

Revelation 5:L5-14
 Worthy is the Lamb
 Study 20

5 But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.” **6** And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. **7** Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. **8** Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. **9** And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, **10** And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.” **11** Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, **12** saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!” **13** And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: “Blessing and honor and glory and power *Be* to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!” **14** Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

“Jesus is worthy of our worship”.

- How often have you heard this in church circles or said in conversation - “Jesus is worship of our worship”
 - Personally, I think it’s said so often without giving it it’s proper weight in our hearts
 - That for some it has become more of a rote statement of just textbook theology,
 - and misses the reality of the truth of what’s being said
- Giving worship means to ascribe worth. Literally, the word means to kiss the hand towards one. It’s a token of reverence.
 - True worship is the acknowledgment of God and all His power and glory in everything we do.

- Of course, the highest form of praise and worship is obedience to Him and His Word.
 - To do this, we must know God; we cannot be ignorant of Him.
 - Worship is to glorify and exalt God—to show our loyalty and admiration to our Redeemer.
- When we say that “Jesus is worthy of our worship”,
 - It should come from the heart of a redeemed soul that has experienced the depths of His love and mercy and grace
 - From a place of genuine realization of just how holy and majestic and awesome He really is
 - From one who has realized all that Jesus is and all that Jesus has done for us, in spite of ourselves
- When the worth of Jesus is realized, worship will happen
 - That’s as true for angels; as it is for man
 - When the worth and worthiness of Jesus is recognized, apprehended and realized, He **will** be worshipped.

This is what we see in our text this morning.

- The worthiness of Jesus is recognized and known by all in heaven
 - And the result is utter and complete worship of He who alone is worthy!
 - It truly is an awesome display, and one we can learn much from
- What we read happening here, and what we know John was given privilege to witness up close and personal
 - Is a demonstration of the worthiness of Jesus
 - Not just in what He is able to do, but also in who He is
 - And it’s that demonstration that causes all of heaven to worship Jesus

When John is taken to heaven and into the throne room of God

- He sees God the Father sitting on His throne
 - And in His right hand is a scroll with 7 seals – what I believe is the title deed to the earth
- And, as the scene in heaven focuses upon that scroll
 - John hears a loud voice coming from what looks to be a strong angel and he says
 - “who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals”

- And as John realizes there was no one worthy enough in heaven, nor on earth, nor under the earth
 - It causes him to weep uncontrollably
- And this is where we kind of left things last week.
 - We briefly looked at verses 5-7, but we would be good to revisit them
 - So look again starting in verse 5...
 - **5** But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”

As John is weeping, not knowing the outcome of the dilemma that no one could open the scroll

- One of the 24 elders – representing the church
 - Tells John to dry his eyes. Stop crying.
 - And then this elder introduces into the scene for the first time – Jesus!
- Now, we will look at these titles that this elder gives Jesus
 - But can we pause for a moment of application?
 - Because the exhortation from this elder is the best counsel ever.
 - In a nutshell, his counsel is this: stop crying and look at Jesus!
- For those who counsel, for those who need counseling...looking to Jesus IS the answer you need
 - Here at Calvary, we will endeavor to always point you to Jesus in times of hardship
 - And that’s because we don’t have the answers you need, but we know the One that does.
 - This is a huge point of application for every single Christian
- John 16:33 Jesus said “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will[d] have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”
 - “looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” – Hebrews 12:2

So, this elder tells John, stop crying...look! It's Jesus!

- “Behold! Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals”
 - Jesus is first introduced as the Lion of the tribe of Judah and the Root of David – both Messianic titles
- The title Lion of the tribe of Judah is a reference to Genesis 49:9-10
 - Where Jacob on his death bed prophesies that the Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah
 - The Lion also speaks to

The title Root of David is very interesting.

- Isaiah 11 predicts the Messiah would come from the branch of David
 - Verse 1 says “There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.”
 - But a stem, or branch, is different than the root, isn't it.
- Verse 10 of Isaiah 11 says; “And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people”
 - So we see that the Messiah will be both a branch of David AND the Root of Jesse (Jesse is David's father BTW)
 - This is actually spoken about in Revelation 22:16
 - “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”
- See, as far as Jesus' humanity is concerned – Jesus had His roots in David
 - But as far as His Divinity is concerned - Jesus is the root of Jesse
 - Jesus, as Man, came from the lineage of David – He's the branch of David
 - And because He is God, it is also true that He is the Root of David
 - Meaning He proceeded David
- All this speaking of the dual nature of Jesus
 - That Jesus is both fully God and fully Man in nature; two natures were perfectly united in the one person of Jesus Christ
 - “one person in two natures, unmixed, unchanged, undivided, inseparable” – Creed of Chalcedon
 - In theological terms this is called the Theanthropos

John is told to stop crying. Why?

- Because Jesus is the Messiah! He is the anointed One
 - He is the worthy One!

- He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah and He is the Root of David
- And, as verse 5 says, He “has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals”
 - Good news, John! Look to Jesus! He has prevailed!
 - There’s no need to worry or fret.

I can almost picture in my mind John whipping away his tears and turning to face the direction Elder gestured to

- And what do you suppose John expected to see when he turned?
 - If it were me, I would expect to see a Lion
 - But when John faces Jesus, what does he actually see?
- Verse 6 “And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

When John turned to see, he saw, not a Lion but a Lamb.

- And we will take a look at this Lamb in more detail, but let me make a broad statement about this first
 - Whenever we see Jesus portrayed as a Lion in scripture,
 - it always speaks of destruction and devouring (Hosea 5:14), and used of His vengeance in the tribulation period
- Which, one might think, would seem an appropriate description of Jesus
 - Here in the book that speaks specifically of the destruction of the wicked
 - But the fact that He is first seen as the Lamb holds great significance
- See, the Lion of Judah must first be the Lamb of God
 - In order to purchase redemption
 - And earn the right to go forth as a Lion in judgment
- And here we see the awesome character of God
 - Grace and mercy always precede judgment
 - As someone one said “In one brilliant stroke John portrays the central theme of NT revelation—victory through sacrifice” (Mounce)
 - The Lion and the Lamb says that He who is the Redeemer is also the Revenger.

There are several ways in which the Lamb is described here in these verses that I want us to take a look at

- First, the word Lamb is used 186 times in the scriptures; 29 of which are used here in the book of Revelation
 - The word in revelation <arnion> is the word used for “little lamb”
 - And is used exclusively here in the book of Revelation with one exception
 - In John’s gospel, chapter 21: **15** So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Feed My lambs.”
- This little Lamb is described looking as though it had been slain
 - This Lamb bears the marks of His sacrifice
 - This “it had been slain” offers us imagery of the sacrifice being “fresh and current before God the Father” (Guzik)
- Many have heard the quip that only man-made thing in heaven will be the scars of the Savior
 - And the freshness of this visual image shouts to the rooftop
 - That the sacrifice of Christ is still as effective today as it was 2000 years ago when He died.

The Bible tells us that heaven and earth will pass away

- And the former things will pass (Rev 21)
 - But one wonders: Will the scars of the Messiah ever be erased?
 - I really don’t know but what I see here in our text is that
 - They serve as a testimony of His love, His resurrection from the dead, and His identity as Redeemer.
- All this points back to the cross at Calvary.
 - And the sacrifice offered once for all that has eternal lasting significance and effectiveness
 - I like Clark’s comments on this passage: ““As if now *in the act of being offered*. This is very remarkable; so important is the sacrificial offering of Christ in the sight of God that he is still represented as being in the very act of pouring out his blood for the offences of man. This gives great advantage to faith; when any soul comes to the throne of grace, he finds a sacrifice there provided for him to offer to God. Thus all succeeding generations find they have the *continual* sacrifice ready, and the newly-shed blood to offer.”

Notice also the place of the Lamb in verse 6 “in the midst of the throne”

- It seems Jesus had been in the midst of the throne the whole time. How could John have missed Him?
 - Maybe because John was looking for a Lion or maybe John had his own preconceived presumptions on how Jesus would appear in heaven
 - That it caused him to miss Him in the middle of things
- Such a reminder to all of us to be looking for Jesus in the midst of our meetings, of our ministering, of our music.
 - He may not appear the way you think He ought
 - Reminds me of a quote from CS Lewis’ Lion, Witch and Wardrobe
 - ““He'll be coming and going" he had said. "One day you'll see him and another you won't. He doesn't like being tied down--and of course he has other countries to attend to. It's quite all right. He'll often drop in. Only you mustn't press him. He's wild, you know. Not like a tame lion.”
- Let’s not presume; but let’s be looking
 - Miss Him in your midst and you will eventually be overwhelmed, like John was
 - even in spiritual activities.
 - Look for Him, find Him, and you will avoid the weeping.

One interesting characteristic of the Lamb that could be easily missed if we move too fast is His condition.

- Again, verse 6 says that in the midst... “stood” a Lamb.
 - Isn’t that interesting? He “stood”
 - The Greek rendering is “having stood”
 - Meaning He stood up; He rose up
- When Jesus died and rose again, He ascended into heaven and did what?
 - Mark 16:19 “ So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.”
 - Very interesting that now He is standing.
 - Psalm 110:1 “The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”
- And this is exactly what we are seeing. He is no longer sitting because the Day of the Lord is at hand

- Jesus, having been seated at the right hand of the Father for millennia
 - Has now stood and taken the scroll
 - And the Father is making the Son's enemies His footstool
 - This is a fulfillment of the Messianic prophecy

The last descriptions we see of this little Lamb, is that it had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth

- Having already dealt with the later portion of that –
 - the seven spirits of God possibly being the seven angels around the throne in Revelation doing the work of the judgments
- But now this description is connected with the Son of God – the Lamb
 - Who has 7 horns and 7 eyes
 - Speaking of His complete omnipotence and omniscience
 - The eyes representing knowledge of all things – Jesus has complete knowledge. He is omniscience
 - And horns in the Bible represent control and authority
- Some ask the question – does John really see a Lamb with 7 eyes and 7 horns, or is this just figurative language?
 - Well, remember that we should take things literally unless the text indicates allegory.
 - To me, there's nothing here in the text to indicate allegory or that John is speaking figuratively.
 - I personally think John saw exactly what he said he saw
- BUT...I think Jesus presented Himself in such a way as to speak symbolically to His complete control, authority and omniscience.

There are some who link these 7 horns of Jesus to the scene in Joshua 6

- Because there we see a reference to 7 horns in the conquest of Jericho
 - Joshua 6:2 And the Lord said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, *and* the mighty men of valor. **3** You shall march around the city, all *you* men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days.
 - **4** And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. **5** It shall come to pass, when they make a long

blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him."

- So, before the Ark are these 7 priests blowing 7 rams' horns
 - And so there are some who see the 7 horns of the Lamb in Revelation
 - That it represents the completeness of God's plan of victory over Jericho
 - 7 horns blowing by priest before the Ark of God
 - Announcing that God is going to give us a victory in Jericho
- And here we have a picture in heaven that if we connect the two
 - We have a Lamb of God who died for our sins
 - With 7 horns announcing His great victory
 - Not just over Jericho, but over the entire earth
 - And the 7 eyes that indicate omniscience and the complete knowledge of all that is hidden for perfect judgment,
 - and the 7 spirits of God which are the angels sent forth to carry out those judgments
- Not something anyone should put a stake in the ground about
 - But it is an interesting thought as we use scripture to interpret scripture

So, back to the scene in heaven....John is watching all this unfurl before his eyes.

- The emotional roller-coaster of weeping and watching
 - Being told that the Lion of Judah and the Root of David is worthy to open the scroll
 - John swings around to see a small, precious Lamb bearing the marks of sacrifice
 - The sacrifice and scars, I'm sure, John realized were for him – just as we realize they are for you and me
- This Lamb having 7 eyes and 7 horns....
 - Possibly reminding John of the victory given by God to His people even back in Joshua's day
 - All culminating in one moment of time,
 - the realization of the worth of Jesus comes bearing down on all creation

- And what happens? – The only thing that could happen.
 - The only thing that should happen.
 - The only thing that needs to happen
 - when a redeemed soul recognizes the worth and worthiness of Jesus Christ!
 - **WORSHIP ERUPTS!**

8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. **9** And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, **10** And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.” **11** Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, **12** saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!” **13** And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: “Blessing and honor and glory and power *Be* to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!” **14** Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

When Jesus is shown to be worthy and reasons are given WHY He is worthy –

- Heaven just erupts with praise and worship!
 - The 24 elders, the four living creatures..
 - Verse 13 tells us that “every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such are in the sea, and all that are in them...”
 - I think John has captured just about every part of creation
 - All of them give blessing and honor and glory and power to the One who sits on the throne!
- THAT is the power of knowing Jesus and seeing Who He truly is
 - It will cause the heart of those who love Him to worship Him who lives forever and ever

And can I point out something interesting that I see here?

- Jesus is revealed and John is being taught things about Jesus that he has never seen before
 - And He is seeing even more clearly than ever before the worth and worthiness of Christ
 - What He's done. Who He is. The utter importance of Jesus in light over all things
 - All these things take place in the heart of John
- AND THEN as a response to what he has seen and what he recognizes
 - And as a response to realizing the greatness of God
 - As a response worships with all the rest of God's creation!
 - And they worship with music and singing!

You know, it has always bothered me a bit

- When I hear others say that worship prepares us to hear God's word
 - And that worship brings us into God's presence and enables us to receive all that He wants to say
 - That the experience of worship prepares the heart to receive the message that God has
- I understand why this is said, but look at what's going on in heaven.
 - Jesus is revealed, Jesus is realized and THEN worship of Jesus happens through song.
 - It's a response to who He is, not a preamble to get into His presence
- Some times, and I would say more often than we think,
 - Worship through song is a natural outflow of a heart that has an encounter with God

Next week we will look in-depth into the song – a teaching btw that you don't want to miss

- As we will look at the most definitive reason for the pre-tribulational rapture position
 - But be that as it may, this morning I want to leave us with a challenge and a response
 - As the worship team comes up to lead us in song
- I was moved this morning to follow the heavenly model here in our passage
 - and give opportunity for a response to God's word through song

But before we sing, let me offer a challenge for us all.

- How important is worship to you

- Again, some view worship as the “warm up” – what some have called “Christian calisthenics”
 - It’s what we do to get people awake to hear the message
 - I know a lot of pastors see it that way
- I think other see worship as filling time
 - Something that gives them a chance to park their car or get their kids in class
 - I know some of you use the worship time for just that
- Sadly, I think there are even those who see worship as a waste of time
 - Oh maybe not in word, but in attitude certain as you roll in late every week
 - Or arrive right as worship ends every week

And so let me ask again - How important is worship to you?

- In view of scripture, how important should worship be to you?
 - When Jesus was having a conversation with a woman at a well in John 4
 - In verse 23, Jesus makes a remarkable statement
- He says:
 - “**23** But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him”
 - The Father is seeking something..what is it?
 - People to worship Him in spirit and in truth
- What we learn from this is the priority God the Father puts on worship
 - How does that change your view, your attitude and how you will approach worship in the weeks to come?