

## The Lamb is Worthy (Message #14)

Revelation 5: 1-7

Last week we dealt with the Throne Room of God as Jehovah occupies His throne. Tonight our text remains around the throne, but our focus has shifted. In [Chp.4](#) the Lord was praised for His creation. Here He is praised for His redemption. The focus tonight is the Lamb of God.

Our Lord and Savior is seen standing in the midst of the throne. He is there receiving glory, honor, and praise for all He has done. Of all that heaven holds, Jesus is the most precious. He is worthy of our praise. There are those who don't recognize Him and offer the praise that He is due. But, here in heaven, Jesus is exalted and worshipped by those in heaven. As we move through these verses, keep in mind the thought: [The Lamb is Worthy!](#)

**I. An Exclusive Scroll** (1) – [And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.](#) God is seen holding a book in His right hand. This is literally a scroll written within and without. This book is full; it is complete. It is sealed with 7 seals. The contents of the book are secure and will never be altered.

- In John's day a Roman will or testament was sealed with 7 seals. It could only be opened by the heir of the inheritance. Jesus is Heir of all things. This book contains the "title deed" to all things He earned by His sacrifice upon the cross. Let's examine what is written in the book.

**A. Words of Redemption** (notice [v.9](#)) – [And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;](#) Jesus is praised for His redemption of man. We were all lost in sin. We owed a debt we couldn't pay and Jesus ransomed us from the debt of sin.

- This is seen more clearly when we consider the practices rendered by a kinsman redeemer. This man had to be **willing** and **able** to pay the redemption price. The OT reveals three situations that redemption was possible.

- **1. Slaves-** Those sold into slavery due to debt could be redeemed. Were we not all slaves to sin? Thank God for the day Jesus purchased me from the slave block and became my Master.

- 2. A Wife-** Those whose husband had died leaving no male children to bear his name could be redeemed. This is seen in the book of Ruth as Boaz became her kinsman redeemer. Jesus has redeemed a bride unto Himself.

**3. Land-** This is seen in [Jer.32](#). Jeremiah redeemed the land of his uncle. There we find some detail as to how these scrolls were kept. Within the scroll contained the reason the land was lost. On the outside were the terms for redemption. These transactions were sealed for security.

- God holds the book of our redemption. Jesus met the terms for our redemption!

**B. Words of Restoration** – Because of the redemptive work of Christ, restoration has been made to God. Sin always has and always will cause separation. Man was created to have dominion over the earth.

- When Adam sinned, he surrendered his authority of dominion to Satan. Satan now rules the earth. [II Cor.4:4](#) refers to him as the god of this world. Jesus alone had the authority to restore what man had lost. The saved are restored unto fellowship with God.
- Also Christ overcame the curse of sin upon the earth. One day the earth will once again be as God intended, free of sin. Without the work of Christ, all of creation would forever remain under the curse.

**C. Words of Revelation** – In this book are sealed the judgments of God. As the book is opened and the judgments read, [Chps.6-19](#), heaven reveals the judgment of God upon the earth. We'll deal with that in detail later.

## **I. An Exclusive Scroll** (1)

**II. An Extensive Search** (2-4) – We now find a search being conducted in heaven to find someone to take the book from the hand of God. Consider:

**A. The Purpose of the Search** (2) – [And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?](#) The angel proclaims a sobering question. [Who is worthy?](#) Who deserves to take this book from the hand of God? Who has the right and authority to take this book, remove the seals, and carry out its decree?

- Notice the angel didn't ask who was willing. Many in the pages of time have been willing. History is filled with those who desired to execute complete authority and judgment, (Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar, Alexander the Great, Caesar, Napoleon, Hitler, and Bin Laden.) These had a desire to conquer the world. We still have those who desire to possess absolute

authority. Many would be willing, but only One was worthy! The one who opens this book must be worthy.

**B. The Extent of the Search** (3) – [And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.](#) The search began in heaven. All of the host of heaven were there, angels and saints. Gabriel, Michael, Enoch, Abraham, Moses, Elijah, David, Solomon, the prophets, Paul, and even John, but they were not worthy.

- The search was extended unto the earth. Of all the world leaders, educated men, preachers and scholars, the rich and famous, none of these were found worthy.
- Even under the earth, the conquerors of old, none were found worthy. In fact, [they weren't even worthy to look upon the book.](#) That surely puts things in perspective. You see, the only worthiness anyone possesses is given through Christ!

**C. The Reality of the Search** (4) – [And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.](#)

- John began to weep. This wasn't just a silent weeping. The word means to [wail aloud; it has the idea of uncontrollable sobbing.](#) John was devastated that no one was found worthy to open the book. He was weeping for all of creation. His tears represent the tears shed by all of humanity due to sin. Consider the countless tears that have been shed due to sin.
- But, John was in heaven; why was he crying? He wasn't crying because he or anyone else was worthy. He realized the church had been redeemed, but the earth still lay under the curse of sin. If no one was worthy to open the book, then the world remained under the curse. He knew it was God's plan to remove the curse of sin and restore the world. However, John didn't weep long. Notice:

### **I. An Exclusive Scroll**

### **II. An Extensive Search**

**III. An Exalted Savior** (5-7) – One of the elders said, [“weep not.”](#) You see, hope was not lost. The world would not remain under sin's curse. Although none were found worthy in heaven, earth, or hell, there stood One in the midst of the throne who was. He was worthy to open the book and loose the seals.

- The Lamb of God is worthy! We have no reason to cry tears of doubt. Jesus has overcome; we are secure in Him. This world brings heartache, pain, and suffering, but my hope is in the worthy Lamb! Let's consider Him who has prevailed.

**A. The Lion of Judah** (5) – *And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.* Jesus was there, the **Lion of Judah**. He is there today in all His majesty, power, and authority.

- The Jews looked for the Lion of Judah, but He came as a humble babe, a servant to all, and a sacrifice for sin. They didn't recognize Jesus, rejecting and crucifying our Lord.
- He won't come again as a sacrificial Lamb, but a Lion in judgment and power. He won't be mocked and rejected, hanging on a cross. He will return to judge sin and bind Satan in the depths of hell. The Lion of Judah is worthy to open the book!

**B. The King of Kings** (5b) – Jesus also stands as the **Root of David**, the King of kings. This speaks of His humanity and His deity. As a man He was of the lineage of David. God has established the line of David for all eternity, but a greater than David now occupies the throne.

- He is the Ancient of days, the Lord of all. His rule and reign is forever settled in heaven. Our King will never be removed from His throne. He will never need to name a successor. His eternal kingdom will never be conquered or defeated. He alone is worthy to bear the title King of kings!
- What a King we serve tonight. What an awesome privilege to serve Him.

**C. The Lamb Slain** (6a) – *And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain.* When John turned to see Jesus, he didn't see a Lion, or even a King upon the throne. He saw a **Lamb as it had been slain**.

- This in no way detracts from His deity or power. He is still our King, but aren't you glad He is also our Lamb?
- This is a beautiful text. The word **Lamb** is from the Greek word *arnion*. It means "a little pet lamb."
- Let me take you back several thousand years to a difficult time in Egypt. (Illus. Passover, selecting a lamb without blemish, keeping it in the home 4 days, killing it and applying the blood, and then eating the lamb.)
- Now fast forward a few thousand to Calvary as Jesus became our Lamb. Thank God for the Lamb. He still bears the marks of the cross, but He isn't dead. He isn't rejected, thirsty, and tired. He is no longer subjected to the cruelty of the soldiers and the agony of the cross. He is no longer dead in a cold, dark tomb.

- He has prevailed, “carried away the victory,” in the midst of the throne. He overcame all that Satan could muster and carried His own precious blood and placed in on the Mercy Seat in heaven!

**D. The Lord of All** (6b-7) – *having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.* John saw the Lord as One having all authority. He doesn't literally have 7 horns and 7 eyes. This speaks of His unlimited power and ever present, all-knowing wisdom. Jesus came and took the book from God. He was worthy to take the book and open it.

There is only One who was worthy, Jesus our Lord. He was the only One worthy to become our sacrifice. He is worthy of our praise tonight! If He isn't your Lamb and Lord, you'll meet Him as a Lion in judgment.