

# The Majesty of Christ

## Revelation 5:8-14

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March 31, 2024 a.m.

Introduction: We read in Revelation 4:11, “*Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory & honor & power: for Thou hast created all things, & for Thy pleasure they are & were created.*” The response to God’s holiness is our worship of Him as our Creator. Beginning with chapter 5 we respond with the worship of our Redeemer, Christ Jesus. Last week we considered the majesty of Christ as we focused on His first coming (as a sacrificial Lamb) on Palm Sunday (which lead us into our communion service). Our attention last morning was simply on this: The seven-sealed-depicted book (5:1-4) & the three-fold-described Lord (5:5-7 > the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, & the Lamb that was slain). This morning we will focus on Him as the Sovereign Lion, who is also the risen Sacrificial Lamb, as we observe Resurrection Sunday. Note with me in this passage three stanzas of a song. The theme of the song is: “*Worthy is the Lamb*” (5:8-14).

### I. Stanza **one** of the song > Worship by the “*beasts*” & the “*elders*” (:8-10)

#### A. **Who?** (5:8a)

1. Four “*beasts*” ('living creatures', angels - cf. cherubim & seraphim)
2. Twenty-four elders - represent the Church

#### B. **What?** (5:8b)

1. “*Harp*s” - Praise, used of heavenly worship & seen in the O.T.
2. “*Vial*s” (bowls) - Prayer, cf. Psalm 141:2. “*Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as incense; & the lifting up on my hands as the evening sacrifice.*”

Application: “Praise & prayer are the 2 essential elements of worship & the basis of real communication with the Lord” (Nutz).

#### C. **Why?** (:9-10) Christ is worthy because of:

1. His work of redemption [in the present > “...*hast redeemed us...*”] cf. I Peter 1:18-19, “*Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver & gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers: But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish & without spot*”

Application: “It is noteworthy that the heavenly host is not embarrassed (as are many modern congregations) to sing a hymn extolling the blood of Christ. The very price of the world’s redemption was the shed blood of the Savior” (Henry Morris).

2. His work of transformation [in the present > “...*hast made us unto our God kings & priests*”], made us kings & priests (“*kingdom of priests*,” Exodus 20:6), & cf. 1:6 & 20:6. We are to offer spiritual sacrifices (I Pet.2:5, “*Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ*”).

3. His work of exaltation [in the future > “...*and we shall reign on the earth*”] (cf. II Tim. 2:12, “*If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him...*”).

### II. Stanza **two** of the song > Worship by the angels (:11-12)

#### A. Their **presence** (:11).

1. An innumerable throng (billions?) - literally, “myriads of myriads” > “*ten thousand times ten thousand*” & “*thousands of thousands*” (Lk. 12:1, “...*an innumerable multitude (myriads) of people...*” & Heb. 12:22, “...*& to an innumerable company (myriads) of angels.*”).

2. An interested throng - recognize the greatness of Christ's work (I Peter 1:11, "...which things the angels desire to look into").

B. Their **praise** (:12).

1. Saying or singing? Do angels sing? (cf. Job 38:7, "When the morning stars sang together, & all the sons of God shouted for joy.")
2. Worship with a seven-fold ascription of praise, "Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, & riches, & wisdom, & strength, & honor, & glory, & blessing." These are seven qualities of God & the Lamb that demand our praise!

III. Stanza **three** of the song > Worship of all creation (:13-14)

- A. All creatures - cf. Romans 8:22, "the whole creation groaneth & travaileth in pain together until until now" - this is the now!

B. Compare the scene of Psalm 148:1-10, "Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the heavens: praise Him in the heights. Praise ye Him, all His angels: praise ye Him all His hosts. Praise ye Him, sun & moon: praise Him, all ye stars of light. Praise Him, ye heavens of heavens, & ye waters that be above the heavens. Let them praise the name of the LORD: for He commanded, & they were created. He hath also stablished them for ever & ever: He hath made a decree which shall not pass...Let them praise the name of the LORD: for His name alone is excellent; His glory is above the earth & heaven. He also exalted the horn of His people, the praise of all His saints; even of the children of Israel, a people near unto Him. Praise ye the LORD." > the entire universe in praise of the Lamb

Conclusion: One commentator writes: "For many Christians heaven is an unreal place. Even Christians tend to be occupied too much with the things of this present world, which can be seen & touched & felt. Too often goals in life have little to do with eternity's values. Though to the ordinary Christian the privilege of a vision of heaven such as was given the Apostle John & the Apostle Paul is seldom granted, what they saw has been plainly written in the Word of God, & we can see through their eyes the glorious picture of the majesty which surrounds the Lord in heaven. By comparison to the heavenly scene, earth is revealed to be temporary & transitory, & its glory & glitter are tarnished. As far as the heavens are above the earth, so far the glory of heaven transcends what the natural eye can see in this world.

Revelation puts earth & heaven in proper perspective, the scenes of earth ending in the tragic denouement (ending) of the great tribulation, & the scenes of heaven fulfilled both in the millennial glory & in the eternal state. The true occupation of the child of God should be one of praise & worship of the God of glory while awaiting the fulfillment of His prophetic Word" (John Walvoord).

The theme of this song > "Worthy is the Lamb." He is worthy of our souls – for He has redeemed us from our sin. He is worthy of our service – for He has saved us to serve. He is worthy of our surrender – for He has called us to do His will. He is worthy of our sons (children) – for He claims them as His heritage (Psalm 127:3). And He is worthy of our substance – for He has given us all that we have.

Can you join in this song today: "Worthy is the Lamb... "?