

Revelation 5:1-7 (ESV)

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 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.

## **Who is worthy?**

Revelation 5 is John's vision of God the Son and redemption

What was written on the scroll?

*Background of scroll: Ezekiel 12:9-10 & Daniel 12:1-4 (cf. Isaiah 29:11)*

Most commentators agree that the scroll is a book that contains God's consummate plan for the world and that includes its judgment, salvation, redemption and restoration and the establishing of God's rule over the world (It contains the destiny of the world).

Verse 2: "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?"

Verse 3-4: And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.

No one in the universe is worthy. None of us qualify.

We cannot approach the throne of God because of our sins.

And so John's response to this was absolutely the correct response: is to weep and lament

There has to be this constant recognition that we are lost and helpless without God

## **Jesus is worthy**

Jesus is the promised Messiah (The Lion of the Tribe of Judah, The Root of David)

Jesus has CONQUERED (He has overcome, he is victorious)

He can initiate God's plan for the whole world

## **Revelation 21:3-4 (NLT)**

**3 I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."**

Something fascinating happens in John's vision

John hears of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah and when he turns to see, he sees not the mighty LION, but a LAMB STANDING as though it had been slain, his scars from its slaughter clearly visible

### **New Interpreters Study Bible QUOTE**

**"In one of the most mind-wrenching reversals of imagery in all literature, John sees that the lion has been replaced by the Lamb. The one who has conquered did so not through violence, but by sacrificing his own life. This is the power that enables him to take the scroll from God's hand and execute its contents, the divine plan for bringing history to a worthy conclusion and establishing God's justice."**

### **What makes Jesus worthy?**

One of the biggest things that we learn from Revelation 5 is that only Jesus is worthy  
No one who lived and walked on this earth is worthy besides him

Jesus lived the life we were required to live, from start to finish  
A life of perfect obedience

### **R.C. Sproul QUOTE**

**"...in the work of redemption God didn't send Jesus to earth on Good Friday and say, 'Die for the sins of your people and that will take care of it.' No. Jesus not only had to die for our sins, but He had to live for our righteousness. If all Jesus did was die for your sins, that would remove all of your guilt, and that would leave you sinless in the sight of God, but not righteous. You would be innocent, but not righteous because you haven't done anything to obey the Law of God which is what righteousness requires."**

#### "The Great Exchange"

Jesus fulfills God's requirement of perfect righteous living and trades places with us and dies in our place, the death we should have died and we receive this gift of righteousness through faith

### **What does Jesus' worthy life mean for us?**

Our worth is only found in Jesus' worth

A lot of us struggle with a sense of worth  
But that's because we continue to look for our worth apart from God in the world

The gospel frees us from having to discover our worth because in the gospel, worth is freely gifted to us

Our worth comes in God choosing to give us worth when he willingly loved us even though there was nothing in us deserving salvation

### **Timothy Keller QUOTE**

**"Instead, the gospel is that Jesus Christ has amassed a perfect record and when we believe in him, he gives it to us. He lived the life we should have lived and died the death we should have died in our place, so that when we believe, our sins are pardoned and we are 'counted righteous in his sight.' Then we are completely accepted and loved by the only One in the universe whose opinions really count."**

Only God's opinion of us matters

This should lead to gratitude and worship

The most worthy person to ever live, undeserving of death...

## Application Questions

- 1) John when realizing nobody in the universe is worthy enough to open the scroll weeps loudly. Why is weeping and lamenting a Biblically appropriate response to our fallen condition? How does having a constant recognition that we are lost and helpless without God open us up more to God's work in us and especially to his victory on the cross?
- 2) In what ways should we be thankful for the life that Jesus lived for us? What does it mean that Jesus is the only person in the universe who lived a perfect righteous life that was deemed worthy by God?
- 3) What do you usually find your worth in (outside of God)? In what areas of your life do you struggle with a sense of worth? Who's opinion of your worth do you find yourself listening to more than God? Why is it important to only find our worth in God? How does the gospel free us from having to discover our own sense of worth?