

Worthy is the Lamb



Revelation 5
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3/8/2020

Revelation 5:1-7

And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.

⁴ So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. ⁵ But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

⁶ And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

⁷ Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

V1 – Who is Him who sat on the throne?

God the Father

What do the symbols of the scroll represent?

- Scroll in right hand: it's the authority of God
- Sealed scroll: details sealed by God
- Seven seals: completeness of the seals

According to the Law and customs of the ancient Jewish people, the sign of a "forfeited inheritance" was a "sealed scroll".

- If a person had to give up their inheritance of the land allocated to them, a scroll was written recounting the reason for the forfeiture and giving the terms of redemption of the inheritance.

V2-3 – Who questioned the opening of the scroll?

A strong angel – one who is close to God.

Who is worthy to break the seals to open the scroll?

No one in heaven (angels & dead in Christ), on earth (mortal people), or under the earth (dead without Christ); Only God

V4 – Why did John weep?

- There was no one was found worthy to open, read or even look at the scroll.
- John recognized mankind's need for a kinsman-redeemer.

V5 – Who is worthy to open the scroll and loose the seven seals?

the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David
Jesus, the Messiah is worthy

Why is it significant that it was one of the elders who made this declaration?

The church knows of the worthiness of Jesus because it was his sacrifice on the cross on our behalf that redeems us.

V6-7 – What does John's vision of the Lamb tell us about our Lord?

- Midst of throne: He is God
- Midst of elders: He is the head of Israel & the Church
- Lamb as though had be slain: He is Jesus who died for us
- Seven horns: complete authority
- Seven eyes: complete omniscience
- Seven Spirits: Holy Spirit involvement
- Took the scroll from the Father: Jesus is our kinsman redeemer us

Revelation 5:8-14

⁸ Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying:

"You are worthy to take the scroll,

And to open its seals;

For You were slain,

And have redeemed us to God by Your blood

Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God;

And we shall reign on the earth."

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice:

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain

To receive power and riches and wisdom,

And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

¹³ And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying:

"Blessing and honor and glory and power

Be to Him who sits on the throne,

And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

¹⁴ Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

So, given the action of the 24 elders, what do you think the scroll might be?

- **What was the forfeited inheritance?**
Lost fellowship with God
- **What was the reason for the forfeited inheritance?**
Sin
- **What was the requirement for redemption?**
Blood sacrifice.

How is Jesus our qualified redeemer?

1 Peter 1:18 - "For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect".

To redeem the lost inheritance, forfeited by man, the redeemer must be a kinsman and must come forward with the purchase price in hand (Lev 25:25)

- Jesus had willingly come and He paid the price!

What is with the harps that each of the elders had?

- This is symbolic of their exercising creativity in their praise of God.
- It is reminiscent of David, a man after God's own heart, pleasing God in song (Ps 57:8)

Why are the prayers of the saints represented by incense in golden bowls?

- Gold because our prayers are precious to God.
- Incense because our prayers are pleasing to God... God is pleased when we pray.

V9-10 – What was this new song that will be sang?

They sang a new song of praise to worship and glorify Jesus recalling why He is worthy to redeem us: He paid the price by shedding His own blood in our place.

Who sang the new song?

The elders representing Israel & the church who were redeemed.

What is the significance of this song being "new"?

There will be a lot of new things in heaven ...it will not be boring.

What does it mean that we have been redeemed to God?

Jesus made it possible for us to be with Him

Who has been redeemed to God?

Every tribe, tongue, people, nation: representatives from all races, family-lines, languages, people-groups

How is it that the redeemed have been made kings and priests?

- Made us kings: we will have authority to act in God's place as a reward for our faithfulness and service
- Made us priests: we get to represent God to others (& others to God)

What does it mean we will reign on the earth?

We will have a role in the Millennial Kingdom which foreshadows the Eternal State where we will live and get to participate in what God will be doing in eternity.

V11-12 – Who joins the elders in their heavenly praise to God?

many angels around the throne & the living creatures
The angels join in with redeemed Israel & the church

How many angels and redeemed people will be praising God in heaven?

- 10,000 x 10,000 = 100M (One Hundred Million)
- Probably symbolic of too many to count

What is worthy for the Lamb to receive?

- *power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing*
- 7 points of praise ...complete praise!

V13 – Who now joins the angelic host in their praise of God?

every creature...

in heaven – angels & redeemed people
on the earth – animals & mortal people
under the earth – unredeemed dead people
in the sea – animals & mortal submariners

To whom is due, *Blessing and honor and glory and power?*

to Him who sits on the throne – God the Father
And to the Lamb – God the Son

V14 – What commentary do the four living creatures make to this praise to God?

Amen – so be it; they agree and affirm what was said/sang

What did the elders do?

Fell down and worshipped God

What applications should we take from John's vision of the Lamb taking the scroll?

- Jesus is our unique kinsman-redeemer
- Since the redeemed are kings and priests we need to act like it... start representing God
- God's promises for our glorious future with Him are a blessing
- All will eventually praise God; it is good to be an early adopter of giving Him praise