

WORTHY IS THE LAMB

REVELATION 4–5 · NIV

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This study comes from Sunday's message on Revelation 4–5. Take it slowly. Read every verse out loud if you can, write down what the Spirit shows you, and then do one thing this week.

OPENING

WHY REVELATION MATTERS

A lot of us skip Revelation. Too confusing. Too scary. Beasts, bowls, dragons. But look how it opens:

*Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near. **REVELATION 1:3***

It's the only book in the Bible that opens with a blessing for reading it and hearing it. So as you open it today, you're in line for a blessing.

*The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. **REVELATION 1:1–2***

Revelation means **unveiling**. Jesus is pulling back the curtain so a hurting, persecuted church could see who really rules.

*After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." **REVELATION 4:1***

Before God shows John the future, He shows him the throne room. And the first thing John sees... is worship.

The door is open. Come on up.

POINT ONE

THE THRONE IS OCCUPIED

Context first. John is an old man, exiled on a rocky island for preaching Jesus.

I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. REVELATION 1:9

He's writing to seven real churches in Asia Minor—modern-day Turkey. Some of them are under pressure from Rome. Caesar is calling himself “lord.”

At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. REVELATION 4:2

There's a throne... and somebody's sitting on it! The real throne wasn't in Rome. It never has been.

From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. REVELATION 4:5

Now let's be honest with the text. Revelation 4 isn't about hurricanes. That lightning and thunder isn't a weather report—it's an echo of Mount Sinai:

On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled. EXODUS 19:16

That's the holy presence of God. But here's the application for us: Isaias came through Bay County... but Isaias didn't take the throne.

Somebody's still sitting on it!

And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne. REVELATION 4:3

A rainbow around the throne. Where have we seen that before? After the flood:

I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. GENESIS 9:13

The storm doesn't get the last word. **The promise does.**

Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. **REVELATION 4:6**

In Scripture the sea often pictures chaos. But in front of God's throne? It's glass. It's still.

Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,’ who was, and is, and is to come." **REVELATION 4:8**

WHO WAS

He was there before the storm.

WHO IS

He's here in the cleanup.

WHO IS TO COME

He'll be here when the last tarp comes off.

REFLECT & SHARE

How did you and your family come through the storm—damage, needs, or praise? Write it down, share it with someone you trust, and then pray over the names God puts on your heart.

READ IT

Revelation 4 out loud, slowly.

WRITE IT

One thing that feels out of control right now, and under it: "Somebody's still sitting on the throne."

DO IT

Pray Revelation 4:8 over that one thing every day this week.

POINT TWO

WEeping, BUT DON'T STOP READING

Context. Chapter 5. God holds a scroll—His plan for history, judgment and redemption.

Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. **REVELATION 5:1-4**

John wept and wept. Some of you have wept this week. **But don't stop reading.**

Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals." **REVELATION 5:5**

The Lion of Judah goes back to Jacob’s blessing over his son Judah:

You are a lion’s cub, Judah; you return from the prey, my son. Like a lion he crouches and lies down, like a lioness—who dares to rouse him? The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his. **GENESIS 49:9–10**

The Root of David means He’s the promised King from David’s line. So John turns to see a Lion...

Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. **REVELATION 5:6**

He turns for a Lion and sees a Lamb. Every Jewish reader thinks Passover—the lamb whose blood saved God’s people. John the Baptist said it first:

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” **JOHN 1:29**

The Lion wins by being the Lamb.

Victory through the cross. Still wounded. Still standing. If you’re grieving a roof, a car, a business, a home—your situation can’t outlast Him. Dry your eyes, church. **The Lamb is standing!**

REFLECT

What do you need most from Jesus today: the Lion’s strength or the Lamb’s mercy? Why? Tell Him in your own words.

READ IT

Revelation 5:1–6 and John 1:29.

WRITE IT

What you’ve been grieving. Then write: “The Lamb is standing.”

DO IT

Check on one neighbor who is still cleaning up, and pray with them.

POINT THREE

HEAVEN IS SINGING, SO JOIN THE SONG

Context. The Lamb steps forward and takes the scroll. Heaven erupts.

He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. **REVELATION 5:7-8**

Golden bowls full of prayers. Every prayer you prayed while the wind was howling—none of it was lost. **Heaven kept it.**

And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." **REVELATION 5:9-10**

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they were saying: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" **REVELATION 5:11-12**

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped. **REVELATION 5:13-14**

Every creature. Even "on the sea." We said it from the last verse of the Psalms:

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord. **PSALM 150:6**

Psalms 150 calls for the song. Revelation 5 shows it happening. Whatever you came in carrying—the song has already started.

Just join it.

RESPOND

Say it out loud right where you are: "Worthy is the Lamb!" Then pray over the names you wrote down earlier.

READ IT

Revelation 5:9–14 as a prayer of praise.

WRITE IT

Three reasons the Lamb is worthy in your life.

DO IT

Sing or play one worship song this week, all the way through, out loud.

CLOSE

WILL WE SING?

THE DOOR IS STILL OPEN.
THE THRONE IS STILL OCCUPIED.
THE LAMB IS STILL STANDING.

The only question left: **will we sing?** Revelation 5:9 says with His blood He purchased people for God—from every tribe and language and people and nation. That includes you.

If you've never given your life to Jesus, today's the day. Pray with me:

A PRAYER OF RESPONSE

Jesus, You are the Lamb who was slain for me. I believe You rose and You reign. I turn from my sin and give You my life. Be my Lord and my Savior. Amen.

If you prayed this prayer, tell Pastor Greg. We want to celebrate with you and help you take your next step.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, You are on the throne. The storm came, but it didn't move You. Comfort every family in Bay County who lost something. Provide, restore, and rebuild. And let our lives join heaven's song: Worthy is the Lamb. In Jesus' name, amen.

Worthy is the Lamb!
