

The Lamb is Worthy of Taking the Scroll

Chapter 5

Introduction:

I. The description of the Scroll.

A. The scroll was indeed a scroll.

Revelation 5:1 (ESV) 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.

B. The scroll was under God's control.

Revelation 5:1 (ESV) 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.

C. The scroll was a full scroll.

1. Both sides of the scroll contained writing.

Revelation 5:1 (ESV) 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.

a. It was very rare in antiquity for both sides of a scroll to contain writing.

b. Such a scroll was cumbersome to use.

c. Such a scroll was made of expensive materials.

(1) A papyri scroll could not withstand the wear.

(2) It would require a scroll made of animal skins, with two good sides.

d. The scroll mentioned in Ezekiel was also two-sided.

Ezekiel 2:9 (ESV) And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. Ezekiel 2:10 (ESV) And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning and woe.

- e. A two-sided scroll was called an opisthograph.
 - f. Application:
 - (1) Here we are to see how the word of God is valued or prized.
 - (2) Even as many people have expensive leather bound copies of the Bible.
 - (3) This provides both durability and beauty,
2. The scroll was sealed with seven seals.

Revelation 5:1 (ESV) 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.

- a. The seals would be placed not on the two ends of a scroll to hold it together but rather on the edge of a scroll to mark off sections of it.
- b. This was done to delineate certain sections in a long scroll. One cannot page through a scroll to quickly find one's place like one does a book. Thus, the seals served as a bookmark.
- c. They served the same purpose as a cloth ribbon in many Bibles.
- d. Therefore, this scroll was going to be unfurled in parts with the judgments coming in at different times.

Revelation 6:1 (ESV) Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, "Come!"

Revelation 6:2 (ESV) And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer.

Revelation 6:3 (ESV) When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!"

Revelation 6:4 (ESV) And out came another horse, bright red. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword.

D. The scroll was a scroll filled with judgments.

II. The unique authority associated with the opening of the scroll.

A. A proclamation was made to find someone worthy of opening the scroll.

Revelation 5:2 (ESV) And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?"

B. No one in any realm was found worthy to open the scroll.

Revelation 5:3 (ESV) And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it,

C. There was sadness at not finding anyone who was worthy to open the scroll.

Revelation 5:4 (ESV) and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.

D. The lamb-slain is found worthy to open the scroll.

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."

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.

Revelation 5:7 (ESV) And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne.

- E. The taking of the scroll was a cause for great rejoicing and hope in heaven. The sadness had turned to joy.

Revelation 5:8 (ESV) And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Revelation 5:9 (ESV) 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,

Revelation 5:10 (ESV) and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

III. A Description of the one worthy to take the scroll.

A. His identification.

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."

1. The Lion of the tribe of Judah was the Messiah.

Genesis 49:9 (ESV) Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him?

Genesis 49:10 (ESV) The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

2. The "Root of David" is an allusion to Isaiah 11:1-9

Isaiah 11:1 (ESV) There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

Isaiah 11:2 (ESV) And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

Isaiah 11:3 (ESV) And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

Isaiah 11:4 (ESV) but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Isaiah 11:5 (ESV) Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

Isaiah 11:6 (ESV) The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

Isaiah 11:7 (ESV) The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

Isaiah 11:8 (ESV) The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

Isaiah 11:9 (ESV) They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 11:10 (ESV) In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

Isaiah 11:11 (ESV) In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea.

Isaiah 11:12 (ESV) He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

3. He is the Lord Jesus Christ.

B. His description

1. He is the crucified lamb that was offered.

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.

This worthiness to open the scroll was directly related to his having been slain.

2. He had the "seven spirits" of God.

Rev 5:6 Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

- a. The horns seem to represent His rule.

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.

Revelation 17:12 (ESV) And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast.

- b. The eyes seem to represent His understanding.

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.

- c. There are seven of the horns and there are seven of the eyes which represent the seven spirits of God.

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.

- d. What are the seven spirits of God?

Isaiah 11:1 (ESV) There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
Isaiah 11:2 (ESV) And (1) the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, (2) the Spirit of wisdom and (3) understanding, the Spirit of (4) counsel and (5) might, the Spirit of (6) knowledge and the (7) fear of the LORD.

- e. His going out into the earth represents the way in which these 7 spirits or characteristics of God will be manifest in His rule and dealings with on the earth

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.

Isaiah 11:4 (ESV) but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Isaiah 11:5 (ESV) Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

C. A consideration of the lamb's worthiness

- 1. He is worthy to open the seals.

Revelation 5:9 (ESV) 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,

Revelation 5:10 (ESV) and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

- a. The seals mark 7 judgments that are going to come upon the earth as delineated in the next chapter.
- b. Christ is worthy to have all judgment committed unto Him.

John 5:22 (ESV) For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son,

Isa 11:4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

Isa 11:5 Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

2. The reasons for the Lamb's worthiness.

- a. Jesus is worthy because He has triumphed over sin and death.

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."

- b. Jesus is worthy because He has redeemed us.

Rev 5:9 And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.

- c. Jesus is worthy because He is ruler over the kingdom.

Rev 5:10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

3. Jesus is worthy to be worshiped.

- a. Jesus is worthy to be worshiped by all.

Revelation 5:11 (ESV) Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands,

Revelation 5:12 (ESV) saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

- b. Jesus receives the same accolades as the Father.

Revelation 5:12 (ESV) saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

Revelation 4:11 (ESV) “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

- c. Jesus receives the same worship as the Father.

Revelation 5:13 (ESV) And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “**To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb** be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

Revelation 5:14 (ESV) And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

- d. All of this is in keeping with God’s revealed will.

Philippians 2:5 (ESV) Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

Philippians 2:6 (ESV) who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,

Philippians 2:7 (ESV) but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

Philippians 2:8 (ESV) And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:9 (ESV) Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,

Philippians 2:10 (ESV) so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

Philippians 2:11 (ESV) and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

IV. Conclusion:

There is no question to the appropriateness of our worshiping Jesus.

