

WHO IS WORTHY?
REVELATION 5
Pastor Dennis Clanton
Woodland Church
Wednesday, May 9, 2018

Then I saw a scroll in the right hand of the one who was sitting on the throne. There was writing on the inside and the outside of the scroll, and it was sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel, who shouted with a loud voice: "Who is worthy to break the seals on this scroll and open it?" But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll and read it.

Then I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll and read it. But one of the twenty-four elders said to me, "Stop weeping! Look, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the heir to David's throne, has won the victory. He is worthy to open the scroll and its seven seals."

Then I saw a Lamb that looked as if it had been slaughtered, but it was now standing between the throne and the four living beings and among the twenty-four elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which represent the sevenfold Spirit of God that is sent out into every part of the earth. He stepped forward and took the scroll from the right hand of the one sitting on the throne. And when he took the scroll, the four living beings and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp, and they held gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of God's people. And they sang a new song with these words:*

*"You are worthy to take the scroll
and break its seals and open it.*

*For you were slaughtered, and your blood has ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation.*

*And you have caused them to become
a Kingdom of priests for our God.*

And they will reign on the earth."*

Then I looked again, and I heard the voices of thousands and millions of angels around the throne and of the living beings and the elders. And they sang in a mighty chorus:

*"Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered—
to receive power and riches
and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and blessing."*

And then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea. They sang:

*“Blessing and honor and glory and power
belong to the one sitting on the throne
and to the Lamb forever and ever.”*

*And the four living beings said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down
and worshiped the Lamb.”* (Revelation 5, NLT)

Revelation 5:1 (NLT): *Then I saw a scroll in the right hand of the one who was
sitting on the throne. There was writing on the inside and the outside of the scroll,
and it was sealed with seven seals.*

God holds the scroll.

- There scroll had seven witnesses.
- The seals were to guarantee the accuracy of the truthfulness of the scroll.
- The seals reserved the scroll for its rightful recipient.
- In chapter 6, the seals are the attesting witnesses.

Ezekiel 2:9–10 (NLT): *“Then I looked and saw a hand reaching out to me. It held
a scroll, which he unrolled. And I saw that both sides were covered with funeral
songs, words of sorrow, and pronouncements of doom.”*

A strong angel issues a challenge!

Revelation 5:2 (NLT): *“A strong angel, who shouted with a loud voice: “Who is
worthy to break the seals on this scroll and open it?”*

- John weeps because there doesn’t seem to be a champion to open and read
the scroll.
- In this scene of God’s throne room there is no purifying of lips like Isaiah.

The Lion of Judah

Revelation 5:5 (NLT): *“Stop weeping! Look, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the
heir to David’s throne, has won the victory. He is worthy to open the scroll and its
seven seals.”*

Genesis 49:9–10 (NLT): *“Judah, my son, is a young lion that has finished eating its prey. Like a lion he crouches and lies down; like a lioness—who dares to rouse him? The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from his descendants, until the coming of the one to whom it belongs, the one whom all nations will honor.”*

- The Lion is the symbol of strength.
- The Paradox of Revelation is the Lion is a Lamb!

Revelation 5:6–7 (NLT): *“Then I saw a Lamb that looked as if it had been slaughtered, but it was now standing between the throne and the four living beings and among the twenty-four elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which represent the sevenfold Spirit of God that is sent out into every part of the earth. He stepped forward and took the scroll from the right hand of the one sitting on the throne.”*

- The Lamb is a symbol of helplessness.
- This is a slaughtered lamb.
- In Revelation 6 plagues will fall upon a disobedient world.

Jesus is our Passover Lamb. His blood will protect us during God’s judgments.

Exodus 12:23 (NLT): *“For the Lord will pass through the land to strike down the Egyptians. But when he sees the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe, the Lord will pass over your home. He will not permit his death angel to enter your house and strike you down.”*

Revelation 7:2–3 (NLT): *“And he shouted to those four angels, who had been given power to harm land and sea, “Wait! Don’t harm the land or the sea or the trees until we have placed the seal of God on the foreheads of his servants.”*

Jesus conquered not by force but by death.

The Cross is the foundation of History.

The horns are a symbol of God's power.

Jesus depended on God's power to raise him from the dead!

The eyes are symbol of God's watching over His purposes.

“And now, who has won? Fool, did you think that by all this you would save the human traitor? Now I will kill you instead of him as our pact was and so the Deep Magic will be appeased. But when you are dead what will prevent me from killing him as well? And who will take him out of my hand then? Understand that you have given me Narnia forever, you have lost your own life and you have not saved his. In that knowledge, despair and die.”

- *THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE BY C.S. LEWIS*

Jesus becomes our model for suffering for the Gospel.

Revelation 6:9 (NLT): *“When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of all who had been martyred for the word of God and for being faithful in their testimony.”*

The golden bowls are the prayers of God's people.

Revelation 7:2–3 (NLT): *“And he shouted to those four angels, who had been given power to harm land and sea, “Wait! Don't harm the land or the sea or the trees until we have placed the seal of God on the foreheads of his servants.”*

**The heavenly beings sing a new song of redemption to worship Jesus!
(Revelation 5:9-14)**

Revelation 5:9–10 (NLT): *“For you were slaughtered, and your blood has ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. And you have caused them to become a Kingdom of priests for our God. And they will reign on the earth.”*

Growthwork

1. When it seems time to retreat it is time to advance.
2. Revelation is about God's global glory in Jesus Christ through every tribe, nation, and language. (*Romans 15*)
3. Loving Jesus means going into all the world.