

Revelation – The Lamb Who Is Worthy

Revelation 5 is the continuation of the vision of the throne room of heaven that began in Revelation 4. God sits on his throne, symbolising his absolute holiness, glory, and sovereignty over all of creation. Being on the throne also symbolises his rule over all of creation. But how does this king rule over creation? How does having this king as our ruler be an encouragement to those who follow and trust him in the midst of persecution?

In this chapter, we will see the one who is worthy of breaking the seals and opening the scroll in God's hands. Just like how we see what kind of God we have in chapter 4, we will come to see what kind of Christ we have in chapter 5. Once again, let your imagination of who Christ is be guided by the vision that we will read in chapter 5.

Launch

- 1) Describe how your vision of Christ whenever you think/read about him. What is he like?

THE SLAIN LAMB WHO IS WORTHY

Read Revelation 5:1-14

Appoint one person to read the chapter clearly, slowly, and with the right tonal emphasis to the best of that person's ability. The goal is to bring the passage to life, and not to read it in a monotonous way. As the chapter is being read, the rest of the group should try to visualise how that looks like in their minds. Read the chapter again if necessary.

- 2) What is your first impression of the scene in Revelation 5?
 - a. What kind of feeling does it invoke as you picture yourself standing there?
- 3) What did God have in his right hand? (v1)
 - a. What do you think that represents?
 - b. Who was worthy break the seals and open it? (v2-4)
- 4) Who is the one that is worthy to take the scroll and open its seven seals? (v5-6)
 - a. What hints do you have about who this is?
 - b. What two main imageries were used to describe him? What do they mean?

- 5) What did this person do to the scroll? (v7) What happened after that? (v8)
 - a. Why was he worthy to take and open the scroll? (v9-10)

- 6) What kind of impression do you get from verses 11-14 about this person who is worthy to take and open the scroll?
 - a. Compare what was sung about God and what is sung about this person. What similarities do you see? (cf. Rev 4:11 with Rev 5:12-13)

 - b. What kind of authority does this person have? How then should the seven churches respond to what he said to them?

- 7) How can these churches draw strength and encouragement from him? How about Christians today?

- 8) How does this view of Christ compared to your own view listed in the launch question? What was new to you?

- 9) Take the time to read Revelation 4 – 5 out loud once again in your small group. This time, feel free to get the whole group involved in this reading. Make sure to read clearly and slowly with the right tonal emphasis. Finish by praising God through prayer. You may choose to sing as a group as well.

Revelation 5 gives us a glorious picture of the person of Christ. God sits on his throne, holding a scroll with seven seals in his right hand, depicting him as sovereign over all creation. Scholars debate the precise meaning of the scroll, but the general idea is that the scroll represents God's view/explanation of world events or God's decrees. The question posed in this chapter then is about who is worthy enough to read and execute/explain God's decrees to the rest of creation. Given his majesty, only God himself is really worthy to do so. So, John wept because there was no one worthy.

But up steps Christ, who is described as the Lion of Judah and the slain Lamb. He is the only one who is worthy to do that. He is worthy *because* he was slain for the redemption of people from every tribe, language, and nation. He is worthy to receive all the accolades and honour due to God, because he is God. This is where Christians can draw encouragement. We serve an almighty, all-powerful, all-glorious, and all-powerful king in Jesus, who loved us and purchased us with his blood.

This Christ then opens the first *seal* of the scroll in Revelation 6 onwards. (Note that it's not opening the scroll yet!) From Revelation 6 – 8, we see apocalyptic images of what is happening in our world as the exalted Christ opens the seals. The scroll is finally only opened in Revelation 10. Those are great chapters, and let me encourage you to read them in your own time.