

“Worthy is the Lamb”

Revelation 5:1-14

Why celebrate the Lord’s Supper, why remember Christ’s death, as we do, till He comes?

ALL of Scripture PROCLAIMS Christ’s death:

- The animal slain to clothe Adam and Eve – Genesis 3:7 & 21
- The lamb slain which was Abel’s better offering –Genesis 4:1-5; Hebrews 12:12
- The ram slain in place of Abraham’s son Isaac – Genesis 22:11-13
- The lambs slain whose blood was placed on the doorposts of the children of Israel, protecting them from the Angel of Death – Exodus 12:1-14
- Christ Himself is proclaimed the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world by John the Baptist – John 1:29
- The Lord’s Supper itself remembers Christ’s death which also had been foretold by the Passover –

⁷ Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. (1 Corinthians 5:7 NKJ)

I. The opening of a scroll? What does it mean?

^{NKJ} Revelation 5:1 And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. (Rev 5:1 NKJ)

1. This scroll shows us things that have to happen – “things which **must** shortly take place.” (Rev 1:1 NKJ)
2. This scroll holds the battle plan for the advancement of God’s Kingdom – I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was (Rev 1:9 NKJ)
3. This scroll was held in the hand of God; its contents must not only be revealed but carried out in perfect obedience to God, who can handle such a task? Who is worthy to open this scroll?

II. The dread thought this scroll’s seals may not be opened –

² Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose 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 at it. ⁴ So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. (Rev 5:2-4 NKJ)

1. No one “in Heaven” – no angel / cherubim, etc...
2. No one “on the earth” – no mere human being, no animal, etc...
3. No one “under the earth” – no worm or demonic being
4. This was a cause for WEEPING!
 - A. Jesus had taught them to pray - ¹⁰ Your kingdom come. (Matthew 6:10 NKJ) Would such a prayer remain unanswered?
 - B. They were yearning for His coming Kingdom –

⁶ Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” (Acts 1:6 NKJ)

III. Note Who is Worthy to open the scroll –

⁵ But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.” ⁶ And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. (Revelation 5:5-7 NKJ)

He is announced according to prophecy -

1. The Lion of the Tribe of Judah – Judah is called a lion in the blessing of Jacob; Genesis 49:8-10 the Scepter, is prophesied, would not depart from Judah! Yet, Jesus is “**the**” **Lion** of this tribe; & King of kings in this royal family!

2. The Root of David –
^{NKJ} Isaiah 11:1 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. (Isaiah 11:1 NKJ)

⁰ “And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious.” (Isaiah 11:10 NKJ)

¹⁶ "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star." (Revelation 22:16 NKJ)

There is one ultimate destiny for this world and our Lord Jesus Christ -

¹⁵ Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" (Revelation 11:15 NKJ)

He appears as a lamb slain – Revelation 5:6

3. John turns and sees a Lamb slain / Jesus –

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29 NKJ)

- A. Seven horns represent His sovereign rule –
- B. Seven eyes represent His unlimited perception and knowledge –
- C. He sees by the perfect power of the Holy Spirit

IV. When we celebrate, remember and proclaim the

LORD's Supper, we do Heavenly service –

⁸ Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, ¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." (Rev 5:8-10 NKJ)

1. Note in what ways Jesus is praised:

A. Falling down (humility) before the Lamb –

:8 – "the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb" Humility!

- B. Use of musical instruments "a harp" - :8 --- Psalm 150
- C. Golden bowls of incense -:8 our prayers
- D. A new song - :9

2. Note why Jesus is praised:

- A. His worthiness to open the scroll
- B. His work of redemption which was accomplished by His blood
- C. His redeeming of us, He is worthy of praise from us, because His work greatly benefitted us –

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, ¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

Two great truths: 1. Christ was slain -:9 He had the pain! 2. He redeemed us to God - :19-10 we have the gain! Because of this He is WORTHY of our all – Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 and anything less than our ALL is not worthy of Him – Matthew 10:37-38

Worthy - ἄξιος axios {ax'-ee-os} **Meaning:** 1) weighing, having weight, having the weight of another thing of like value, worth as much

V. See the magnitude of the multitude praising Christ -

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!" ¹³ And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!" ¹⁴ Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever. (Rev 5:11-14 NKJ)

- 1. All believers will worship - :11-12
- 2. All creatures will worship -:13
 - A. Heavenly creatures
 - B. All earthly creatures –

²⁸ Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?" (Num 22:28 NKJ)

Even Balaam who wanted to curse Israel is forced to bless – Numbers 24:1-10. Is it hard to believe those "under the earth" demonic creatures will be made to bless Christ whether they like it or not? Even Balaam's donkey is made to talk, cannot God make even the fish of the sea say "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

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