

LESSON 4 — THE LAMB WHO IS WORTHY

Revelation 5:1–14

THEME: The One who rules history is the Lamb who was slain. Jesus alone is worthy to open God's scroll because He has conquered by His sacrificial death, redeemed a people for God by His blood, and now receives the worship of heaven and earth.

1. THE SCROLL NO ONE CAN OPEN (5:1–4)

The scroll lies in the right hand of the One on the throne and is sealed with seven seals. It represents God's decree for the unfolding of history—especially His judgments and the final deliverance of His people. John weeps because no creature is worthy to open it. If no one can open the scroll, history has no revealed resolution and the Church has no visible way forward.

Key Question: Why does John's weeping make sense from an earthly point of view?

2. THE LION WHO APPEARS AS A LAMB (5:5–7)

Image / Title	Old Testament Background	Meaning
Lion of Judah	Genesis 49:9–10	The promised royal Messiah
Root of David	Isaiah 11:1, 10	David's greater Son and eternal King
Lamb standing, as slain	Isaiah 53:7; Exodus 12	Victory accomplished through sacrifice
Seven horns	1 Samuel 2:10; Psalm 18:2	Perfect, God-given power
Seven eyes / Spirits	Zechariah 3:9; 4:10	The Spirit sent throughout the earth

John is told to look for a Lion, but he sees a Lamb. Revelation does not replace the Lion with the Lamb; it shows how the Lion conquers. Christ's royal victory is the victory of the cross. The marks of slaughter remain, yet the Lamb is standing—crucified, risen, and reigning.

Discussion: Why is it important that the Lamb is both "slain" and "standing"?

3. THE NEW SONG OF REDEMPTION (5:8–10)

The elders and living creatures fall before the Lamb. Their harps signify praise; the bowls of incense are explicitly identified as "the prayers of the saints." Heaven does not ignore the prayers of Christ's Church. They rise before God while the Lamb governs the events about to unfold.

The New Song Says...	What It Confesses
"You were slain"	The atoning death of Christ
"You redeemed us to God by Your blood"	A real purchase price: Christ's blood
"Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation"	One Church gathered from all nations
"A kingdom and priests"	Believers belong to God and serve before Him
"They shall reign on the earth"	The saints share in Christ's victory

4. WORTHY IS THE LAMB (5:11–14)

The circle of worship expands: living creatures and elders, then countless angels, then every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, and in the sea. The Lamb receives the same doxology as the One seated on the throne. Revelation therefore gives Christ divine honor without hesitation: the slain Lamb is true God and the Redeemer of creation.

Key Question: What does the worship of the Lamb teach us about who Jesus is?

5. FROM THE THRONE TO THE LAMB

Revelation 4	Revelation 5
God is worthy because He created all things.	The Lamb is worthy because He redeemed sinners.
The throne reveals who rules history.	The scroll reveals how history moves toward God's goal.
Heaven is secure around the Creator.	The Church is secure because the Lamb has conquered.

WHAT REVELATION 5 RULES OUT

False Conclusion	What John Sees Instead
History is ultimately ruled by chance.	The scroll remains in God's hand and is opened by Christ.
Christ conquers by the methods of earthly power.	The Lion conquers as the Lamb who was slain.
The prayers of believers disappear unheard.	The prayers of the saints stand before God like incense.
Redemption belongs to one earthly nation.	The Lamb purchases a people from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation.

TAKE-HOME TRUTH

The future of the Church is not secured by our ability to understand or control history. It is secured by the Lamb who was slain and now stands. The hands that bear the marks of sacrifice are the hands that open the scroll and govern what comes next.

Closing Question: How does Revelation 5 change the way a Christian looks at events that seem frightening or out of control?
