
PRAYER PROMPTS:

- Pray that the worthiness of Jesus would move us from mere understanding to wholehearted worship that works itself out in eager pursuit of the Great Commission.
- Pray for anyone trying to make themselves worthy before God, that they would stop striving and trust the Lamb who was slain in their place.
- Pray that CVC would feel the global scope of Christ's ransom and become increasingly willing to pray, give, send, and go.
- Pray for missionaries and future missionaries who will follow the path of the slain Lamb into costly places for the sake of the gospel.
- Pray that the Lord would call many from the next generation at CVC that would give their lives to global missions—specifically going to place where Christ has not yet been named.

THE SCROLL & THE SORROW (VV. 1-4)

The One seated on the throne holds a scroll written on both sides and sealed with seven seals. The scroll represents God's sovereign plan to save His people and bring them into the new creation, and to judge evil and finally conquer all rebellion.

- **Written on the front and back:** It is full. Nothing is missing and nothing needs to be added.
- **Seven seals:** It is completely secured. No one opens it without the right and authority to do so.
- **In God's right hand:** A picture of divine power and authority, not a claim that the Father has a physical human hand.

Worthiness is about enactment.

The question is not who is strong enough to break the seals, educated enough to read the scroll, or important enough to deserve the honor. The worthy one must be able to carry out God's plan - to save sinners and judge evil.

No one in heaven, on earth, or under the earth qualifies. Every human being owes a sin-debt of his or her own. To save, someone must pay for sin. To judge perfectly, someone must be perfectly holy. The angels are servants, not saviors.

Why does John weep?

If no one can enact God's plan, the martyrs are never vindicated, evil is never finally judged, the church is never brought safely into the new creation, and the promises of God appear to remain unopened.

THE SOLUTION (VV. 5-10)

The Lion is the Lamb. The victorious King conquers through sacrifice.

- **Seven horns:** perfect power.
- **Seven eyes:** complete knowledge; the text identifies them with the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.
- **As though slain:** the marks of sacrificial death remain central to the Lamb's identity.
- **Standing:** the slaughtered Lamb is alive. His death was not defeat.

Why is Jesus worthy?

The new song answers the question: "for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God."

Ransom: the price paid to set a captive free. Jesus does not merely show us how to live; He dies as a substitute - in the place of sinners.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

AM I TRUSTING JESUS' FINISHED WORK - OR QUIETLY DEPENDING
ON MY MORALITY, KNOWLEDGE, CHURCH ATTENDANCE, OR GOOD
DEEDS TO MAKE ME WORTHY?

THE SINGING (VV. 9-14)

The discovery that no one is worthy produces bitter weeping. The discovery that the Lamb is worthy is too large for ordinary speech. The throne room erupts in song - and the choir keeps expanding.

The Lamb's ransom creates a global Church

- Jesus ransoms people "from every tribe and language and people and nation." The gospel is not for one culture, one country, or one kind of person. The song in heaven has a part for every language.
- That is why the church prays, sends, gives, and goes. God uses His people to bring the news of the slain and risen Lamb to those who have not heard.
- Following the Lamb may mean costly sacrifice: going to hard places, releasing sons or daughters to the nations, giving generously, or praying and fasting for laborers.

The song in heaven has a part for every language. And the only way those parts get filled is if someone prays, someone sends, and someone goes.

OUR RESPONSE

Worship: Sing like the Lamb is worthy - because He is.

Witness: Share the good news that Jesus died and rose to ransom sinners.

Mission: Ask what part God is calling you to play in bringing every tribe, language, people, and nation into the song.



WEEK 7 - SYMBOLISM & TERMS

Right hand of God: A biblical image of divine power and authority.

Scroll: Represents God's sovereign plan to save His people, bring them into the new creation, judge evil, and bring history to its appointed end.

Written within and on the back: The scroll is completely full; nothing is missing and nothing needs to be added.

Seven seals: Seven signifies completeness. The scroll is completely secured and cannot be opened without rightful authority.

Worthy: Not merely strong, important, educated, or skilled. The worthy one must be able to enact God's plan - actually bring redemption and judgment to completion.

Heaven / earth / under the earth: An exhaustive search across the whole created order, including the realm of the dead.

Lion of the tribe of Judah: A royal title reaching back to Genesis 49. It identifies Jesus as the promised victorious King from Judah.

Root of David: A messianic title connected to the Davidic hope expressed in Isaiah 11. The royal line that appeared cut down lives again in the promised King.

Lamb standing, as though slain: Jesus conquers through sacrificial death, yet He is standing because He is risen and alive. His victory is achieved through the cross and resurrection.

Seven horns: Horns symbolize power. Seven communicates completeness. The Lamb possesses perfect power.

Seven eyes / seven spirits of God: The Lamb sees completely and knows all.

Kingdom and priests: The redeemed are made God's kingdom and priests: a people who belong to Him, serve before Him, and share in the reign promised by the Lamb.