

DATE: January 8, 2012

TEXT: Revelation 5: 1-14

TITLE: "The Lamb of God"



I had a wonderful week in my daily devotions this past week. I had been reading through the Book of Luke... but this week every day I read Revelation chapter 5 and 6.

Let me also introduce this sermon with this memory. I have preached on Rev. 5 once before. It was in Mexico. I was at the church of pastor Manuel. A very, very poor church. The 100 or so people were fighting every day to get enough to eat. It was mid summer. It was hot... 100 degrees or so.... only a swamp cooler in the room. We were in a sanctuary smaller than our fellowship hall. Pastor Manuel was interpreting. But I remember this sermon. In a room of little hope for a better life... the Word of hope and praise was powerful. I believe the interpretation of Pastor Manuel made it even more powerful. Manuel always preaches with a towel... he used his towel often.

Revelation Chapter 5 is one of the most magnificent vision in the bible. Remember in Rev. 4 we were in the very throne room of God. We saw God sitting on the throne surrounded by the

Elders and the Cherubim praising and honoring the Lord God. In chapter 5, for the first time we see the Lamb. I will break this vision down into 4 sections looking at the wonderful text.

**Section # 1** we look at the scroll. *Rev. 5: 1-4*

**Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?” 3 But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. 4 I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.**

In chapter 4 John saw God as light and power and knowledge. He sees God as a man. He has a Right hand. And in that hand is a scroll.

What is the scroll? Almost every one agrees. The scroll is the history of humanity. Past history and future history. History that is in the right hand of God.... controlled by God. History that still must take place. History written before it takes place.

And John hears this terrible truth. No created being is able to break the seals and open the scrolls. No one is worthy. All are sinful. God's will is thwarted by sin. And John weeps and weeps. Do you understand why John weeps. The plan of God is good. The plan of God is to save His children. Again, remember John is writing to a church he loves... the church at Ephesus

and throughout the world. Remember the church is in the midst of a terrible, terrible persecution.... and the Good news of God is sealed... and no one can open it. The book of Revelation which is part of that scroll is Good news. We will see the judgements. We will see the devastation of the world... but it is Good news. It is the story of the victory of God and the victory of God's people. John weeps... no one is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll.

**Section # 2** The Lamb is revealed. *Rev. 5: 5-6*

**5 Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."**  
**6 Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.**

And then the great voice of an angel spoke. Do not weep!. The Lion of Judah... the Root of David has triumphed. These are both titles in the Old Testament of the messiah In Genesis 49:8 Judah is proclaimed to be the family of the Messiah and is said to be a Lion. In Isaiah 11:1 the Messiah, was called the "Root of David." Terms of the Messiah. The messiah was seen as the Savior of the World. The messiah was seen as the new King who would sit on the throne of David. The Messiah was the Savior.. The Redeemer, the Conqueror. The angel is

proclaiming.... he is victorious.

John than turns. He expected to see the all powerful Messiah. He expected to see the Lion. But that is not what he sees. Standing in the midst of the elders is... a lamb. And not a pretty lamb.. A lamb that looked as if it was slain. A bloody battered bruised lamb. And here is the Lord Jesus Christ. Here is the triumphant Messiah. The Book of Revelation refers to Jesus as the lamb 29 times in the rest of the book.

Yes, the lamb appeared as if it was slain....but it also had seven horns and seven eyes. In other words the Lamb is all powerful... horns are a symbol of power... 7 is the number of completeness. And the lamb was all seeing... 7 eyes. A lamb that was slain that is all powerful and all knowing. That is our messiah. That is our Savior. That is our Lord.

**Section # 3** We next see the coronation of the Lamb. *Rev 5: 7-8a*

**7 He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. 8 And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb.**

The lamb was among the elders.... but he ascends the steps to the throne and receives the scroll. William Hendriksen in his Book More than Conquerors states this...

**This does not mean that God the Father leaves the throne. But it means that Christ the Mediator is seated upon the throne together with the Father. From this moment on it is the throne of God and the Lamb (22:1). God governs the universe through the Lamb. This is Christ's reward and our comfort. It means that there is a beginning of a new era in heaven (20:4); and also on earth (20:2,3). A most significant moment in history is this coronation; the mediators investiture with the office of King of the universe.**

Rejoice and praise be to God! We have been given a vision of the coronation of our Lord Jesus

Christ. Through the eyes of John we are witnesses of the crowning of our King. This is very

clearly seen in *our text in verse 12 Rev 5: 12 states....*

**In a loud voice they were saying:**

**“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength  
and honor and glory and praise!”**

Here are the 7 attributes of God given to the Lamb. He has power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise. Jesus is God. Jesus is Lord.

Paul sees this truth very clearly. In *Phil. 2: 9 we read this...*

**9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father**

In Revelation 5 We see this exaltation. Jesus is our Lord and Jesus is our King. This certainly moves us into the 4<sup>th</sup> section

**Section # 4** We see the Praise and worship of the Lamb who is our King. *Rev. 5: 8-14*

**8** And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. **9** And they sang a new song, saying:

**“You are worthy to take the scroll  
and to open its seals,**

**because you were slain,**

**and with your blood you purchased for God**

**persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.**

**10** You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,  
**and they will reign on the earth.”**

**11** Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. **12** In a loud voice they were saying:

**“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,**

**to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength**

**and honor and glory and praise!”**

**13** Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea,  
**and all that is in them, saying:**

**“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb**

**be praise and honor and glory and power,**

**for ever and ever!”**

The natural and only reaction of all of creation is to worship the lamb. Notice the progressive nature of the praise and worship. It begins with the 4 living creatures... the Cherubim.....it then spreads to the 24 elders.. That is the entire church.... and then it went to the myriads and myriads of the angels... all the angels.... and finally every creature on heaven and on earth worship and praise the Lamb.

Finally, notice why they are worshipping. Again *Rev 5:9-10*

**9 And they sang a new song, saying:  
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 persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.  
 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,  
 and they will reign on the earth."**

Notice it is a new song. I am reminded of the words in *2 Corinthians 5:17* **Therefore, if**

**anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!**

We are new in Christ. A new song has been sung and we are part of the new song. We are part of the new creation.

Notice, Jesus is worthy of our worship because he died on the Cross for us. He is the Lamb that was slain to bring us forgiveness of our sins. We must never forget the truth that Christ dies for you and for me. He died for your sins and my sins. *Hebrews 9:12 ff states..*

**He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. .... How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!**

**15 For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.**

The Lamb was sacrificed on the cross for you and for me. He dies to bring us back to

God. How must we react? We must bow down and worship the King. We must cry out Worthy

is the lamb

You died

You rose

You reign in power

You are coming back

You give forgiveness

You give redemption

We are new in Christ

Worthy is the lamb!

AMEN