

**Scripture Reference:** Revelation 5:9-10

**Date:** April 6, 2014

**Title:** "Worthy is the Lamb"

**Focus:** Recognizing the worth of Jesus

At a transition place in the book of Revelation, God's pronouncement of "*the things which will take place*" (1:19) hinges on one issue, "*Who is worthy to open the scroll and break the seals?*" (v. 2)

The execution of God's will seeks a worthy agent. Yet, as John looked around all of heaven, reminiscent of Adam's search for a mate in Genesis, no one was found.

That is, until a Lion in the form of a Lamb steps forward. This of course is Jesus. What makes Jesus worthy? The twenty-four elders and four living creatures provide the answer:

## **Jesus is Worthy Because of His *Atoning* Death**

That Jesus of Nazareth died is an indisputable historical fact. His execution by Roman authorities as the behest of Jewish leaders is document in the Bible, but also outside of it. Only a fool was dispute His execution.

It is the nature of His death and Jesus' own claims around it that are wrestled with.

Jesus claimed that He came to offer His very life “as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45 / Matt. 20:28).

Prophecy declared that messiah death would be the source of relief from the scourge of sin (Isa. 53:5). Peter recognized the veracity of this claim in Jesus.

*1 Peter 2:24; “[Jesus] Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.”*

The assertion of Jesus and the beliefs of those who knew Him was that by the death of Jesus alone sin’s penalty and God’s anger against sin is satisfied.

*Romans 3:23-25; “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His [God’s] grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation [an appeasement] in His blood through faith.”*

Jesus is worthy *“to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing”* (Rev. 5:12) because by His death He is only source, means, and way for to peace with God.

## **Jesus is Worthy Because of His *Sanctifying* Resurrection**

Jesus’ death is effective to cleans humanity, indeed all creation, from the condemnation of sin and bring humanity into a proper relationship with God. That is why He is the one who ushers in the final portion of Revelation.

But, the twenty-four elders and four living creatures also say the Lamb is worthy because, “[He has] made [humanity] to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth” (5:10). Jesus alone is the source of personal transformation. The new life He lives makes possible a person to be the very bearer of the nature of God.

*Romans 6:4-5; “As Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection.”*

Paul declared his personal experience this way, “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me” (Gal 2:20).

Jesus is worthy because He is the means to personal spiritual and physical transformation and new life as a representative of God

### **Closing:**

1. Christianity is about a relationship with God made possible because of Jesus’ death and resurrection.
2. Remove Jesus and people are without hope, lost in this life and cut off from God completely (1 Cor. 15:17).
3. Jesus is essential.