

Worthy is the Lamb

Revelation 5:1-14

Introduction:

The Challenging Task of Revelation: John Calvin, 16th-century pastor and theologian and one of the premier theologians in Christian history, wrote commentaries on nearly every book of the Bible... **except Revelation**. One apocryphal story says that when asked why, he essentially said, “I don’t get it.” That makes me feel a little better about my confusion when I read about baby-eating dragons,¹ a seven-eyed,² seven-horned lamb, and golden-crowned, human-faced, lion-teethed scorpion locusts.³ Calvin saw that seven-headed beast and was like, “Nope, I’m out.”⁴

- **Some** of us avoid Revelation altogether—too weird! **Others** get obsessed with it—charts, timelines, and conspiracy theories.
- But Revelation isn’t a riddle to decode. It’s not a puzzle for prophecy nerds. It’s a **revelation**—an unveiling of what’s true. And what’s true, more than anything else, is this: **Jesus wins**.
- It was written to real churches in real history facing real persecution and is using **apocalyptic imagery** and **kaleidoscopic visions** to calling believers to faithful endurance and victory.

The Throne Room: In Revelation 5, we’re invited into the throne room of heaven. It’s filled with OT imagery—angels representing the heavenly hosts, elders representing the redeemed people of God, and creatures representing all of creation. At the center, God is holding a scroll—sealed, mysterious, sacred. This scroll represents his plan to bring justice, redemption, and new creation. This scroll, however, is sealed shut with seven seals. And a mighty angel asks the central question we all need to ask: Who is worthy to open the scroll?

- This may very well be **the question**: Who is worthy? Who is worthy to make things right? Who can bring justice to the broken? Who can redeem what has been lost?
- It’s a question humanity keeps asking in a thousand different ways. It’s the heart of **Arthur’s sword in the stone**—only the worthy can lift it. It’s the premise of **Thor’s hammer**—only the worthy can wield its power. These stories echo a more profound longing: **Is there anyone who can carry the weight of glory?** It’s not just a cosmic question—it’s personal.

¹ 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. ² And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴ and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has

¹ Rev 12:1-6

² Rev 5:6

³ Rev 9:3-10

⁴ Rev 13:1

conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”⁶ 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.⁷ And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne.⁸ 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.⁹ 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,¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”¹¹ 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,¹² 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!”¹³ 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!”¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.⁵

1. Unsolvability Problem (vv. 1-5)

¹ 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.

The Plan of God: God, the king, is on his throne.⁶ In his right hand is this sealed scroll. His complete, sovereign plan for history.

- It is full of writing on the front, back, inside, and outside. It is completely full. There is nothing left out and no space to add any more. “The completeness of his rule and the perfection of his decrees is signified by the fact that... the scroll is packed. There are no spaces for later additions, as though the King of the universe could overlook some

⁵ ¹ Καὶ εἶδον ἐπὶ τὴν δεξιὰν τοῦ καθημένου ἐπὶ τοῦ θρόνου βιβλίον γεγραμμένον ἔσωθεν καὶ ὀπισθεν κατεσφραγισμένον σφραγίσιν ἑπτὰ. ² καὶ εἶδον ἄγγελον ἰσχυρὸν κηρύσσοντα ἐν φωνῇ μεγάλῃ, Τίς ἄξιός ἀνοῖξαι τὸ βιβλίον καὶ λῦσαι τὰς σφραγίδας αὐτοῦ; ³ καὶ οὐδεὶς ἐδύνατο ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ οὐδὲ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς οὐδὲ ὑποκάτω τῆς γῆς ἀνοῖξαι τὸ βιβλίον οὔτε βλέπειν αὐτό. ⁴ καὶ ἔκλαιον πολὺ, ὅτι οὐδεὶς ἄξιός εὐρέθη ἀνοῖξαι τὸ βιβλίον οὔτε βλέπειν αὐτό. ⁵ καὶ εἷς ἐκ τῶν πρεσβυτέρων λέγει μοι, Μὴ κλαῖε, ἰδοὺ ἐνίκησεν ὁ λέων ὁ ἐκ τῆς φυλῆς Ἰούδα, ἡ ρίζα Δαυὶδ, ἀνοῖξαι τὸ βιβλίον καὶ τὰς ἑπτὰ σφραγίδας αὐτοῦ. ⁶ Καὶ εἶδον ἐν μέσῳ τοῦ θρόνου καὶ τῶν τεσσάρων ζώων καὶ ἐν μέσῳ τῶν πρεσβυτέρων ἄρνιον ἑστηκὸς ὡς ἐσφαγμένον ἔχων κέρατα ἑπτὰ καὶ ὀφθαλμοὺς ἑπτὰ οἱ εἰσὶν τὰ [ἑπτὰ] πνεύματα τοῦ θεοῦ ἀπεσταλμένοι εἰς πᾶσαν τὴν γῆν. ⁷ καὶ ἦλθεν καὶ εἴληφεν ἐκ τῆς δεξιᾶς τοῦ καθημένου ἐπὶ τοῦ θρόνου. ⁸ καὶ ὅτε ἔλαβεν τὸ βιβλίον, τὰ τέσσαρα ζῶα καὶ οἱ εἴκοσι τέσσαρες πρεσβύτεροι ἔπεσαν ἐνώπιον τοῦ ἁρνίου ἔχοντες ἕκαστος κιθάραν καὶ φιάλας χρυσᾶς γεμούσας θυμιαμάτων, αἱ εἰσὶν αἱ προσευχαὶ τῶν ἁγίων, ⁹ καὶ ᾄδουσιν ᾠδὴν καινὴν λέγοντες, Ἄξιός εἰ λαβεῖν τὸ βιβλίον καὶ ἀνοῖξαι τὰς σφραγίδας αὐτοῦ, ὅτι ἐσφάγης καὶ ἡγόρασας τῷ θεῷ ἐν τῷ αἵματί σου ἐκ πάσης φυλῆς καὶ γλώσσης καὶ λαοῦ καὶ ἔθνους ¹⁰ καὶ ἐποίησας αὐτοὺς τῷ θεῷ ἡμῶν βασιλείαν καὶ ἱερεῖς, καὶ βασιλεύσουσιν ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς. ¹¹ Καὶ εἶδον, καὶ ἤκουσα φωνὴν ἀγγέλων πολλῶν κύκλῳ τοῦ θρόνου καὶ τῶν ζώων καὶ τῶν πρεσβυτέρων, καὶ ἦν ὁ ἀριθμὸς αὐτῶν μυριάδες μυριάδων καὶ χιλιάδες χιλιάδων ¹² λέγοντες φωνῇ μεγάλῃ, Ἄξιόν ἐστιν τὸ ἄρνιον τὸ ἐσφαγμένον λαβεῖν τὴν δύναμιν καὶ πλοῦτον καὶ σοφίαν καὶ ἰσχύον καὶ τιμὴν καὶ δόξαν καὶ εὐλογίαν. ¹³ καὶ πᾶν κτίσμα ὃ ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς καὶ ὑποκάτω τῆς γῆς καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς θαλάσσης καὶ τὰ ἐν αὐτοῖς πάντα ἤκουσα λέγοντας, Τῷ καθημένῳ ἐπὶ τῷ θρόνῳ καὶ τῷ ἁρνίῳ ἡ εὐλογία καὶ ἡ τιμὴ καὶ ἡ δόξα καὶ τὸ κράτος εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. ¹⁴ καὶ τὰ τέσσαρα ζῶα ἔλεγον, Ἀμήν. καὶ οἱ πρεσβύτεροι ἔπεσαν καὶ προσεκύνησαν.

⁶ Right hand = power, authority.

eventuality. The plan is complete, it is full, it is safe in the right hand of the King, and he is on the throne” (Piper)

- A scroll would have been familiar to the people because their copies of Scripture were in scrolls (e.g., Torah, Marc Lee Raphael, W&M). The scroll contained the inviolable Word of God! This is why we center Scripture btw. God’s plan of judgment and redemption is laid out in the Spirit-inspired narrative of the Bible.
- God’s message is contained in this scroll. What does it say? What’s the plan? *A good rule of reading the Bible. If you don’t know what something means, just keep reading.

Judgment: There were hints! ““And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. 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” (Ezek 2:9-10).⁷

- The following chapters show what occurs when each of the seals is opened. The terrifying, awe-inspiring, unstoppable judgment of God.
- On the surface, the seals (and trumpets and bowls) in Revelation are terrifying: famine, war, plagues, and cosmic collapse. But there is **joy in the judgment**—a deeply biblical joy rooted in justice, vindication, and the faithfulness of God.
 - In judgment, God avenges the persecution of his oppressed and suffering people.⁸ For the persecuted and crushed, judgment is justice and justice brings joy. God’s judgment is proof that your suffering isn’t ignored, your tears aren’t wasted, and the enemy didn’t win.
 - Judgment clears the way for God’s eternal reign.⁹ The wicked, evil systems of this world must be dismantled for the new creation and eternal kingdom of God to be established.
 - Judgment is **surgical**: it removes evil so healing can begin. There can be no restoration without reckoning. Like tilling the soil, judgment breaks up the hard-packed soil of injustice and sin to make fertile ground for God’s new creation to bloom.
 - Judgment isn’t the end of God’s plan, it’s the beginning of God’s renewal.
 - Judgment and joy are two sides of the same redemptive coin.
- Why don’t we long for the judgment of God? For some, because we’re comfortable in the broken systems of the world. We don’t long for God’s judgment because we’ve confused comfort with peace.
 - And if we’re honest, we know that judgment is coming for us too because we **all** have sinned and [fallen] short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23). That’s the **bad news**. We’re not innocent observers in the sin of the world but active participants.
 - But the **good news** is that the only righteous One has taken our judgment on Himself. He stood in our place, bore our sin, and absorbed the wrath we deserved. “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness” (1 Pet 2:24).

⁷ Cf. Dan 7:9-12

⁸ Rev 6:10

⁹ Rev 11:15

- If we turn to him in faith, we will be saved.¹⁰ We don't have to fear the judgment of God; we can long for it, because it means the end of evil, the triumph of grace, and the coming of our King.
- The Bible tells us peace doesn't come by ignoring evil. It comes when the Lamb opens the scroll and sets things right.

No One Worthy: ² And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴ and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.

- This is the question: Who is worthy?
 - We need someone to bring about God's justice, to accomplish God's plan. But it's sealed shut, because only one who is worthy can open it. An imposter won't do.
- But there is no one worthy. No one in heaven or on earth or under the earth. You can look high and low. You can search the skies and scour the seas. You can go to the flip through the pages of history. Search the highest heights and the deepest depths. Flip through the pages of history or peer into the possibilities of the future and there is none who is worthy.
- And it's not for lack of trying. The world is full of people who *claim* to be worthy.
 - *One politician stated, in reference to contemporary political problems, "I alone can fix it."¹¹
 - Madonna once said she wouldn't "be happy until [she's] as famous as God."¹²
 - Muhammad Ali famously claimed, "I am the greatest."¹³
 - Caesar Augustus called himself the "Son of God"¹⁴
 - Jay-Z called himself "Hova," short for "Jehovah."¹⁵
- All the glory seekers of this world stay on the sidelines. They're silent now. In heaven, no one boasts.
- The most powerful ruler, the most intelligent mind, the most eloquent speaker, the most kindhearted missionary—none of them can open the scroll. Not one.

Weeping Despair: The only response to the situation is weeping in despair. The power we need, none of us possesses. The righteousness we require, none of us can achieve. The worth we seek, none of us has.

- Despair is the inevitable result when you stand before God and realize the thing you worshipped wasn't worthy to hold your hope.
 - The **relationship** you thought would complete you didn't touch your loneliness.
 - The **promotion** you thought would validate you couldn't cover your insecurity.
 - The **payday** you thought would secure you just made you want more.

¹⁰ Acts 16:31)

¹¹ Donald J. Trump, Republican National Convention (2016).

¹² *Madonna: Like an Icon*

¹³ Post-fight press conference after defeating Sonny Liston (1964).

¹⁴ Ca. 27 BC to 14 AD. *Divi Filius* inscribed on Roman coins.

¹⁵ E.g., "U Don't Know," "Otis"

- It is a beautifully painful necessity to recognize that none of us are worthy (e.g., Chris' funeral, I don't have the words to comfort, I don't have the hope to soothe, etc.). I am not able to fix what only God can. What we need only God can accomplish.

Good News: ⁵ 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."

- One of the representatives of God's redeemed people tells John that there is one who can open the scroll! There is one who is worthy. Who is this one worthy of our worship?

The Identity (Who he is): There is no other who is worthy.

- He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah. The messianic ruler promised all the way back in Genesis 49. He is a lion, full of regal power and strength.
- He is the Root of David. A callback to the promise of the prophets¹⁶ that out of the tree of David would come a perfect king to save God's people. Jesus is the source (e.g., root) and fulfillment of that promise.¹⁷

The Victory (What he did): It's not just Jesus' identity that qualifies him for worship, but his victory! He has defeated death and the grave.

- He has conquered.
 - We don't have to weep anymore, because consolation we longed for has finally come.
 - Our weeping has an expiration date. There will be a day with no more tears. A day when "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away" (Rev 21:4).
 - When you're weeping over the brokenness of the world—or of your own life—look to the Lion who conquered. One day we will weep no more not because our pain isn't real but because our redeemer is that much greater.
- This is what we celebrate at **Easter**. Jesus has defeated Satan, sin, and death.
- "Satan is described as a lion (1 Pet 5:8). Jesus is described as a lion (Rev 5:5). One is on a leash. The other is on the throne" (Smethurst).
 - Jesus is not simply sympathetic to our pain but victorious over our enemies.
 - And the call for God's people in Revelation is to join him in conquering¹⁸ (e.g., to the one who conquers (cf. 3:21). "They conquered... by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony" (Rev 12:11).
 - We get to share in his triumph. Death and sin have actually been defeated. **We don't fight for victory, we fight from victory.** The Lamb has already overcome, and so will we, if we follow him.

The elder says, "Weep no more." Someone has been found worthy. We're told **who** he is (the Lion of Judah) and **what** he has done (he has conquered). It's completely understandable why

¹⁶ Is 11:1-10

¹⁷ Cf. Matt 22:45

¹⁸ Rev 2:7, 10-11, 26; 3:5, 21; 12:11, 21:7

the people might expect a warrior-king with military might. But the victory they expect is nothing like the Savior they behold. **How** he conquers is not by force but by sacrifice.

2. Unlikely Solution (vv. 6-10)

⁶ 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 seven¹⁹ spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

Saul and David: Remember the Israelites? They wanted a king so they could be strong like the nations around them. So they chose Saul—the tall, handsome warrior. He *looked* like a king. But when the Philistines sent out their nine-foot giant, even Saul hid in his tent.

- Then David steps forward—a shepherd boy too small to fit into Saul's armor. The Israelites doubted. The Philistines jeered. Because they expected a champion, but God sent a servant. And the servant won.
- In Revelation 5, they expected a Lion, but it turned out to be a Lamb.
 - Note the difference between what John hears and sees.²⁰
 - He hears a description that would fit expectations of a political and militaristic Jewish messianic conqueror, and he sees a slain lamb. What he sees interprets what he hears.
 - They hear about this strong, royal, victorious Lion, but see a Lamb, slain. The surprise isn't that the Lion was missing, but that the Lion is the Lamb, and the Lamb has conquered.

Lamb is On the Throne: This isn't just any lamb. This lamb is [on] the throne (lit, in the middle of the throne). The lamb is on God's throne because he is God. And all the concentric circles of worship (e.g., creatures, elders, angels, creation) are orbiting around him. He is the gravitation center of heaven. Everything bows to him.

- They are worshipping the lamb as God because he *is* God.²¹ He is all knowing (seven eyes) and all powerful (seven horns). He is not an accessory to God's plan, he is the center of it. **The lamb is at the center of it all.**
- Jesus is at the center of the throne, the center of worship, the center of history, the center of salvation. We have nothing—no hope, no forgiveness, no future—without the slain lamb.
- Is Jesus at the center of your life? Is Jesus on the throne of your heart? Or is he simply one therapeutic option among many? One spiritual path among many? Is he a useful means of accomplishing your personal goals or the Lord whom you are called to surrender your life?
- In reality, he is the center of it all. And if he's not the center of your all then your life is built on on something that cannot hold.

¹⁹ Bracketed ἐπτά in Gk text because textual evidence is split (possibly added because of other two uses or omitted for the same reason).

²⁰ The difference between what they hear and what they see, cf. Rev 1:12, 7:2-9, 21:9-10

²¹ "John does not wish to represent Jesus as an alternative object of worship alongside God, but as one who shares in the glory due to God" (Bauckham).

The Paradox of Victory: The Lamb is standing (resurrected) as though it had been slain (crucified).

- The death of Christ achieves God's victory. The victorious kingdom doesn't come in spite of the cross, but through it. The crucified Messiah is not a contradiction, he's the fulfillment.
- His death was not a defeat but a victory.
 - The **shock of Friday** and the **silence of Saturday** didn't *feel* like a victory. And, for many of us, we're still living in that space between. But Sunday is coming.
- Almost no one could see and few could believe that God's messiah would conquer by dying. Dying feels like losing.
 - But Jesus didn't conquer by avoiding suffering, but by walking straight through it.
- The definition of power isn't domineering control—it's willing sacrifice.
 - The slaughtered, self-sacrificial Lamb is not powerless—He is the most powerful being in the universe. His death is not weakness—it is the very display of divine strength.
- One tech entrepreneur said: "Conquering death would be humanity's greatest achievement." (Bryan Johnson).²² But death has already been conquered—not by human innovation, but by divine sacrifice.

Passover Lamb: Hindsight is 20/20. The promise was there all along. In the **Passover**, the blood of the sacrificed lamb covered the people so God's judgment would pass over them. The lamb took the punishment in their place.

- On the **Day of Atonement** (*Yom Kippur*), a scapegoat symbolically carried the sins of the people into the wilderness. Over and over, God showed us: life for life.²³
- Jesus is "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world" (Jn 1:29, 36).
- But His was not a temporary sacrifice for a limited people.
- It was a once-for-all, global, eternal sacrifice for anyone, from anywhere, who would place their faith in Him.
- "Like a lamb led to the slaughter" (Is 53:7, Acts 8:32), our almighty Savior willingly went to his death to purchase us life.
- In Jesus Christ, we find the ultimate atonement.
 - But now in Christ Jesus, you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ (Eph 2:13).

²² X, Nov 24, 2023, 6:45 am

²³ Man on Fire (Denzel Washington). In the movie, Denzel Washington plays a retired special-forces soldier who is struggling with the bad things he did in the past. Throughout the movie he is wrestling with God, wondering if he can be forgiven for the bad things he's done. He is constantly on the brink of suicide. To make some money he takes on the job of being a bodyguard for a family in Mexico City, a city known for its kidnappings of the rich and famous. In the process he develops a wonderful friendship with a little girl. This girl captures his heart, teaches him how to be happy again. However, she is kidnapped. Creasy (Denzel's character) does his best to stop the kidnapping. He kills a few of the kidnappers and is shot multiple times himself. On the brink of death he hunts down those who kidnapped the little girl, Peta. In this clip, he finds out that Peta is alive... and he learns there is only one way to save her. He must sacrifice his life for her life.

- You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot (1 Pet 1:18-19).
- *If you have placed your faith in Jesus*, when God looks at you, he no longer sees your sin; he sees his son. You are covered by the blood of Jesus. God sees the righteousness of Christ. Your life is hidden with Christ in God (Col 3:3).
 - I have no righteousness of my own, no right to draw near your throne.²⁴ Yet you made a way.
- When God looks at us, He doesn't see our sin, failure, or unworthiness. Instead, He sees the righteousness of His Son. We have access to God's presence and eternal life—not because of who we are, but because of who he declares us to be.

On what basis do we enter God's presence? The blood of Jesus. "He became what we are so that He might make us what He is" (Athanasius).

Jesus Carries It: This all points to Jesus! He carries our sin away.²⁵ Jesus goes "outside the camp"²⁶ ⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. ⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? (Is 53:4-8).

- **Because Jesus went out, we can come in.** He left the glory of God's presence so we could enter. He bore our sin, so we could enjoy his righteousness. Jesus died the death you deserved to die, paid the price you were unable to pay, and provided access to God that was impossible for you to attain.
- For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Cor 5:21).
- On what basis do you stand before the throne of God? There is only one sufficient answer—Jesus, our slain Lamb. We are only ever welcomed into the presence of God because of what the Lamb has done.

They Sang: ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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, ¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

²⁴ HT "Grace Alone"

²⁵ Cf. Epistle of Barnabas

²⁶ Cf. Lev 16:27, Heb 13:12

- This kind of redemption, demands a response. So the elders and creatures sing a new song. Not a new *doctrine* but a fresh response.²⁷
- God has made us a kingdom [of] priests.

The only proper response to this kind of grace is worship.

3. Unstoppable Worship (vv. 11-14)

¹¹ 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, ¹² 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!” ¹³ 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!” ¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Heaven Sings: John looks again and now, all of heaven is singing. Why? Because the Lamb who was slain has conquered, and He is worthy of worship.

- This is not a polite hymn. This is a cosmic eruption.
- It’s loud. It’s layered. It’s limitless.
- Because worship is the only fitting response to the Lamb who was slain and now stands at the center of everything.

Everyone: And make no mistake: everyone joins in. No one is worthy (v. 3) so everyone worships (v. 13).

- This is your future!
- You can either worship Jesus now or you will be forced to acknowledge his worth later.
- The one who died on the cross and rose from the grave is the only one worthy of worship.

Conclusion

Worthy of Worship: We are all worshippers. We were all made to worship²⁸— and we all do! We either worship rightly or wrongly, to our eternal joy or our eternal despair. You either worship or you weep. “If there is no one worthy to open the scroll, then there will be no triumph for the gospel, no marriage supper of the Lamb, no new heaven and earth—only weeping” (Piper) But there is One worthy. And He was slain so we could sing, now and forever.

- If Jesus alone is worthy of our worship, then rid your life of anything you’ve elevated above Him.
- Join His mission to gather people from every tribe and tongue to His throne. “They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony...” (Rev. 12:11)

²⁷ Cf. Ps 33:3, 40:3

²⁸ Gen 2:15

- Is your life lived in worship to the only one that is worthy or some lesser thing? Nothing else can carry the weight of your worship. Only Jesus is worthy. Bow to His kingship. Trust in His sacrifice. Join the song that never ends.
- If Easter is real, and it is, it is not a quaint holiday on the Spring calendar but a cosmic, life-changing, unignorable reality to which we are all called to reorient our lives around. Only Jesus is worthy.