

Acknowledging the One Who Is Worthy
Series: E-100 - Revelation 5
June 11, 2017 Pastor Bill Bump

As we look at Revelation 5 today, we see that—as part of the vision John was given by the angel sent by God—he saw the throne room of heaven.

Three preliminary observations:

1. God's absolute control of history

Revelation 5:1 *Then I saw a scroll in the right hand of the one who was sitting on the throne. There was writing on the inside and the outside of the scroll, and it was sealed with seven seals.*

The scroll represents the decrees of God concerning what will happen in the future.

The scroll answers all the great, unanswerable questions that people have been asking since the beginning of time.

From this, we should learn that we ought to submit to the authority of our King, our Creator, and the Ruler of all things.

2. No creature is worthy to open the scroll.

Revelation 5:2-3 ² *And I saw a strong angel, who shouted with a loud voice: "Who is worthy to break the seals on this scroll and open it?"* ³ *But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll and read it.*

The end of history, contained in this scroll, is going to bring such astounding privileges and happiness to repentant sinners who deserve only condemnation that only someone who is worthy can open it.

3. Without Jesus, there will be only weeping.

Revelation 5:4 *Then I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll and read it.*

Jesus is utterly necessary for every one of us.

But, the great news from this vision is that a worthy one is found to open the scroll.

Revelation 5:5-6 ⁵ *But one of the twenty-four elders said to me, "Stop weeping! Look, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the heir to David's throne, has won the victory. He is worthy to open the scroll and its seven seals."*

⁶ *Then I saw a Lamb that looked as if it had been slaughtered, but it was now standing between the throne and the four living beings and among the twenty-four elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which represent the sevenfold Spirit of God that is sent out into every part of the earth.*

Because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, there is victory over sin and death.

We need to remember that the number seven signifies fullness and completeness in the book of Revelation.

The reason Jesus can open the scroll is because He was slain and, by His blood, ransomed men and women for God.

Revelation 5:9-10 ⁹ *And they sang a new song with these words: "You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals and open it. For you were slaughtered, and your blood has ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. ¹⁰ And you have caused them to become a Kingdom of priests for our God. And they will reign on the earth."*

This hymn tells us that we were liberated; we were emancipated from the misery and the slavery of sin.

This hymn celebrates our kingdom citizenship. It is God's intention that people from every part of the world be in His kingdom.

Toward the end of Revelation 5, the singing accelerates and intensifies:

Revelation 5:11-14 ¹¹ *Then I looked again, and I heard the voices of thousands and millions of angels around the throne and of the living beings and the elders. ¹² And they sang in a mighty chorus: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered—to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing."*

¹³ And then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea. They sang: "Blessing and honor and glory and power belong to the one sitting on the throne and to the Lamb forever and ever."

¹⁴ And the four living beings said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped the Lamb.

This vision is more than just a glimpse into the future, a glimpse of what heaven will be like. It is about now. It tells us what worship ought to be like for us at all times.

Conclusion

Jesus is worthy to take the scroll, open its seals, and bring this world to an end for the glory of His name and the good of His ransomed people.

Knowing the future, we need to join with the heavenly hosts and worship the King of Kings with all our hearts.