

The Bible 20/20 Week 52: "Who is Worthy" (1-3-21)

Introduction: Who is Worthy? - (Revelation 4: The Throne Room of Heaven)

Revelation 5:1-4 (ESV)

(1) Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. (2) And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" (3) And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, (4) and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.

Note: The Scroll - what has happened, why has it happened, how is it all going to be resolved? The scroll is the unveiling and resolution of all things!

Revelation 5:5-7 (ESV)

(5) And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals." (6) And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. (7) And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne.

Note: Jesus - There is only one who holds the meaning & resolution of this life in his hands. John calls us to watch him work . . .

1) The Son of Man - One like us

Revelation 12:1-8 (ESV)

(1) And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. (2) She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. (3) And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. (4) His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. (5) She gave birth to **a male child**, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but **her child was caught up to God and to his throne**, (6) and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days. (7) Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, (8) but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.

Note: There is a **cosmic conflict** - War between the Dragon and Heaven, and on the children of heaven.

The Woman - Eve? (mother of all humanity), Mary?, Israel?, OT?

The Child - There is one specific child who will rule bringing victory and order!

Revelation 1:12-18 (ESV)

(12) Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, (13) and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. (14) The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, (15) his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. (16) In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. (17) When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, (18) and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

Note: He is a man, like us, but he is also not like us - He is Glorious! And yet, he chooses to enter the fray . . .

Revelation 1:5-7 (ESV)

(5) and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, **the firstborn of the dead**, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood (6) and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (7) Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

Note: It cost him something (everything!) to deliver us and be our eternal king . . .

2) The Lamb that was slain - costly mercy**Revelation 5:6 (ESV)**

And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

Note: The slain lamb was an unlooked for surprise! And now God is searching for those who will look to him!

- **We don't need victory alone - we need mercy**
- **Jesus' victory without mercy means our defeat**
- **His victory was inevitable, but our victory took his defeat**

Who are the victors that can stand before God's throne?

Revelation 5:9-10 (ESV)

(9) And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, (10) and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

Note: Why can He open the scroll? Why can we sing a song of victory? Because he was slain for us!

Back to the war with the dragon described in chapter 12 . . .

Revelation 12:10-11 (ESV)

(10) And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for **the accuser of our brothers** has been thrown down, who **accuses them day and night before our God**. (11) And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

Note: **The dragon** - you are not worthy! **Jesus** - I have counted you worthy!

3) The Lion of Judah - faithful justice**Revelation 12:17, 13:1-2 (ESV)**

(17) Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea. (13:1) And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. (2) And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority.

Note: A war still rages - the dragon raises up a beast from the sea of humanity. To win us over or crush us!

Revelation 5:5 (ESV)

And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”

Note: Don’t forget - the one who was worthy of the scroll, though He is like one of us, and though He died for us, yet he is still the conquering Lion!

Revelation 19:11-16 (ESV)

(11) Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. (12) His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. (13) He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. (14) And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. (15) From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. (16) On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

Note: Jesus came as a Lamb, but he will return as the Lion - the King in all his glory bringing Justice!

- We all want justice and accountability until we are the one in the cross-hairs
- We think we know when, where, and to whom judgement should fall, and to whom mercy should be shown
- But the true King is the only one who can judge rightly, and He will!

Revelation 20:11-12 (ESV)

(11) Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. (12) And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.

Note: His judgement is an execution of faithful justice.

If we entrust our life to the Lamb we need not fear the Lion!

Conclusion:

- 1) The battle is real, the world is raging, and the dragon wants to defeat us
- 2) Victory is sure - Jesus is with us, has given everything to rescue us, and he will return in victory

Therefore . . .

- Don’t be surprised by the beasts that arise - they are inevitable, they will be trouble, but they will lose
- Don’t bow to the beast, don’t fear the beast - no **compromise** or **complacency**
- Instead - endure & worship!

(If time allows - read Revelation 22 in closing)

Revelation 22:1-21 (ESV)

1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb

2 through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

3 No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.

4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

5 And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

6 And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place."

7 "And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me,

9 but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

10 And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.

11 Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy."

12 "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.

13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.

15 Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

16 "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

17 The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book,

19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

20 He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.