

Revelation 5

8-8-18

Worship The **Lamb-Like Lion** & the **Lion-Like Lamb**

I. Slide1,2 Intro:

- A. We continue John's *throne room vision & private guided tour*.
 - 1. He records what he sees & hears. Auditory/visual experience.
Slide3a/b [*I looked* 12 x's, *I saw* 24x's, *I heard* 26 x's]
 - 2. **Heaven** (532 x's) **a real place** that John is experiencing with **all his senses**.
- B. Slide3c/d **Worship** (last vs.) = to ascribe Worth. *Worship means, To use all that we are & have, to Praise God for all that He is & does.* Warren Wiersbe
- C. **Worship** is also **Wonder**. Thomas Carlyle said, *Wonder is the basis of worship*.
 - 1. **Wonder** is **a priceless ingredient in the life of any thinking person**.
- D. In ch.4 we talked about **Worship of the Father**. Now the spot light moves to **the Lamb**.
 - 1. Drawing every eye & prompting endless Praise.
 - 2. Why would they do this *in the sight of God the Father* if **Jesus** was not **God**?

II. Slide4 THE QUESTION (1,2)

- A. One question, in vs.2 *who is worthy to open the scroll & to loose its seals?* In which the rest of the chapter answers the question.
- B. Slide5a Explain scroll Papyrus, rolled w/7 seals (bound books didn't exist yet. broken open 1x1)
- C. Did you know *seals* go back to **4th millennium bc**?
 - 1. One document that was sealed w/7 seals, back in John's day, was a **Last Will and Testament** (or a testators wishes).
 - 2. Under Roman law, **7 witnesses** to a Will sealed it w/their seals (sealed w/wax, along 1 edge). **And it only could be opened w/all 7, or their representatives**.
 - a) This was the case with both Caesar Augustus & Emperor Vespasian.
 - b) Such a document was sealed with **wax** or **clay** & could be opened only by a qualified person(s).
- D. Slide5b (2) The issue **wasn't** finding someone **willing**.

1. Many a men were *willing* to rule the earth: Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan, Napoleon, Hitler. The issue wasn't who was *willing* but who was *Worthy*.
2. We hear no other voice speak up in heaven...*Here, give me that scroll...not* Abraham, *not* Moses, *not* Peter, *not* even Mary.

III. Slide6 **THE LAMB-LIKE LION & THE LION-LIKE LAMB (3-7)** [John Piper sermon, 1986]

A. Only the **Lion** from *the Tribe of Judah* has *the moral right* to open the scroll which will reveal & bring about history's completion.

1. Many call this Scroll: *Gods Will, His final settlement of the affairs of the universe, the Title Deed to creation.*
2. From what's written on the scroll (in ch.6) it's obvious the **subject** of the scroll is regarding *the sphere of man.*
3. *The right to rule the earth* is about to be declared *at* the Throne of God, once & for All.

B. Slide7a **A LAMB-LIKE LION** (5)

C. **Lion**, an animal who *makes prey of others* *and* that is **strong** and **wild** and **majestic** and **dangerous**. Jesus as lion speaks of: *Dignity, Sovereignty, Courage, Victory.*

D. The Lion of Judah *conquered/prevailed* *because* he was willing to *act the part of a Lamb.*

1. He came into Jerusalem *on Palm Sunday like a King on the way to a throne,* *and* he went out of Jerusalem *on Good Friday like a Lamb on the way to the slaughter.*
2. He drove out the robbers from the Temple *like a Lion* devouring its prey. *And* then at the end of the week *He gave His majestic neck to the knife.* *And* they slaughtered *the Lion of Judah like a Lamb.*
3. *So* he conquered *sin and death and Satan not* just because He was a **Lion**, *but* because he was *a Lamb-like Lion.*

E. Slide7b **THE LION-LIKE LAMB**

1. Only through *His sacrificial atonement* is our future w/God even possible.

2. When John turned around to see the **Lion**, he saw a **Lamb**. **Not an animal who makes prey of others but is prey himself.** An animal that is easily preyed upon and that is **weak and harmless and lowly**, sheared for our clothes and killed for our food.

a) (Piper) Because Jesus is a **Lion-like Lamb** and a **Lamb-like Lion**, He has the right to bring the world to an end for the **glory** of His name and the **good** of His people.

F. Notice 2 things:

1. Notice that the Lamb is **standing**. It is not slumped in a heap on the ground as it once was. It **had been** slain. **But now** it is **standing** - standing in the innermost circle next to the throne.
2. Notice that the Lamb has **7 horns** (horn is a symbol of **strength** and **power** throughout the book of Revelation as well as in the OT). **And** the number 7 signifies **fullness** and **completeness**.

G. This is no ordinary Lamb. He is a *Lion-like Lamb*.

1. Look at 6:16 where men call to the mountains and rocks, **Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne** (Father), **and from the wrath of the Lamb** (Jesus). [Lamb wrath? or *Lambo*]
2. And look at 17:14 where the final enemies of God fight against Christ: **they will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings.**

H. **As though it had been Slain...**(i.e.) He still had the **markings** [maybe to remind man for all eternity of **the cost** of their **redemption**]

1. **Yet**, He was standing...meaning **Victorious!**
2. The emphasis then is on His **resurrection** not on the **crucifixion**...**Had been slain**
3. **Remember**, Jesus is called **Lamb 29 x's** in the book of Rev.

I. **Slide8** So both Lamb & Lion representing **2 aspects of Jesus' nature: the Royal & the Sacrificial:**

1. As **Lamb** He offers salvation [**Sacrificial**]
2. As **Lion** He judges those who reject Him [**Royal**]

J. **Slide9** Not the progression of the Lamb in Scripture:

1. The OT question from **Isaac** was, **Where is the Lamb?**
 2. The NT answer from **John the Baptist** was, **Behold the Lamb of God!**
 3. The **Choirs in Heaven** will sing, **Worthy is the Lamb!**
- K. (7) Satan *offered* Jesus the whole world in return for *one act of worship* (Mt.4:8-10), **but** Jesus *won* the right to receive the scroll when He *gave Himself* on **the cross**.

IV. Slide10 **WORTHY (8-14)**

- A. (8) **Incense** – represents prayer.
1. Ps.141:2a NLT **Accept my prayer as incense offered to you.**
 2. **If you ever thought your prayers don't matter, look at these stored here.**
 3. **The prayers of God's people play a vital part in God's governing of the world.**
- B. **Worthy** – He is worthy *not only because* He is **Creator** (4:11) **but** even more because he is our **Redeemer**.
- C. Slide11 A 5-fold new song:
1. **A Worship Song - you are worthy.**
 2. **A Gospel Song - you were slain...have redeemed...by your blood.**
 - a) Interesting, **Heaven** sings about **the Cross & the Blood**, **& yet** some churches today have omitted all Hymns with this subject matter out of their hymn books.
 3. **A Missionary song - every tribe, tongue, people, nation.**
 - a) Lifted from Daniel 7:13,14.
 - b) **The church** now serves as **Israel** once did, with the tasks of **worshipping God & making Him known to the world.**
 - c) **What does this mean for evangelism that the Lamb has purchased people from every tribe, language, people, & nation?**
 4. **A Priestly song - and have made us a kingdom of priests.**
 5. **A Prophetic song - we shall reign on earth.**
 - a) The future is to share Christ's rule on earth.
- D. (9) **New song?** – It's 2000 years old!

1. **New**, *not in time or origin*; **but** new in the sense of its nature, something previously *unknown & unprecedented*.
2. Moses song in Ex.15 was a song of redemption from Egypt.
 - a) A new work of redemption calls for a new song!
 - b) **Redeemed** - In 1776 **Thomas Paine**, *American Revolution patriot and writer*, wrote about the price of freedom: What we **obtain** too cheap, we **esteem** too lightly; 'tis **dearness** only that gives everything its value. **Heaven** knows how to put a proper price upon its **goods**; **and** it would be strange indeed, if so celestial an article as **Freedom** should not be highly rated.

E. (12) **Worthy** times 7.

F. (13) Note the 4 things. Plus it is to **both** receiving it...thus again proving *Christ to be God*

1. **Slide12a** Athanasian Creed states, *We worship one God in Trinity, & Trinity in Unity; neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the Substance.*

- a) **Slide12b** Athanasius of Alexandria's (296-373) **shield of the Trinity**, a visual representation of the doctrine of the Trinity, derived from the Athanasian Creed. **The Latin reads:** "*The Father is God, The Son is God, The Holy Spirit is God; God is the Father, God is the Son, God is the Holy Spirit; The Father is **not** the Son, The Son is **not** the Father, The Father is **not** the Holy Spirit, The Holy Spirit is **not** the Father, The Son is **not** the Holy Spirit, The Holy Spirit is **not** the Son.*"

G. **Slide13a** (13) **The whole heaven explodes into praise.** [The *crescendo* of worship]

H. Notice how *contagious, infectious, irresistible, & communicable* **true Worship** is.

1. **From** the 4 living creatures (4:8); **to** the 24 elders (4:10); **to** the multitudes in heaven (5:9,10); **to** every creature above, on, under the earth, in the sea (5:13)

- a) Even the demonic world & unsaved humanity thus fulfilling Phil.2:9-11 *every knee*.

I. **Heaven** is a *place of worship*, **so** get ready now to join in the praise.

1. This isn't a duty, a *do we have to* thing.
2. I think it's like what happens *automatically* to us when **a good song comes on** in a store, where it's hard not to tap your foot, whistle, or sing to.

J. **Slide13b** A. W. Tozer said, *Worship is to feel in your heart and express in some appropriate manner a humbling but delightful sense of admiring awe and astonished*

wonder and overpowering love in the presence of that most ancient Mystery, that Majesty which philosophers call the First Cause, but which we call Our Father Which Are in Heaven.

K. (14) We end with the 4 living Creatures getting a little Pentecostal on us...Amen!

1. Hearing this praise to Jesus as the Redeemer...do you find **your heart** saying **Amen?**