

Revelation 5:1-14

The Hymn of the Savior

Last week in Revelation 4, we get a glimpse of Throne Room of heaven: **Worship**= hymn of Creation

Scene: *Lord of Rings: Return of King* -good guys are overrun, bleak, losing, overwhelmed, any hope –Gandalf/wh hor
Read Revelation 5:1-14 **SCENE 2**: Heaven, *but* a **future** scene bc the divine wrath/jug globally **not y**
Scene: Is the moment when Jesus begins to unleash judgment -when heaven waiting/hushed
(**Beginning of the END** – the end times judgment (7 years of unparalleled worldwide destruction))

Vs.1: I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back sealed up with seven seals.-Scroll(both sides)=7 rolled up inside of each other. Imp. document that is both private/significant = for certain eyes only; to be opened in the right time by right person. It's **SEALS** ensure the privacy for the value of its contents & secrecy of information.

***Who is holding the scroll?** God Himself. This is God's prepared title deed to the earth.
-Virtually every aspect of our life is governed by some official document: birth cert./soc. Sec. card, Marriage license; dr. lic.;insurance policies; home warranty; title deeds to house/property; etc...

***What is this Scroll?** It's the scroll of scrolls -God's legal judgment to render back to Himself the earth and all it contains. This is God's decree of judgment/wrath & holy alignment from the gospel age of the birth of the church until present & will be rendered in His perfect timing...**when?** *Mt 24:36*
=God's Holy righteous wrath/indignation to be poured out on ALL unrepentant sinners who hate
-Acts 13:18 "Known to God are all His works from foundation of the earth" -This is how it ends...
-Is. 46:9-10 "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, ¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My plan will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure' -This is God's good & sovereign plan to bring all things into consummation=**glory**

-This is the title deed for Jesus to reclaim (as the Son of Man) what is rightfully His: ALL the earth as His throne and dominion. This is deed for Jesus to reclaim His rightful *inheritance* of all the known universe as the **King of Kings and Lord of Lords!** =Scroll of Judgment AND Redemption (the whole earth is waiting for Christ's triumphant return: to Reign as King; make all things **NEW**)
-Ro. 8:19-22 "For the eagerly awaiting creation waits for the revealing of the sons and daughters of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, ²¹ in hope ²¹ that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now."

=Each scroll of judgment has been sealed closed (sealed envelope)=each successive judg. in 7yr Trib.

² And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to break its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. No human; no angel; no creature was worthy (no had the divine right; holy enough, divine, perfectly righteous & capable to enact God's righteous judgment on the earth =to defeat satan, to wipe out sin forever, to reverse the curse on all humanity & this sin-tainted universe.

-As God holds the Scroll of universal judgment, no angel, no creature was worthy to open it, declare it, or wield its judgment on this earth-**no king, no president, no pope, no preacher -NO ONE**

In heaven, Not Paul, Peter, not King David, Elijah, Moses, not John -or even His mother Mary

***Pause in Heaven**: holy hush. The angel calls out to the universe -who can defeat sin/death????

⁴ Then I [John] *began* to weep greatly because *no one* was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. **Heavy moment**; broken over sin; earth's condition; destruction; chaos; suff/loss *attack* -Does your heart break for suffering? Lostness? For shameless destruction? Theft, rape, murder, hate
*Sobering moment (only record of tears in heaven): **pregnant pause**=would death reign forever?

⁵ And one of the elders *said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, **the Lion** that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has **overcome** so as to be able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

-In Jesus' 1st coming/humility-He came to live, love, obey Law perfectly, suffer, die & be raised up

-In Jesus' 2nd coming/glory- Perfectly exalted, radiant, reigning King of Heaven; Lord of EARTH!!

****This is what the Jews have been waiting for:** The Coming Messiah to overthrow sin/death forever

*Jesus *will* come to judge the living and the dead. Jesus, having completed salvation (**overcome death**) will *now* come to **judge** those who reject God; bring the church home to heaven; and prepare the world for divine wrath & consummation =leading to **GWT Jug. & new heaven/earth**

-Matthew 28:18 Jesus = "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth"

-Acts 10:42 "God appointed Jesus as judge of the living and the dead"

-Acts 17:31 "because God has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness through the Man, Jesus, whom He has ordained."

-John 5:22 "Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, ²³ that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. ²⁷And the Father has given him authority to judge because Jesus is the Son of Man."

-Ps. 98:9 "before the LORD, For He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness He shall judge the world, And the peoples with equity." 2Ti. 4:8 Jesus= "The Righteous judge"

Jesus *IS* the rightful **King** from David's lineage; the LION of Judah's tribe w/power to destroy enemy
Jesus *IS* the righteous **Judge**; the Holy One; the power of God's *truth* poured out upon the earth.
Jesus *IS* the returning **Son of Man**, who is the only worthy (fully God; fully Man) to judge earth.

WHY?

=Jesus took the wrath of God; **He became sin for us** (2 C. 5:21); Jesus felt the divine judgment of God on OUR behalf; as the holy, sinless, perfect, sacrificial lamb who died under God's judgment & IS **NOW** the resurrected, overcoming, righteous, powerful reigning **LION**, judge, & KING and JESUS has rights to whole universe: He now holds that title deed scroll in His hands to prove it!

-Daniel 7:13-14 "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a son of man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him [to take the scroll]. ¹⁴ And to Him [Jesus] was given dominion, Honor, and ¹⁵ a kingdom, So that all the peoples, nations, and *populations of all languages* Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed."

-Rev. 11:15 "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever." -So what do we learn from this? **APPLICATION??**

- A. So Jesus *is* the only **One** worthy to judge the world, save/rescue the Church, *His Bride*, & bring consummation upon this entire sin-tainted universe & Jesus will perfectly make ALL things new
- B. Jesus *will* **return** to this earth (to bring the pre-planned judgment of God) upon all=none escape
- C. This global judgment of God, by Jesus, is still **FUTURE**: What is described in the SEALS, TRUMPETS, THUNDERS, & BOWL Judgments are so catastrophic, so cataclysmic, so global that nothing in earth's long history has ever matched what is coming....sobering, horrifying, & real!!

-So what is heaven's response to Jesus' worthiness & Kingship in heaven/earth?????

⁶ And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a **Lamb standing, as if slaughtered**, ...Jesus is pictured as to **why** He is worthy: **31X** =spotless, guiltless sacrificial **Arnion**=little ewe *pet* lamb (innocent): **Jesus could not be the lion until He was first the lamb!**

-John the Baptist (knew Jesus had come to die)Jn 1:29"**behold** lamb of God takes away sins/world"

****GOSPEL: Jesus came that we might have life; He died so you don't have to...FAITH response**

-having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. -

Horn = power; eyes= Spirits' universal sight; ubiquity; omnipresence; God's fullness in power sent out to **see & judge** all the world -all the guilty; all the unrepentant; all those who hate God!

⁷ And He (lamb/Jesus) **came and took the scroll** out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. ⁸When He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, [rendering to Jesus the SAME worship as given to the Father: Jesus *IS* God] -each one holding a harp and golden **bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints** [these are the daily, collected prayers for rescue; prayers for retribution/vengeance; prayers for perseverance in suffering & persecution; prayers for help; for hope; for Christ's return] **praying?**

⁹ And they *sang a **new** song, saying, "**Worthy** are You [Jesus] to take the scroll and to break its seals; for You were slaughtered, and You **purchased** people for God with Your blood from every tribe, language, people, and nation. *Agorazo: purchased slaves from market to set them FREE*

¹⁰ You have made them *into* a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign upon the earth."

Jesus is worshiped for what He accomplished: selflessly coming to earth (ADVENT) to become HUMAN – into a poor disreputed family-born into shame;

to live and die for MY sins – in order that through HIS earthly death, I may have eternal life. Jesus redeemed a people for God; people of all races/languages/tribes/nations -**everywhere people matter to GOD!** -We the redeemed are a **Kingdom** under His Kingship (our **identity/authority**) &

we are **Priests** to God (our ministry is to *serve*/worship God & *represent* God to the lost world)**now**

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voices of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads [10,000X10,000 =100million] and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice, "**Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power, wealth, wisdom, might, honor, glory, and blessing.**"

-Are you in tune with this worship? With Christ's worthiness? What does Jesus receive for dying on the cross for you? What does He get in that He gave up everything (even Heaven & rightful worship to become a lowly, poor human, abused, despised, rejected, tortured, & killed) ALL because He loved the Father; He obeyed the Father; He loved the glory of the Father more than what was owed Him or what He rightfully deserved from all creation: He gave it ALL up....

-NOW...He is showered with universal praise and honor – glory and worship.

-To Christ is attributed ALL power, ALL wealth, ALL wisdom, ALL strength, ALL honor/glory/bless

****ARE YOU in tune to this reality? Is your heart open to worship Jesus in the way of heaven??**

-NOTE THIS: If you are not, no worry, everyone else in creation will; all living things will....

¹³ And I heard every created thing which is in heaven, or on the earth, or under the earth, or on the sea, and all the things in them, saying, "To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb *be* the blessing, the honor, the glory, and the dominion forever and ever."

¹⁴ And the four living creatures were saying, "**Amen.**" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

APPLICATION

1. God has a plan already in place, even when we cannot see it; we trust, we wait w/Joy **He not anxious**
2. Jesus is no longer pictured as the weak, frail, human sacrifice *-but* reigning King/judge -worthy
3. Jesus *is* going to return to this earth in Judgment: Will He find us faithful? Ready? Maranatha...
4. The worship of Revelation is not only future, it is for the present/now -in every area of our life

In 2016, during a major international soccer match in England at Wembley, at 14th min. something unusual happened. Just before kickoff, the stadium went silent to honor a fallen player. Johan Cruyff had passed away & was being honored. Tens of thousands of people—different nations, languages, ages, beliefs, enemies on opposing sides—stood together in stillness. Then one person began to clap. Then another. **And suddenly the entire stadium erupted.**

Not because anyone had been told to. Not because it was on the program. But because the moment demanded it. DEAFENING -For a brief moment, no one cared who was winning or losing. All that mattered was that **this person was worthy of honor**, and the only fitting response was praise.

Now lift your eyes from that stadium and look at Revelation 5. John tells us that **every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea** joins in: “**To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!**” (Rev. 5:13)

This is not coerced worship. This is not polite applause. This is creation finally recognizing reality.

Every voice finds its place. Every knee realizes the truth. Every mouth agrees on one thing: *the Lamb is worthy.*

Vs. 14: “The four living creatures said, ‘**Amen!**’ and the elders fell down and worshiped.”

No more questions. No more resistance. No more divided loyalties

Community Group Discussion Questions

1. Why Do You Think John Weeps So Deeply?
 - What does his grief reveal about the importance of the scroll?
2. Why is it significant that no one but Jesus is worthy to open the Scroll?
3. Jesus is displayed as both the Lion of Judah and the slain Lamb. How do these images challenge our ideas of strength and leadership?
4. Why does heaven emphasize what Jesus *has done* rather than what He *will do*?
 - How does this shape the foundation of Christian worship?
5. How does this global vision of salvation challenge personal or cultural Christianity?
 - What implications does this have for the church’s mission today?
 - What stands out to you about the worship described in this chapter?
 - How does this inform or challenge how we worship now?
6. What does it mean to live as a priest in everyday life?
7. How might Revelation 5 reshape how you approach work, prayer, and witness?