**The Worthy Lamb**

Rev. 5

Introduction:

1. Chapters 4 and 5 of Revelation are closely related.

2. Chapter 4 focuses attention on the sovereign throne of God in heaven. But this is not the first time in Revelation that the idea of rulership and a kingdom is introduced.

a. 1:5-6 introduces Jesus Christ as the ruler of the kings of the earth. It is He who has

released us from our sins by His blood and made us to be a kingdom of priests to the

Father, to Jesus Christ belongs glory and dominion forever and ever.

b. in 3:21 Jesus promises to those who overcome “to sit down with Me on My throne, as I

also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

c. It is from this context that chapter 4 looks into heaven at the Father’s throne.

3. Chapter 5 looks at the “the Lamb” who is worthy of dominion. It introduces a book that only He is worthy to open. What is this book? Chapter 5 introduces what the Lamb did to be worthy to open the book, and it reflects on His worthiness to have dominion.

4. Studying through the book of Revelation following this kingdom theme is quite enlightening.

Discussion:

I. The Lion from the tribe of Judah, the root of David, is the only one worthy to open the book (1-5).

A. Verse 1 connects with chapter 4 and the throne of God in heaven.

B. In the right hand of God is a sealed book.

C. “Who is worthy to open the book?”

1. No one is found.

2. John weeps.

3. One of the elders identifies that the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has

overcome can open the book.

4. What is this book?

D. First, observe that the one who is worthy is “the Lion from the tribe of Judah.”

1. This designation harks back to the O.T. and the authoritative or regal elements of

O.T. prophecy.

2. In Gen. 3:15 the seed of woman will subdue His enemies. This is the first hint

something to come.

3. Gen. 17:6, 16 add to the expectation. Through Abraham nations and kings are

going to come forth. Sarah will be a mother of nations and kings will come from her.

4. Gen. 35:11 adds more information. God said to Jacob (Israel), “I am God Almighty;

be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and

kings shall come forth from you.”

5. Gen. 49:9-10 makes the expectation more explicit. Judah is described as a lion.

Verse 10 says, “The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from

between his feet until Shiloh comes, and to him shall be the obedience of the

peoples.” Cf. Num. 24:17.

E. Second, observe that the one who is worthy is “the root of David.”

1. This designation also harks back to the O.T. and the authoritative or regal

elements of O.T. prophecy.

2. In 1 Sam. 8:7 when Israel demanded a king God said to Samuel, “They have not

rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them.”

3. Saul was the first king, but then David was anointed and to him a promise was

made (2 Sam. 7:12-12-16). Isa. 11:1 uses the image of a shoot from the stem of

Jesse, a branch from his roots. (Jesse, of course, was the father of David.)

a. It is a promise of an eternal kingdom.

b. All the earthly kings of Israel (Judah, after the division) from David on were

types of the king that would come.

c. The Jews of the first century were expecting a king to come from David who

was from the tribe of Judah, thus connecting to the earlier prophecies in

Genesis.

d. In our recent studies in Matthew we have seen how Matthew presents Jesus

as this King. Acts presents Him as seated at the right hand of God.

F. Thus, Jesus Christ is the one who fits the bill genealogically to open the sealed

book. Note Matthew and Luke’s tracing of Jesus’ lineage through David. But it is

not his lineage that makes Him worthy to open the book.

II. His worthiness is founded upon His having been slain to purchase men for God (6-10).

A. That He is the Lamb associates Him with the sacrificial lambs of O.T. sacrifice. They

are the type; He is the anti-type.

B. He is the one and only one worthy (Heb. 10:3-10; cf. Psa. 40:7). Notice that this text

says, “In the scroll of the book it is written of Me.” Can this be the same book?

C. This brings us to the identification of this sealed book. What is it?

1. It is the plan of God for the salvation of His people. It is the revelation of His purpose

in Jesus Christ to establish His kingdom.

2. Note that it includes men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. Shall

we say Jews and Gentiles?

3. He makes them to be a kingdom. Even the gates of Hades cannot prevail against

His kingdom (Matt. 16:18-19). It is founded upon the confession of His being the

Christ, the Messianic King, the Son of God (v. 16).

4. Cf. Eph 1:3ff; 3:8-11.

D. Through Him the dominion of the Father is executed.

1. All those who submit to Him become citizens in His kingdom.

2. And will reign with Him. This reign begins when they are transferred from the

domain of darkness and transferred to the kingdom of the beloved Son in whom we

have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Col. 1:13-14, 15-20). Cf. Rev. 1:5-6; 3:21.

III. The Lamb is worthy to receive blessings, honor, glory and dominion (11-14). He reigns with His Father (3:21).

A. The angels, the living creatures and the elders praise the Lamb!

B. Every created thing in heaven, on the earth, under the earth, on the sea—all things

praise Him who sits on the throne and the Lamb!

C. The four living creatures kept saying “Amen!”

D. And the elders fell down and worshiped.

E. Shall we do any less?

Conclusion:

1. The Lion from the tribe of Judah, descended from David, is the Lamb slain who has purchased for God with His blood people who have been made into a kingdom.

2. He takes the book, because He is worthy to reveal the purpose and plan of God to establish His Kingdom.

3. Honor and glory and praise to the King who sits on the throne and to the Lamb for the dominion belongs to them forever and ever.