

Behold | Sermons through the Revelation

Sermon #11 | Revelation 5:1-14 | Behold, The Lion!

Revelation 5:1-7 | Looking For A Man Who is Worthy

- The scene: The Father on His throne.
 - The One sitting on the throne is the same as Revelation 4:2 and alluded to in Revelation 1:4.
 - Though it is often done, it is not Biblically correct to speak of “Christ on His throne.” Jesus will not be on His throne until the establishment of the Kingdom.
- The book: The title-deed of the earth.
 - As the revelation unfolds, we are not told the contents of the book. We are told what happens each time one of the seven seals of the book is opened.
 - There are a few references to the **book of the Lord** in the Old Testament: Isaiah 34:16 and Ezekiel 2:9-10.
- The dilemma: A Man that is worthy.
 - When John sees that **no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book**, he **wept much**.
 - The contents of this book must be of such importance that John is deeply grieved that it is not open.
- This scene is a key to understanding the plotline of the Hebrew Scriptures: *who is worthy?*
 - God gave the “title deed” of the earth to Adam in the Garden of Eden.
 - Adam, in his weakness, allowed that deed to be taken away by the serpent. Since that time, the serpent has been the **god of this age** (2 Cor. 4:4) and the **prince of the power of the air** (Eph. 2:2).
 - A Savior was promised who would crush the serpent, and thus retrieve the right of rule.
 - The Hebrew Scriptures take the reader on a guided tour of the ages, looking for the man who is worthy.
 - This is why the genealogies of the Hebrew Scriptures are vitally important. In them, we don’t miss a prospect.
 - The story-line of the Hebrew Scriptures goes like this: *Is Cain the one? Is Seth the one?...is Enoch the one? Is Methuselah the one? Is Lamech the one? Is Noah the one? Is Shem the one?...is Abraham the one? Is Isaac the one? Is Jacob the one? Is Joseph or Simeon or Judah the one? Etc.*

- When John, having perused history with the aid of his heavenly vantage point, saw no man worthy, he **wept much** (v. 4).
- However, one of the angels said, **behold, the Lion!** (v. 5).
- The Lion who is the Lamb (v. 6) is worthy!
 - The Lamb is **as it had been slain** – the crucified Lamb of God!
 - The Lamb is *standing*, not “seated at the right hand of the throne.” Compare Acts 7:55-56.

Revelation 5:8-14 | Praising the Man Who is Worthy

- The song of the saints: Worthy to open the book (vv. 9-10).
 - **They sung a new song** – the pronoun refers to the saints, not the four beasts and 24 Elders, as is seen by the content of the song (in KJV only, which uses **us** rather than *them*).
 - The basis of the worth was that the Lamb **wast slain** (v. 9) **and hast redeemed us** (v. 9) and also **made us unto our God kings and priests** (v. 10). -note **kings** not *a kingdom* as in modern translations.
- The song of the angels: Worthy to receive power (v. 11-12).
 - Now the **voice of many angels** joins the song. How many? The number given is likely simply given to mean “incalculable.”
 - Note that receiving power and opening the book are related, even equivalent.
- The song of every creature: Blessing and honor (vv. 13-14).
 - How is **every creature** singing to the Lamb? What about those who reject Him?
 - Remember that this is a vision of the future. Compare Philippians 2:9-10, which also speaks about the future.
 - Imagine the shame that must be felt by those who did not worship the Lamb in their lifetime, but, immediately upon seeing Him dropped their disbelief and in shame worshiped Him.
 - This is not “forced” worship. It is, rather, uncontrollable due to the circumstances at hand.

Up next: *The opening of the seals of the book.*