

Revelation 5 **The Lamb of God**

The critical question for our generation—and for every generation—is this: If you could have heaven, with no sickness, and with all the friends you ever had on earth, and all the food you ever liked, and all the leisure activities you ever enjoyed, and all the natural beauties you ever saw, all the physical pleasures you ever tasted, and no human conflict or any natural disasters, could you be satisfied with heaven, if Jesus was not there? John Piper, God is the Gospel

What makes heaven great is not just eternal life but eternal life with Jesus. When you arrive in heaven, you will see Jesus as He is – the Lamb of God.

Revelation chapter 5 begins with the scene of God on the throne with a very important scroll in His right hand. As the scroll is held out the question is asked: *Who is worthy to open the scroll?*

The emphasis in the question is a search for someone who has both the ability and the authority to open the scroll. The intensity of the scene is driven by the importance of the scroll. This scroll is filled to overflowing and sealed with seven seals to ensure the secrecy of its decrees. We know that this scroll contains the full account of what God in His sovereignty has determined as the destiny of the world.

This scene in heaven tells us that no one on earth has the answers to the human predicament. Our problems are beyond us and there is no one who can deliver us.

John wept because he knew what this meant. God's plan for history was contained in that scroll and it had to be opened in order to be executed. If this scroll remains closed the persecuted Church will die. If this scroll remains closed sin will not be judged; there will be no resurrection; there will not be a new heaven and new earth.

At this moment, all of heaven is fixed on who is worthy to open the scroll.

John's weeping is interrupted as an elder directs his attention to the Lion of the tribe of Judah. The lion has a very important qualification that has been met. This lion is of the line of David. This lion is said to be of the tribe of Judah and the root of David.

The triumph of Jesus as the Messiah in the line of David IS the triumph of every Christian. In Rev 5:5 when it says that the Lion from the tribe of Judah has been victorious. The word victorious is a word that we have read 7 times in 7 letters to the churches in Rev 2 & 3. Each letter closed with a phrase that addresses the committed Christian as a victor.

The Lion of the tribe of Judah is victorious. The faithful Christian is victorious. Same word. The victory of Jesus over death and sin is your victory. If Jesus doesn't win, neither do you. But Jesus HAS won, and His victory is YOUR victory! Get excited – if you are in Christ, you cannot lose because Jesus has already won!

When the elder directs John's attention to Jesus, he turns and looks for a lion but what he sees is a surprise to him. John looks for a lion, but he sees a lamb. The lion has chosen to die as lamb.

Then I saw One like a slaughtered lamb standing between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. Revelation 5:6 (HCSB)

Questions for Reflection:

- 1) Have you ever thought of Jesus as “the Lamb of God”? Do you see Jesus as more of a lion or a lamb?
- 2) Read John 1:29. Notice that John the Baptist got it right and then consider this: How is it that Jesus as the Lamb of God could take away our sin? See 1 John 1:7, Hebrews 9:22. Blood represents the life of the person that God has judged. Jesus took our judgment upon Himself and then He died. See also 2 Corinthians 5:21
- 3) Why will Jesus still bear the marks of His death even in His glorified body?
- 4) If Jesus as the slaughtered Lamb of God is the centerpiece of worship in heaven right now, what should worship look like in the Church today? Preaching? What should the message of the Church be to a lost world?
- 5) Does Revelation chapter 5 change the way you think of Jesus?