

Session 4

JESUS IS WORTHY

October 4, 2026

Memory Verse

Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Look, the Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered so that he is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

– REVELATION 5:5, CSB



Jesus is Worthy

THEOLOGICAL THEME: Christ, the sacrificed Lamb, is worthy.

CALL TO ACTION: How do you need to respond to Jesus this week as a sign of His value in your life?

King Arthur is one of history's most intriguing heroes. His legend has fascinated for hundreds of years and still finds its way into modern storylines.

Said to have lived around the fifth or sixth century, legend portrays Arthur as a brave warrior and military leader during a very violent period of British history. No historical evidence exists to confirm that King Arthur was a real person (the first accounts of him didn't pop up until the twelfth century, hundreds of years after he was meant to have lived). Portrayed as a powerful and generous Christian king, it is no wonder that his legend has lived on.

Wrapped up in the legend of Arthur is another famous story: the story of Excalibur, often known as the sword in the stone. In this legend, the famous sword was put in the stone (or an anvil, or a lake, depending on the account). It could only be drawn out by the one who was worthy—the rightful successor to king Uther Pendragon's throne. According to the story, it was King Arthur who was found worthy to pull the sword from the stone. This led to his becoming a fierce warrior and knight of the famous round table, a savior of sorts to his people.¹

King Arthur may or may not have been a real person, but today in our study of Revelation we'll read of the true Savior, who is found worthy in the most important way.



What does it mean to deem someone worthy of a certain role or task?



What have you learned in our study of Revelation so far?

Session Summary

Today, we'll continue John's vision in the heavenly throne room. John saw a sealed scroll with writing on both sides, and as he despaired because it looked like no one was worthy to open it, someone emerged.

John saw the Lion of Judah, the Root of David, the sacrificed Lamb, Christ Jesus. Jesus is all-powerful and all-knowing, and His sacrifice (for people of “every tribe and language and people and nation,” v. 9) makes Him worthy to open the scroll and worthy of the praise of all of creation.

1. Who is Worthy? (Revelation 5:1-4)



Describe what John saw and how he responded in these verses.

Chapter 5 of Revelation opens directly after the passage we studied last week. John saw the heavenly throne room and observed God being worshiped by every creature. In today's passage, we'll see the attention in the throne room shift.

John saw a sealed scroll in God the Father's right hand. The “right hand” (v. 1) here signifies God's authority and power.²

On the scroll, there was writing on both sides (this recalls the scroll God showed Ezekiel with writing on both sides in Ezekiel 2:9-10). This signifies it was full—complete and final. The scroll had seven seals. Ancient scrolls would have first been tied up with one or multiple threads (more threads meant the document was safer from tampering), then sealed with hot wax, with the unique seals of individual witnesses pressed into it. Someone seeking to read or tamper with the document would be unable. A person couldn't open the document without breaking the wax seals, and it was not possible to replace the seals because they were unique to the witnesses. The document would remain secure until it was the right time to open it publicly. Ancient legal documents usually had about six witnesses. This scroll had seven. Remember, seven is a number of perfection (of fullness and completeness) in the Bible.³



What might it mean about this scroll that it was sealed with the perfect number of witnesses?

What was the scroll, and what was written on it? Scholars generally interpret the scroll to represent God's perfect plan for creation.⁴ Dr. Warren Wiersbe understands the scroll to represent the "title deed" belonging to Christ because of His redemptive work on the cross. Only an appointed heir can open a title deed, and the heir in this case is Christ Jesus.⁵

While John saw God the Father holding the scroll, he also heard a "mighty angel" (v. 2) call out "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" (v. 2). But he called and no one in heaven or on earth was able to view the scroll or open it.

? What about this problem might have led John to weep? How would you assess your own desire to know the things of God?

If the scroll held God's perfect plan for creation, the world's destiny, and God's plan for redemption couldn't be fully realized until it had been opened, it is no wonder John wept.

2. The Lion of Judah (Revelation 5:5-7)

? What stands out in these verses? What is significant about the description of Jesus?

John wept because "no one was found worthy to open the scroll or even to look in it" (v. 4). But he was comforted by one of the elders in the throne room (Revelation 4:10). The elder told John not to weep because there was someone who could open the scroll and its seals.

The elder's words ("the Lion from the tribe of Judah" and "the Root of David") recall Old Testament imagery:

*Judah is a young lion—
my son, you return from the kill.
He crouches; he lies down like a lion
or a lioness—who dares to rouse him?
The scepter will not depart from Judah
or the staff from between his feet
until he whose right it is comes,
and the obedience of the peoples belongs to him.
—Genesis 49:9-10*

*Then a shoot will grow from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots will bear fruit.*
—Isaiah 11:1

The elder declared Christ could open the scroll and its seals because He is worthy. But when John looked, he saw not a lion, but a lamb. And not just any lamb, "one like a slaughtered lamb" (v. 6). These words also recall other biblical references:

*He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth.
Like a lamb led to the slaughter
and like a sheep silent before her shearers,
he did not open his mouth.*
—Isaiah 53:7

*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



**What do these descriptions of Jesus remind us about His identity?
Why is it important we recall these truths often?**

Sacrificed Passover lambs once saved God's people from death in the plague of the firstborn in Egypt (Exodus 12), and Jesus's sacrifice saves us in more complete way. His sacrifice delivered us from sin and death forever and His redemptive work on the cross is what made Him worthy to open the scroll.

In the book of Daniel, horns represent power (Daniel 7).⁶ Seven horns represent the Lamb's perfect and complete power. He also has perfect omniscience (represented by seven eyes). Christ is all-powerful and all-knowing.

John saw the Lamb take the scroll. This transfer of authority allowed the Lamb to fulfill the judgments and events we will see in the contents of the scroll as we continue in Revelation.⁷

In the ancient world, when the person's death was verified, the seals on their will would be broken, and the contents in the will made public. Similarly, Christ's sacrificial death enabled the document to be opened.⁸

How has Christ revealed God’s perfect will to us?

3. Worthy is the Lamb (Revelation 5:8-14)

How did those surrounding the throne respond when Jesus took the throne? What does this indicate about Him?

When Christ took the scroll, the living creatures and the elders in the throne room fell down in worship before Him.

In verse 8, we read of golden bowls filled with the prayers of believers. This is a reminder our prayers are real and valuable to God (they are represented as filling golden bowls). And the word translated “saints” here isn’t exclusive. It is for all believers. Paul used the same Greek word in Romans 1:7.⁹

How can this picture shape the way we view the value of prayer?

These worshipers sang a new song proclaiming Jesus’s worthiness. He is worthy because of His sacrifice. He purchased people from “every tribe and language and people and nation” (v. 9), with His blood (1 Corinthians 6:20). Christ has made us into a kingdom of priests, and we will one day reign with Him.

Then, many more voices joined in the praise (“Their number was countless thousands, plus thousands of thousands” v. 11). In fact, all of creation joined in to praise Him in worship.

This scene reminds us of Paul’s words in Philippians:

*so that at the name of Jesus
every knee will bow—
in heaven and on earth
and under the earth—
and every tongue will confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
—Philippians 2:10-11*



What does the worthiness of Jesus indicate about how we should respond to Him every day?

Conclusion

The Book of Revelation is rich with imagery that is often hard for the uninitiated reader to interact. However, most of these difficult texts are about one basic concept—for Revelation 5, it is worship. Everyone worships something—that’s how we were designed. But in our sinfulness, we often choose to worship things like spouses, success, or even sports teams. The throne room of God is the ultimate expression of worship. It is in the throne room that all bow before Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

The scene of Revelation 5 can be overwhelming, but we don’t need to absorb or understand every detail. The most important thing for us to take away here is that Christ is all-powerful, all-knowing, victorious, and He is worthy.

Jesus alone is worthy of all praise and honor because He alone reveals the will of God. Had the scroll not been opened, God’s Word, decrees, and judgment could not be made known. Jesus is the only One who can break the scroll, and for that, He is worthy of our worship.

He is worthy of our devotion and a worthy Shepherd in guiding our lives. Through His sacrifice, He offers the gift of salvation to people “from every tribe and language and people and nation” (v. 9). Salvation is offered to anyone who believes in Him. He is worthy of all praise.



It is one thing to understand that Christ is worthy of our praise and devotion, and another to live like it. Does your life currently reflect a heart posture turned toward Jesus? How can you grow in this?



What is the value of growing together as worshipers of God in daily life?



Who can you share with about the worthiness of Christ this week?

Memorize

Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Look, the Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered so that he is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

- Revelation 5:5, CSB

References

¹<https://time.com/4775558/history-king-arthur-true-story/>;
<https://ds.guilford.edu/classes/history/233-2020s/the-story-of-king-arthur/sword-in-the-stone-explorations-of-excalibur/>

²A. Boyd Luter, “Revelation,” in *CSB Study Bible: Notes*, ed. Edwin A. Blum and Trevin Wax (Holman Bible Publishers, 2017).

³Christopher A. Beetham and Nancy L. Erickson, eds., *The NIV Application Commentary on the Bible*, One-Volume Edition, NIV Application Commentary (Zondervan Academic, 2024).

⁴Luter.

⁵Wiersbe, Warren W. *Be Victorious: In Christ You Are an Overcomer*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985.

⁶Luter.

⁷Ibid.

⁸Beetham and Erickson.

⁹Luter.