

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION

### “The Worthy Lamb”

Revelation 5:8-14

#### Introduction

1. Chapter five centers on the Lord Jesus Christ Who is worthy to take the seven-sealed book from the LORD on the Throne (vv. 1-7).
2. The sealed book is at once the title deed to Christ’s kinsman-Redeemer work (Ruth 4:1-13) and the title deed to Christ’s right to the universe (Jer. 32:11-15). It is all His by right and title because He is the worthy Sovereign.
3. Four scenes are given to explicate the activities at the Throne of the LORD. The first is the Sealed Book (vv. 1-3). The second is the Weeping Apostle (vv. 4, 5). The third is the Vision of the Lamb (vv. 6, 7). The fourth is the Series of Praises (vv. 8-14). Consider these accolades heaped up here:

#### 1. PRAISES -- SERIES ONE vv. 8-10

##### a. Description Given v. 8

1) Participants When our Lord took (aorist) the book, the four living beings and the 24 elders responded. Here, then, are Cherubim (Ezek. 1), Seraphim (Is. 6), and the raptured Church. They are all there!

2) Practice The action described is clear -- prostration before the Lamb ( ). Here is support for the deity of Christ (Acts 14:8-18; John 5:17, 18).

3) Particulars The immediate antecedent to the verb “having” is the 24 elders, hence the living creatures probably are not included in the action of the verb. Note: The “harp” ( ) was a zither or kind of guitar. The vials or bowls ( ) were gold, attesting their value and high service. The plural “odours” points to the variegated incenses offered to the Lord. The “harps” indicate praises while “odours” speak of prayers. Not praying saints in heaven for saints on earth, but the earthly church represented in heaven.

##### b. Salvation Sung v. 9

The verb “sung” is present tense ( ) pointing to continuous praise. “Song” is a cognate of the verb. All is new ( ) in the sense of time and quality. There is a freshness about this song for the occasion. Included in the song are these thoughts:

1) The value of the Lamb The word “worthy” speaks of our Lord’s quality and ability to take the sealed book.

2) The death of the Lamb The aorist tense of the verb ( ) shows the historicity of the death. Also points to the slain Lamb as heaven’s greatest theme.

3) The work of the Lamb “Redeemer” means to “buy” from the market place. The price is His blood -- real blood, not a symbol of death (1 Pet. 1:19). Redemption is “unto God.” Satan has no part in our Lord’s redemptive work (cf. Seventh-Day Adventism).

4) The outreach of the Lamb The preposition “out of” indicates redemption is “from” the world as stated -- kindred, tongue, and nation. No universalism here.

##### c. Position Gained v. 10

The verb “made” ( ) affirms an effective action of God toward the church. Two ideas: 1) Church as Kings (Royalty). 2) Church as Priests (Priestly/nearness). Like our

Lord, we are a group of King/Priests. Here is the fulfillment of a truth previously mentioned (1:6). The church will be involved in the earthly reign of Messiah-Jesus (cf. 1 Cor. 6:2; 2 Tim. 2:12).

#### 2. PRAISES -- SERIES TWO vv. 11, 12

##### a. Beings Present v. 11

Angels join with the living beings (cherubim/seraphim) and the 24 elders (church) in praise unto God. The number of angels is given as “myriads of myriads” (10,000 of 10,000) and “thousands of thousands.” These phrases connote the heavenly hosts as being innumerable.

##### b. Message Stated v. 12

Note: The intelligences use “voices” (two times) which are “loud” and they “say” (not “sing”). The Lamb is “slain” (cf. v. 9). He is attributed with seven affirmations which are governed by one definite article. This suggests one enormous gigantic peon of praise.

1) Power ( ). This is inherent power, what is natural.

2) Riches ( ). This shows He has all things as His own. There is nothing immoral about this for He is worthy.

3) Wisdom ( ). This is the root for the proper use of knowledge. All of this is hidden in Christ (Col. 2:3).

4) Strength ( ). This is a reference to physical strength.

5) Honor ( ). This is esteem and preciousness.

6) Glory ( ). This is manifested splendor.

7) Blessing ( ). This is a eulogy of which our Lord is worthy.

Note: What a chorus of praise. This is a choir difficult to beat. Fantastic!

#### 3. PRAISE -- SERIES THREE vv. 13, 14

##### a. Who Involved v. 13a

Every created being in four areas -- in heaven, on earth, under earth, and in sea, and all the things in these spheres give the full tide of universal praise (cf. Phil. 2:5-11).

##### b. What Involved v. 13b

Three words listed above are repeated here. However a new word for power is added ( ). This avers manifested power which is normally only assigned to God in the N.T.

##### c. How Involved v. 13c, 14

1) Acclaimed Deity The “One on the Throne” and the “Lamb” receive eternal praise. This joint praise affirms equality (cf. John 10:30).

2) Determined Deity The living beings say “Amen” and the elders prostrate themselves and worship the triune God.

Conclusion Here are three glorious series of praises unto the Lord on the Throne and the Lamb slain. What a sight before the out pouring of the judgmental wrath of God Almighty upon the earth. As referenced here, the true place for genuine believers is prostration at His feet in obedience. So be it for us today!