

Apply the Word

crossway church



CROSSWAY
CHURCH

Message Info

Title:

"Worthy is the Lamb"

Speaker:

Dave Harvey

Date:

September 14, 2008

Scripture:

Revelation 5

Kids Corner

1) Why do you think the Bible calls Jesus the Lamb of God?

2) Not only does the Bible refer to Jesus as a Lamb, it also calls him the Lion of Judah. How can that be? What do you think that God is trying to communicate to us in using these animals as images of Jesus?

Theme: The Lamb who was slain is worthy.

Introduction: Though the book of Revelation is often seen as a confusing hodge-podge of symbols, scrolls & seals, we know that ultimately it is the Revelation of *Jesus Christ*. He is the main character of the book, and Revelation gives us successively clearer and larger pictures into what will happen between his two advents: first, coming 2,000 years ago to live and to die for our sins; and second, when he comes again in glory as our conquering King. In Revelation 5:2, we hear the anguished cry that lies at the heart of the human dilemma: "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" Behind this cry lie two questions:

1) "Worthy of what?"

(vv. 4-5) *"... and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. And one of the elders said to me, 'Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.'"*

- The scroll is God's redemptive plan for mankind for all time. No creature is found worthy to open it, and John begins to weep because he's experiencing the desolation and hopelessness of life apart from Christ.
- Jesus is the only Person who is worthy to open the scroll, and thus worthy of worship. He is the one who brings the Father's redemptive plan to fruition.

2) "Why is he worthy?"

(v. 9c) *"for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation..."*

- Jesus is worthy because he alone has perfectly obeyed God, he alone is fully righteous, he alone is equal with God, he alone is a fitting sacrifice for our sins.
- Not only is Jesus worthy to open the scroll, but he is also worthy of the highest praise. We must take our cues from the response of heaven. Every creature breaks out into what becomes a growing crescendo of praise for the Lamb, as they recognize the glorious work of Christ in redeeming his people.

Questions:

- 1) Dave highlighted how Jesus' appearance in heaven was not what might have been expected from the "Lion of Judah" and the "Root of David." He came as a slain Lamb. He told us to consider, "What do *you* see when you look at Jesus?"
- 2) In light of the example of the slain Lamb, how does Jesus' humility challenge your understanding of greatness?
- 3) One of the main applications of our understanding of Jesus as the slain and triumphant Lamb is our assurance of faith. As we see the heavenly vision in Revelation 5, we realize that *we* are included in that multitude of God's people praising the Lamb. How does seeing Jesus in this role strengthen your assurance?

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