

## The Song of the Redeemed Giving Praise to the Lamb of God

### Revelation 5

Revelation 5 - *"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. <sup>2</sup> Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" <sup>3</sup> And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.*

*<sup>4</sup> So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. <sup>5</sup> 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."*

*<sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.*

*<sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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,  
<sup>10</sup> And have made us kings and priests to our God;  
And we shall reign on the earth."*

*<sup>11</sup> 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, <sup>12</sup> 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!"*

*<sup>13</sup> 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!"*

*Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever."*

### Background Notes

The Book of Revelation is a vision that was given to the apostle John by the Lord Jesus. The vision primarily concerned future events. In Revelation 4 John was suddenly caught up to heaven and saw the throne of God, with saints and angels gathered around the throne. At the end of chapter 4, the saints and angels were seen bringing honor and praise to the Lord as Creator. Revelation 4:11: *"You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."*

Revelation 5 is a continuation of John's vision of the scene in heaven. John saw a book or scroll in the right hand of God, who was sitting on the throne. The scroll was written on both sides and sealed with seven seals. From the following chapters we know that this scroll was a Book of Judgment, because when the book was opened and as each seal was broken, a judgment took place on the earth. We believe that these are the judgments of the Tribulation Period that will take place on this earth in the future.

In the vision, John began to weep because no one was found worthy to open the scroll. No one was qualified to bring judgment on this earth – no saint or angel in heaven, no person on earth, and no being under the earth. But John was told to stop weeping because *“the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals”* (v5). The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, was worthy to open the book because He has prevailed and triumphed.

It doesn't take too much insight to know that this One who was qualified to open the Book is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, because He has triumphed and overcome. He is qualified to bring judgment on this earth because of His redemptive work that overcame the universal problem of sin.

This chapter ends with a new song of redemption. God is praised as the Creator in Revelation 4 and as the Redeemer in Revelation 5.

## Doctrinal Points

### 1. The Lord Jesus is worthy to open the Book of future judgment.

The Lord Jesus was presented as the Lion (v5) and the Lamb (v6). He is the Lion from the tribe of Judah, according to the Messianic prediction of Genesis 49, and the Root of David according to the Messianic prediction of Isaiah 11. He is also the Lamb of God who was sacrificed for the sins of the world.

In the vision, John saw the Lamb standing as if slain. This fact is significant. Slain lambs don't stand, do they? So, this is very significant! This would emphasize that His sacrificial work is finished and complete. Now John saw Him in heaven, with all power and authority given unto Him. The fact that the slain Lamb was seen standing in heaven would seem to indicate that our Lord will bear the marks of His sacrificial death for us throughout eternity in heaven.

The seven horns of verse 6 symbolize His omnipotence, that He is all-powerful. In Scripture, the horns of oxen, for example, are symbolic of power and strength. The seven eyes symbolize His omniscience, seeing and knowing all. And notice the “seven Spirits of God” at the end of verse 6: *“...having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.”* The seven Spirits sent out into all the earth symbolize the Lord's omnipresence, as well as His association with the Holy Spirit. Remember that the number seven is symbolic of perfect fullness and completeness.

The Lamb was standing in the midst of the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders, and they were worshiping the Lamb for His redemptive work. The Lord Jesus came as the Lamb at His first coming, but He will come as the Lion, with power and glory, at His second coming. He is worthy to open the book of future judgment. He is worthy to judge because He has infinite knowledge and wisdom, and therefore no question can be raised about His standards of judgment of what's fair and right.

He is worthy to judge because He died for the sins of the world at Calvary, even though many refuse His free offer of salvation. He is worthy to judge because He has been appointed as Judge by divine decree. John 5:22: *“For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son...”* And John 5:27: *“and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.”*

## **2. The Lord Jesus will be worshiped when the book of future judgment is opened.**

In the vision, when the Lord Jesus took the Book and was about to open its seals, the saints and angels praised and worshiped Him as the Lamb. The harps and bowls of incense are symbolic of their prayers and praise (v8). They sang a new song, the song of redemption. This song of the redeemed will be our song for eternity!

Notice a few scriptural truths that are contained in this new song of redemption. Verse 9 says that the company of the redeemed will include people out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation. Read that verse again if you're wrestling with the question, "What about the heathen and the people who have never heard of Christ?" Verse 9: *“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...”*

In verse 10 we see that the redeemed are not only saved, but also have been made a kingdom of priests, and they will reign with Christ upon the earth. We will reign with Christ for a thousand years during the time of His Millennial Kingdom.

Notice that this heavenly scene of worship and praise came as the Lamb was about to open the Book of Judgment. That's significant! Have you ever worshiped and praised God for His future judgments, including the reality of hell for the damned? In Psalm 136, Israel praised and worshiped God for His goodness and loving kindness to them, including the utter destruction of their enemies -- because they were enemies of God.

*“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.*

*<sup>2</sup> Oh, give thanks to the God of gods! For His mercy endures forever.*

*<sup>3</sup> Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For His mercy endures forever:*

*<sup>4</sup> To Him who alone does great wonders, For His mercy endures forever;*

*<sup>5</sup> To Him who by wisdom made the heavens, For His mercy endures forever;*

*<sup>6</sup> To Him who laid out the earth above the waters, For His mercy endures forever;*

*<sup>7</sup> To Him who made great lights, For His mercy endures forever—*

*<sup>8</sup> The sun to rule by day, For His mercy endures forever;*

*<sup>9</sup> The moon and stars to rule by night, For His mercy endures forever.*

*<sup>10</sup> To Him who struck Egypt in their firstborn, For His mercy endures forever;*

*<sup>11</sup> And brought out Israel from among them, For His mercy endures forever;*

*<sup>12</sup> With a strong hand, and with an outstretched arm, For His mercy endures forever;*

*<sup>13</sup> To Him who divided the Red Sea in two, For His mercy endures forever;*

*<sup>14</sup> And made Israel pass through the midst of it, For His mercy endures forever;*

*<sup>15</sup> But overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea, For His mercy endures forever;*

*<sup>16</sup> To Him who led His people through the wilderness, For His mercy endures forever;*

*<sup>17</sup> To Him who struck down great kings, For His mercy endures forever;*

*<sup>18</sup> And slew famous kings, For His mercy endures forever—*

*<sup>19</sup> Sihon king of the Amorites, For His mercy endures forever;*

- <sup>20</sup> And Og king of Bashan, For His mercy endures forever—*
- <sup>21</sup> And gave their land as a heritage, For His mercy endures forever;*
- <sup>22</sup> A heritage to Israel His servant, For His mercy endures forever.*
- <sup>23</sup> Who remembered us in our lowly state, For His mercy endures forever;*
- <sup>24</sup> And rescued us from our enemies, For His mercy endures forever;*
- <sup>25</sup> Who gives food to all flesh, For His mercy endures forever.*
- <sup>26</sup> Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven! For His mercy endures forever.”*

We, too, will praise God forever for His righteous judgment of unbelievers, including the eternal punishment of the wicked in hell, because through this judgment the righteousness of God will be vindicated and maintained forever. Without a hell, the righteousness and justice of God would be arbitrary and meaningless.

In verses 11-14, the praise of heaven became universal honor for God and the Lamb. Verse 13 presents the same truth as Philippians 2:10-11: “*that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*” Believers joyfully bow the knee to our Lord both now and forever, but unbelievers will be forced to bow the knee then. The Lord Jesus will be worshiped when the book of future judgment is opened.

## **Practical Application**

### **Get ready for the thrill of universal praise!**

Have you ever been in a large crowd involved in a unified shout, or in a cheer as at a sporting event, or even a political rally? The sheer volume can be emotionally moving! Imagine what it will be like when we hear that universal and united praise for our Lord Jesus who redeemed us! Verse 12 tells us that it is not just millions of voices, but one united loud voice. We will be there, and we will participate in that united and universal praise!

Can you imagine the volume? Can you imagine the emotion? Can you imagine the thrill of being on the winning side, the winning team for eternity? Get ready for the thrill of universal praise!