

Revelation and Daniel – Revelation 5:8-14

Verse 8

The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb – When the Lamb takes the scroll from the Father it triggers an outpouring of praise and worship.

Each one having a golden harp – Apparently the song of verses 9-10 and perhaps all five of the songs in chapters 4 – 5 are accompanied by harps. Note 14:2 and 15:2.

And golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints – The burning of incense to the Lord was part of the priestly function. It also connected with prayer. Note Luke 1:10 and also Psalm 141:2.

The prayers of the saints – Note the parallel in Revelation 8:3-4. These prayers are most likely the prayers of the saints for God's kingdom to come. Matthew 6:10, Revelation 6:10.

Verses 9-10

And they sang a new song – Literally, “fresh” or distinctive in quality. Seven times in the Old Testament we are told to sing to the Lord a new song (Psalm 33:3, 40:3, 96:1, 98:1, 144:9, 149:1, Isaiah 42:10). Also see Revelation 14:3. It is new here in the sense that it represents new praise for a new deliverance about to take place.

Saying, Worthy are Thou to take the book, and to break its seals – John now gives four reasons that Jesus is worthy:

- 1 – He was slain
- 2 – He purchased salvation for men
- 3 – He formed a kingdom of priests
- 4 – He allows men to reign upon the earth

Verse 11

I looked and I heard – Forty-four times in Revelation John declares, I “looked”. Twenty-seven times, he declares, “I heard.”

He heard – The voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders.

He saw – *Myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands* of angels. Myriad means 10,000. The idea is an innumerable number plus some!

I saw – *Myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands* of angels. Note Daniel 7:9-10! Psalm 68:17 says, “*The chariots of God are myriads, thousands upon thousands...*” Hebrews 12:22 says, “*You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the Living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels.*”

Verse 12

Saying with a loud voice, worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive:

*Power - dynamis
and riches - ploutos
and wisdom - sophia
and might - ischys
and honor - timē
and glory - doxa
and blessing – eulogia*

Verse 13

And every created thing...

In heaven, on the earth, under the earth, on the sea...

Every creature in the universe!

I heard them saying, “To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and dominion, Forever and ever!”

The progression of worship in the five songs –

Song 1 – To the Father by the four living creatures (4:8).

Song 2 – To the Father by the twenty-four elders (4:11).

Song 3 – To the Lamb by the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders (5:9-10).

Song 4 – To the Lamb by the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders and myriads of angels (5:1-12).

Song 4 – To the Father and the Son by all created beings (5:13)

Verse 14

And the four living creatures kept saying...

Amen

And the elders fell down and worshiped.