

Revelation 5: Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:6–14 | Sunday, March 15 | Revelation Series

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OVERVIEW

The message re-reads the close of the last one and then goes on. The Lamb stands between the throne and those he saved, with the four living creatures — the living Gospels — and the twenty-four elders, the Church now made what God promised he would make of them, the priests of God. Hal takes that position literally: the Lamb stands between because he will always be our advocate and our high priest, and no charge can ever successfully be brought against anyone who believes in him. Out of 1 John 2 he works through propitiation, the difference between relationship and fellowship, and why a guilt complex after confession comes from Satan rather than from God. Then the Greek word for the Lamb: amnos, a little pet lamb, thrown back against the custom of taking the best of the flock into the house for a week and loving it before it was offered. Seven horns for omnipotence, seven eyes for omniscience and omnipresence. Then heaven sings, and the numbers get past counting.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Revelation 5:6 — The Lamb with seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God

Revelation 5:7 — He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of him who sat on the throne

Revelation 5:8–10 — Harps and golden bowls of incense; the new song — worthy art thou to take the book

Revelation 5:11–14 — Myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands: worthy is the Lamb that was slain

1 John 2 — If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous

Revelation 9 — The army from the east that measures 200 million

KEY TERMS

Amnos — the Greek word for the Lamb here — a little pet lamb, the best of the flock, loved before it is offered

Propitiation — to satisfy God's justice by paying the penalty of his offended law

Advocate — Jesus Christ the righteous, pleading for the believer before the Father — Hal calls him a lawyer who has never lost a case

Relationship and fellowship — you cannot get out of relationship, which is settled the moment you accept Christ; you can get out of fellowship

Discipline — forward-looking training to walk with God — and Hal says the New Testament never once says God punishes a believer

Seven horns — the horn is a symbol of power and seven is the number of completion: the slain Lamb now has omnipotence

Seven eyes — the seven spirits of God — his omniscience and his omnipresence

Kippur — the Old Testament word for atonement, meaning to cover; the Greek word for what the Lamb of God does means to take out and remove

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Answer from the message itself. Every answer is in the teaching.

1. Who is standing where, in the scene Hal describes?

2. Why does Hal make so much of the words “he stood between”?

3. What do the twenty-four elders represent, and why that number?

4. What does propitiation mean?

5. If you have confessed your sin and still have no peace, where does Hal say that is coming from?

6. What is the difference between relationship and fellowship, and between punishment and discipline?

7. What does the scroll with seven seals contain?

8. What does annos mean, and what custom is it meant to throw us back to?

9. What do the seven horns and the seven eyes tell us about the Lamb?

10. How does Hal describe the uniqueness of Jesus?

11. Why does Hal say every breath Jesus took on this earth was a sacrifice?

12. What does the size of the choir tell Hal?

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

1. The Lamb stands between the throne and the people he saved. What does it change to know that position is permanent?

2. Hal says a guilt complex after confession is Satan's work and not God's. Where is that hardest for you to believe?

3. The pet lamb was loved before it was offered. What does that add to what you think it cost God?

4. Hal tells of owing a friend money at seminary and then arranging his days to avoid him. Where have you avoided someone — or God — over something already forgiven?

5. Jesus refused, moment by moment, to use his own divine power, and depended on the Spirit instead. What would depending like that look like in one part of your week?

6. Hal expects far more people in heaven than we would guess, because of grace we never saw. Who comes to mind?

MEMORY VERSE

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."

— Revelation 5:12, as Hal reads it in this message