus is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. But He is also the Lion that prevails, overcomes, empowers
  - The Lion of Judah opens the scroll, the seals, the judgments of God in the last days.

- Most of the Church likes to think of Jesus as only the slain Lamb and forget that He is the prevailing Lion—the King of kings and Lord of lords.
- From chapter 6 onward, we will see Jesus functioning as the Lion of Judah opening the seals, judgment upon the earth.
- He judges the lawlessness, unrighteousness, the Antichrist, unbelievers, and Babylon.
- But it is as the Lamb, the *Arnion*, as the One who was slain, that he can act as the Lion of Judah.
- It is as the Redeemer that He has the right to function as the Judge of the earth, as the Lion of Judah.
- We must see both, synergistically functioning together.

#### **Vs. 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.**

- This is worship and prayer before the throne of God. This is what we do when we come together in worship and prayer during our 24 Hour War Rooms.
- This is what Marcus and Anna do each week in the Prayer Rooms at EHC.

#### **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.**

- This word “worthy” is used 4x in chapter 5.
- As we studied previously, only Jesus is “worthy” to open the scroll, and no one is worthy in heaven, on earth to open the scroll.

- We are not worthy in and of ourselves, even the Apostle John, who is “in the Spirit” is not found worthy to open the scroll.
- “Worthy” comes from the verb *axioo*, which means to “count or think worthy”.
- Until we understand how unworthy we really are to receive His forgiveness and grace, we will not truly grasp just what Jesus did at the cross for us.
- This was the struggle for Martin Luther, as an Augustinian Monk, who struggled deeply with his sense of unworthiness before the righteousness of a Holy God...
- Luther tried everything to earn God’s favor *visa vi*: religion, begging for forgiveness, fastings, prayers (all night), crawling on his hands and knees up huge towers...Luther was still plagued by his inability to conquer his sinful nature.
- The Bible says (Romans 3:23) - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- The Bible says (Romans 3:20) - Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.
- Then one day, Luther read Romans 1:17
- Romans 1:17 - ...the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."
- And a light went on in Luther’s heart and he came to understand that he was never going to be able to attain being worthy before God, as he later writes, “no one can keep the law of God from the bottom of their heart...the conclusion is that at the bottom of our heart we hate the law”
- But “by faith” he could come to know the righteousness of Christ

- He wrote: “Faith alone makes righteous and fulfills the law; for out of Christ’s merit, it brings the Spirit, and the Spirit makes the heart glad and free, as the law requires. Thus good works come out of faith...This pleasure and love for the law is put into man’s heart by the Holy Spirit” (Luther’s Works vol VI, p. 449-450 Preface to Romans)
- 2 Thessalonians 1:11 - Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power.
- Our worthiness is found only in Christ and His completed and finished works on the cross: righteous blood poured out for our sins.
- It is as we except His works into our lives, are we then fully accepted, forgiven...we receive His Merits, His Works, His Righteousness into our lives.
- Luther continues, “Faith is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God; it kills the old Adam and makes altogether different men, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings the Holy Spirit. O, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith...Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that a man will stake his life on it a thousand times...Hence a man is ready and glad, without compulsion, to do good to everyone, to serve anyone, to suffer anything in love and praise of God, who has shown him this grace...” (Ibid, p. 452)
- Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.
- Our worthiness is found in Christ and through His power we can worship Him and pray to Him.
- Vs. 8 “golden bowls of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.”
- We can boldly come into His throne room and ask of Him favor and mercy.
- Hebrews 4:16 - Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- And we can worship with joy and boldness.
- Vs. 9, “and they sang a new song.”
- We have been redeemed...We can praise Him and worship Him because we are able to enter His presence through the grace of Jesus Christ.
- We have grace and we receive grace as we come to Him in His grace to worship and pray to Him.

**And have made us kings and priests to our God;  
And we shall reign on the earth.”**

- We are a royal priesthood, a royal kingdom has been given to us. We are reigning in Christ upon the earth, beginning now!
- All of us have been given this commission to be kings—rulers and priests—intercessors.
- Every one of us has been given: Talent, Territory, and a Trust (Assignment) from God, but very few of us ever discover it
- Some of you are talented in administration, helps, teaching, healing, counseling, etc. You should tap into what you love to do and do it with all your heart—wholeheartedly.
- But with talent comes a territory—a place to do it.
- With territory comes a trust, an assignment given sovereignly by God.
- We are learning to prevail on the earth through the weapons of our warfare:
  1. Prevailing through putting on the armor of God.
  2. Prevailing through prayer and worship.
  3. Prevailing through faith and trust.
  4. Prevailing through love of others.
  5. Prevailing through the preaching of the Gospel.
- We will someday rule over a territory in the recreated heaven and earth.

- Some have asked will we be here for all of this?
- Two Comings of Christ in the Bible: There will be a coming for the saints and a coming with the saints.
- There will be a coming for the saints, John speaks of in in his gospel...
- Jesus says in John 14:1-3 - "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.
- The Jews did not understand this, for they were looking for the Messiah to come and set up His kingdom on earth, but he is speaking to the church.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 - For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.
- Note, "we will be caught up"...this is different than the coming of Christ with the saints, this is the church being raptured, taken to heaven.
- So, there is the Lord coming for the church, but there is also the Lord coming with the church at the end of the Tribulation.
- Colossians 3:4 - When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.
- Jude 14 - Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints.
- When Christ comes back, he will have an army of the Redeemed with him...Revelation 19:14

And the armies in heaven (the Redeemed), clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

- The saints are coming with Him, because we will be lifted off the face of the earth before the Great Tribulation gets unleashed because...
  1. Rom 5 says, “he has not appointed us to wrath.”
  2. 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 - For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.
  3. It is only in chapter 6 that the seals are opened, the Great Tribulation, but we will be saved from “the wrath to come.”
  4. Like Noah and his family and the flood; like Lot and his family in Sodom and Gomorrah, the Lord will watch over his Redeemed.
- Every tribe and nation will be redeemed.
- Not only is darkness getting darker, but the Light is getting brighter.
- Do you realize what God is doing today? There is a massive revival in China and India today.
- We will be in heaven with our precious loved ones, and we will celebrate next to Japanese, Indonesians, Argentines.
- There will be honor: Republicans will hug Democrats, old rifts will be forgotten, no discrimination, no prejudice, black and white as brothers.
- We will rule together! We will reign together! All different races and tribes
- This is all about the Lamb who will reconcile the world to Himself.

**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,**

- Now a different class of worshippers: angels...seraphim...cherubim.
- Millions around the throne.



- This is the Greek phrase for the highest numerical count.
- John is looking around and he sees this sea of angels all around him, multiplied thousand upon thousands.

**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!”**

- They don’t sing “thou has redeemed us” because they haven’t been redeemed.
- “Worthy” *Axios* means “to weigh as much as” used in the Roman marketplace for weighing...when it was balanced, it was *axios*.
- No man can live up to the *Axios* of God: not Luther, not Paul, not Calvin, no one is balance before God.
- Only the Lamb is worthy!!

**Vs. 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.**

- Now, the scene involves every creature! So, your dogs and horses will be up there!
- I don’t know about cats...
- All of the creation now joins in and worships.

- Romans 8:19-23 - For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.
- We are seeing the Redeemed worshipping, the angels worshipping, and now all of the creation worshipping.
- What can you say but “Amen.”
- Jesus said, “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.” (John 17:24)
- This is the only place where Jesus says “I desire”...that is just how much Jesus loves you, and He wants you to be with Him in heaven.
- If you don't know Him, you will be cast into the outer darkness, separated from Him and cast into hell.
- You can know Him and be ready for His coming.
  - It is not based on your performance of being good or religious or living right or serving Him.
  - You are just not ever going to make yourself worthy enough.
  - It is based on His performance on your behalf.
  - Accept His finished work on the cross for you .
  - Open your heart to Him.
  - Jesus says, Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.