

Revelation 5:1-14

The Worthy Lamb

Introduction

This chapter carries over the scene in heaven from chapter 4. There are two main focuses here, the first is the sealed book and the second is the Lamb. The book or scroll is important because it contains the judgments that will occur through out the Tribulation. The book has seven seals, with writing on the front and the back. Seals one through six are specific judgments, but the seventh seal leads the seven trumpets and finally the seven bowl judgments. The Lamb is important because he is the only one worthy to approach the throne of God and take the book. This chapter reveals Jesus as the worthy Lamb, who will execute judgment on the world.

I. John's Worry About the Book, v1-4

A. The need to open the book, v1-2 - Someone must be worthy. The word worthy means, some one who has met the requirements, or someone who has the credentials.

B. No man is found worthy, v3

C. John's reaction, v4- John is upset that no one is able to open the book. There is a vital need for this book to be opened, and John is sensitive to that need.

II. The One Worthy To Open The Book, v5-7

A. His Description, v5-6-

1. Lion of the tribe of Judah- Gen. 49:8-12, this title speaks of His dignity, sovereignty, courage and victory.

2. Root of David- Isa. 11:1-10, This title refers to the humanity of Christ.

3. Lamb- Gen. 22:7, Jn. 1:29, 1Pt. 1:19-20, all these passages point to Jesus as the one sacrifice that would satisfy God. There are some important facts about the Lamb given here.

a. He is standing in the midst of the throne. Most Scripture pictures Christ as sitting (Heb. 1:1-3). Jesus standing shows that He is ready to judge the world, and reclaim it.

b. The Lamb pictured here is strong. When Jesus came to earth, he was very meek. The seven horns picture strength, perfect strength.

c. The Lamb has all wisdom. The seven eyes picture perfect wisdom. The seven spirits refer to the fact that Jesus is omniscient.

III. The Worship In Heaven, v8-14

This section of the chapter shows a great picture of worship in heaven. The way we worship in our churches today should follow this pattern.

A. Respect and prayer, v8- Notice they bow down and pray. The position in worship is not the key, the attitude is. Many today want things in the “worship” service that appeals to their flesh, not what honors Christ. Much of our worship today has lost its reverence and dignity.

B. Respectful singing, v9-11 - The theme of this song is Jesus and His finished work. The song mentions Christ’s deity, His redemption, and His work in our lives. This is the greatest example of a hymn of praise ever seen.

C. Results of proper worship, v12-14- The name of Jesus is exalted. This worship is very specific, to the one on the throne and to the Lamb. There is no doubt who is being worshiped here, nor can there be any room for another meaning such as the generic “He or Him” we have in “worship” today.

Conclusion

This is possibly the greatest passage in the Bible on worship. We need to pattern our private and public worship after this passage.