

COMMUNION MEDITATION

"A New Song"

Rev. 5:8-10

Introduction

1. In days when men's hearts fail them for fear, it is refreshing to read in the Word about a new song. It is sung by 24 elders. Angels speak but do not sing (cf. v. 12). The elders are representative of the entire body of believers in heaven (cf. 1 Chron. 24:25 with Luke 1:5, 8, 9). (What a heavenly chorus!)

2. The song of the elders is sung in praise to the Lamb of God, even our Lord Jesus (vv. 5-8) who alone is worthy to open the "book" (v. 5). The book mentioned is in fact a book containing the program of God for the world unto the establishment of the kingdom on earth (cf. chaps. 6 and following).

3. A "new" song is one which is altogether new in both time and quality, according to the Greek adjective employed. The resounding note of the song is that the Lamb is "worthy!" This does not reflect on His moral worth, nor His unique humanity, nor His personal pretentiousness like a Caesar, but to His infinite sacrifice and work for believers. Hence, a song is sung unto Him. Study the reasons given for His worthiness:-

1. HE WAS SLAIN.

This verb is used several times in the Book of Revelation to describe the death of our Lord (vv. 6, 9, 12; 13:8), but nowhere else in the N.T. It is a peculiar testimony to the treatment given the Lamb of God and to explain His worthiness.

Interestingly, the construction of the verb is aorist passive. It suggests, therefore, the fact that the "slaying" took place at one moment of history. That points to Calvary! But since the verb is passive, the truth of His voluntary suffering is taught (cf. John 10:18; Isa. 53:7; Acts 2:23; 4:28).

2. HE HAS REDEEMED.

a. Its statement. Clearly the text states that Christ redeemed. The verb here is the simple term

for "purchase" and being aorist again points to Calvary. But the context shows that its effects are related to a special group of persons. Their total state has been changed! They are bought!

b. Its placement. By using the dative of advantage John shows that the redemption is for a single goal and that is the Lord Himself. They are destined for the Lord Who is the Lamb! Hallelujah!

c. Its instrument. The instrumental case employed with the preposition "in" shows that the value of the purchase is in the price! It is with blood that redemption is wrought!

d. Its procurement. Representatives out of every nationality, without distinction of race, geography, or political distinction. Hence, the words: tribes, tongues, peoples, and nations.

This is world-wide distribution of the human family, but certainly is not universalism nor does it refer in the slightest to demons (cf. Phil. 2:10, 11; Col. 1:20; Acts 3:21).

### 3. HE HAS MADE

The aorist tense of the verb "made" shows the absolute surety of the entire process outlined and why such a peon of praise is offered. The pronouns should be third persons plural (them and they) indicating the testimony of heavenly redeemed over earthly.

a. They are a kingdom. This speaks of an organized arrangement and is better than the term "kings" of the AV for the original.

b. They are priests. Here is spiritual ministry and nearness to the Lamb (cf. 1:5; 20:6).

c. They are rulers. The present tense and not future makes the statement more vivid: "they are reigning!" The earthly reign is indisputable and the goal of the purpose of the Lord.

Conclusion. The Lamb is worthy for His death wrought redemption for believing sinners from all over the world. The little book of destiny is His to unroll. The judgment that book contained is for those who have refused His redemption. How will it be with you when He returns?