

*A Throne Room View of Worship:
Jesus Christ the Worthy Centerpiece of Worship
Revelation 5*

Introduction

Last time I had the opportunity to speak to you (December) we looked at the throne-room view of worship as seen in Revelation 4. The chapter preceding Revelation 5 gives us the first half of John's insight into the dialogue of worship. John is transported in the Spirit to see the "dialogue of worship" where he observes the One on the throne being worshiped. This scene is frozen in time as it is recorded in this Book, and yet it is a procession that is continuously taking place before the Throne of God. Further, this is the pattern of all true worship that the Church of every age is blessed to "hear and keep". John saw, "the One" on the throne and all those around him who stated truths about who God was. We ultimately saw that God is the Creator of all things, the first cause of all things. Revelation is known for dealing with the subject of "last things"; we see truly that God Almighty is the "First and the Last" and indeed everything in between.

Revelation 5 begins again with "Him who was seated on the throne" in verse 1. Chapter 5 transitions in focus from the *One* who sits on the throne and onto the scroll that is held in his right hand, to Jesus Christ, the only one worthy of opening the scroll.

As we approach Revelation 5 this morning, I am still assuming that Revelation 1:3 is still true.

³ Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

I. The Question and the dilemma

A. "Who is worthy?" v.2

The problem that exists is that the One who sits on the throne has in his right hand a scroll that is sealed with seven seals. There is a close parallel to Daniel 12:4

⁴ But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end.

The scroll represents the perfect and just will of God. To the heavens and the earth it means the final defeat of evil forever; to the church it means eternal life and the recreation of all life in the Kingdom of God.

John did not weep because he could not see what was in the scroll but because he longed to see the defeat of evil forever and the final gathering of God's people to Himself.

1. "No one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able" v.3
2. "No one was found worthy" v.4

Truly there is no one worthy or righteous.

Romans 3:10: “as it is written: None is righteous, no, not one”

Let this weigh on us awhile; contemplate the hopeless condition of man without Christ. God created man good but man fell in the garden and in Adam all have died. The life that God created had now began to give birth to death in every generation. Think about the pervasive effects of the Fall of Adam in the Garden. Without Christ we are left dead in our sins.

II. The Answer in two commands

A. “Weep no more” and “Behold”

1. The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David

Genesis 49:9-10

⁹ 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?

¹⁰ The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him,^[a] and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

Comment [CW1]: The Lion is a symbol used often in the Old and New Testaments for Conquering and the One who will Conquer

Comment [CW2]: Jesus Christ comes from the blood lines of David. He is the perfect King prophecies in the OT

Isaiah 11:1-5

¹ There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

² 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.

³ 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,

⁴ 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.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

Jesus Christ is He whom these prophecies point to. He is the One whom the apostle John, exiled and persecuted by evil men, longed for. This is the foundation of why our church exists, and this is the defeat of evil forever and life without end. Amen!

2. “Has conquered so that He can”

This is in contrast to v.3 “No one . . . was able” now v.5 reveals that “He can!” We see this life-changing, heaven and earth restoring attribute of Christ: He is worthy! This is Revelation literally in action, Christ is being revealed to us as the worthy sacrifice. Furthermore, he is worthy to open the scrolls that contain the express intent and will of God.

Man tried to reach God by keeping the Law, but the law was weak in bringing salvation to the dying. God came himself to save us; His Son, Jesus Christ died in the stead of man and resurrected from the dead bringing life now to the Church. Through Christ life is Recreated and through birth in him this life is given, reversing the effects of Adam.

C.S. Lewis in his book the Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe uses a Lion named Aslan to illustrate truth about Christ. I want us to watch a clip from a recent film adapted from his book that illustrates the victory of Christ’s sacrifice over evil and his fulfillment of the requirements of the Law. After the clip we’ll respond in song and then I’ll finish the vision of Revelation 5.

Clip for the Chronicles of Narnia played at this time

Sing In Christ Alone

Let’s continue on in Revelation 5 and see the story unfold.

III. The Will of God accomplished and revealed in Christ as he takes the scroll (vs. 6-7)

- A. Christ, the victorious Lion was slain. He won the victory by dying.
 - 1. “as though it had been slain” vs. 6
- B. He took the scroll! vs. 7
 - 1. Christ fulfills the Law and accomplishes the will of God

As we discussed two months ago in chapter 4, worship is a response to truth about who God is; and in chapter 5 there is also a response; O there is a response!

IV. The Response vs. 8

- A. They four living creatures and the 24 elders fall down
- B. They sing a new song

⁹"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,

¹⁰and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

"When we were just sinners Christ died for us."

"but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8)

- C. There is even a response to the response; this is truly what worship is all about!

1. All of creation worships Christ. Because just as God is worthy as the Creator, Christ is the "Recreator" of all Life. He is the Resurrection from the dead, He is eternal life. Adam was Created by God, but Adam fell and in him all of us died in sin. But, in Christ we are resurrected, we live in Him.

Comment [CW3]: Raising to new life in Christ; Christ being raised to the Right Hand of the Father; Transformation and power

Conclusion

And so we see that the worship of God and the exalting of His Son, Jesus Christ takes place continuously without end. The process of it being that God is seen for who he is and all of creation responds. Let's now join that eternal procession and worship Jesus Christ, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Lamb that was slain, who has ransomed us as His people to God, who has made us a Kingdom and priests before our God. This morning as we have seen and heard the truth about who Jesus Christ is Let us respond in worship

Jeremy pray Revelation 5:9-10

Our Response

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

He is Exalted

Shout to the North