

## LESSON 9

April 27, 2025

### Unit II: Christ's All-sufficient Sacrifice

# Sing a New Song

DEVOTIONAL READING: Psalm 118:15-29

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: Revelation 5

PRINT PASSAGE: Revelation 5:1-10

## KEY VERSE

They sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation. (Revelation 5:9, KJV)

.....

They sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation." (Revelation 5:9, NIV)

## LESSON AIMS

As a result of experiencing this lesson, you should be able to do the following:

- Understand what makes Jesus the only one worthy to open the scroll.
- Wonder at the paradox of the Lion and the Lamb.
- Testify to how your life is different because of Jesus' sacrifice.

## \*KEY TERMS

**Beasts (verse 6)**—Greek: *zoon* (dzo'-on): animals; brutes; "living creatures" (NIV).

**Elders (verse 5)**—Greek: *presbuteros* (pres-boo'-ter-os): among the Jews, members of the great council or Sanhedrin; among Christians, those who presided over the assemblies; in early times, the rulers of the people, judges, etc., were selected from the elderly men; the twenty-four members of the heavenly Sanhedrin or court, seated on thrones around the throne of God.

**(Golden) Vials (verse 8)**—Greek: *phialé* (fee-al'-ay): broad, shallow bowls (made of gold); deep saucers; "golden bowls" (NIV).

**Seals (verse 1)**—Greek: *sphragis* (sfrag-ece'): signet rings; the impressions of a seal; those things which the seal attests; the proofs.

\*(Word Study Supplement—Refer to page 2)



### The Biblical Context

Revelation (Greek: *apokalypsis*; meaning “to take the cover off” or “an unveiling”) is the title of the Bible’s last book. John is identified as its author. He composed “The Revelation” in the first century AD near the end of Domitian’s reign as Rome’s emperor. The early church was severely persecuted during the reigns of Domitian and Nero. The aged apostle was exiled to a Roman penal colony on the small island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea for preaching the Gospel faithfully. While there, John received a revelation of the risen Christ. This revelation was given to Christ by God the Father and communicated to John by an angel (see Revelation 1:1). Primarily, the book of Revelation is about Jesus Christ and records messages, prophecies, and visions shared with John to show believers things to occur in the end times, while encouraging them to repent and remain faithful. The overarching theme of this book is Christ’s return to defeat evil and establish His kingdom. Revelation is also unique because it is the Bible’s only book that provides its structural outline: “Write therefore, what you have seen” (Revelation 1:19, NIV), what is now (see Revelation 2–3), and what will take place later” (see Revelation 4–22). This lesson’s contextual setting is from this third section, where John receives a vision of heaven’s worship before God’s judgment of humanity begins, climaxing with Christ’s victorious reign.

## INTRODUCTION

In the 1960s, noted theologian and author T. W. Tozer described worship as the missing jewel in modern evangelicalism. His words suggested that some people during that era did not understand worship from God’s perspective, as defined in the Bible. His conclusion is still applicable today. In his book *Real Worship: Playground, Battleground, or Holy Ground?* Warren Wiersbe noted, “If we look at worship only as a means of getting something from God, rather than giving something to God, then we make God our servant instead of our Lord, and the elements of worship become a cheap formula for selfish glorification” (page 28). The truth is that no one can worship God properly without having a correct view of who He is. Worship is an entrance into God’s spiritual presence. Therefore, those who only experience stirred emotions without transformation have not experienced authentic worship. Like the prophet Isaiah, believers who encounter God’s presence should be touched and changed (see Isaiah 6). Where may one look to discover what genuine worship is and how it looks? The answer is embedded in God’s Word. One may discover, examine, and study true worship in the Bible because the Scriptures illustrate it repeatedly. One of the most vivid and informative pictures of authentic worship is found in Revelation 4–5, through John’s vision of God’s heavenly throne room. In chapter 4, God the Father is on His throne and is worshipped as the Creator of all things, where He is the only focus of those worshipping Him. Revelation 5 places the Son of God at center stage to be worshipped as the Redeemer and Lamb who was slaughtered as the all-sufficient sacrifice. He is the only One worthy to open the seals, releasing God’s judgment on

sinful humanity. In each picture, heaven’s worship is directed to an audience of One—the focus of all worship that is acceptable and pleasing to God.

## ANALYSIS OF THE BIBLICAL TEXT

### The Lamb: His Worthiness (*Revelation 5:1-7*)

#### KJV

AND I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

#### NIV

THEN I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals.

2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?"

3 But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it.

4 I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.

5 Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

6 Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

7 He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.

Chaos characterizes this nation and world with no specific voice of reason being raised to counter it. In vain, humanity has searched everywhere trying find satisfying answers to life's problems. The answers to the deepest human problems are revealed through God's Word in clear words and vivid images. Revelation 5 presents John's inexpressible joy when the attention of all creation finally centers on Jesus, the only one who can speak peace to a world spinning out of control. John describes why the Lamb, Jesus Christ, is worthy to receive this authority. John saw God on His throne as the Creator and sustainer of all things with a scroll in His right



hand, with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals (**verse 1**). John recognized this scroll as a legal ownership document opened only by a rightful heir. In this context, this scroll symbolized God's supreme authority, the completeness of its contents, and the significance and finality of God's plan.

Next, John saw the mighty angel who would challenge all creation for someone worthy to open the scroll and break its seals (**verses 2-3**). Note that the angel's cry was not for one strong enough but someone worthy (good enough, suitable) to do it. John wept loudly because a universal search found no one worthy to reveal God's plan (**verse 4**). An elder comforted John, telling him to stop wailing because one was worthy—the Lion of Judah and the Root of David, Jesus Christ—who had overcome, a reference to His complete victory over sin and death through the Resurrection (**verse 5**). Yet, when John turned his attention to the center of the throne room, he did not see a lion but a Lamb surrounded by the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures. The Lamb's appearance was as if it had been slaughtered, with seven horns and seven eyes, symbolizing complete power and total knowledge (**verse 6**). John then saw Christ the Lamb step forward and take the scroll from God's right hand (**verse 7**), a gesture symbolizing Christ's moral and legal right to implement God's plans as the result of His redemptive work on the Cross. This scene is a poignant reminder that we, too, should acknowledge that Christ the Lamb is still worthy to receive glory and honor because He redeemed us by His shed blood on Calvary.

### **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

**How should our knowing the reason for Christ's worthiness to take the scroll affect the motivation for our worship and ministry today?**

## **The Lamb: His Worship** (*Revelation 5:8-10*)

### **KJV**

**8** And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

**9** And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

**10** And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

### **NIV**

**8** And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people.

**9** And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.

**10 “You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”**

The heavenly worship setting changed dramatically when Christ the Redeemer took the scroll from God the Creator (**verse 8**). Worshipping replaced weeping as the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders prostrated themselves in reverence before the Lamb. The “order of worship” around the throne is noteworthy. It begins with the four living creatures, a special order of angelic beings or cherubim. They are positioned around God’s throne and worship Him continually. John watched as they knelt before Jesus, acknowledging His authority as God’s Son and humanity’s Redeemer. The twenty-four elders join the worshippers at the throne, accompanying them on harps and offering the prayers of the saints to God, symbolized by the bowls of incense they held in their hands. The offering of the saints’ prayers should encourage and remind believers that the sincere prayers of God’s people are never in vain. The prayers of the righteous are never dismissed or discarded but, according to this verse, are stored up until God’s appointed time to intervene.

The four living creatures and the elders compose and sing a “new song” in recognition of a new reason to worship (**verse 9**). God’s new mercies always demand a new (different reason) to praise Him. Yesterday’s praise won’t fit today or tomorrow because God is constantly doing something new for those who trust Him. Thus, believers’ praise always needs refreshing. The heavenly worshippers that John saw praised God for the Lamb’s work of redemption as accomplished by the sacrifice of shed blood to deliver sinners from bondage and make them a kingdom of priests for God (**verse 10**). This verse highlights believers’ responsibilities with respect to God’s redemptive plan and Christ’s eternal reign. This phase of heaven’s worship also applies to the church’s communal worship. The submissive reverence of heaven’s highest order of angelic beings and those representing the highest order of the redeemed informs us that worshippers have no notable titles and prestigious positions during worship because God is always the only recognized audience. Everyone entering a sacred place of worship is on the same spiritual plane in God’s sight. Finally, worship should never be stagnant or orchestrated because every believer has a new reason to praise God each day.

**❓ WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

**How different would church worship be if approached as it is in heaven?  
What changes would be necessary?**

**A CLOSING THOUGHT**

Revelation 5 provides a detailed glimpse of heavenly worship. The focus of the living creatures (cherubim) and the twenty-four elders’ worship is Christ the Redeemer. Their worship illustrates practical spiritual principles for guiding worship today: keeping the focus on God (not people)—honoring God exclusively for who He is and all He has done. True worshippers go before God reverently, offering Him fresh, new praise for each new mercy.

## YOUR LIFE

In Revelation 5, Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, receives worship for what He did—saving humanity from sin and death, and making them kings and priests through His shed blood. The significance of Jesus' sacrifice summons believers in every generation and circumstance to worship Him.

## YOUR WORLD!

At Calvary, Christ the Lamb surrendered and sacrificed His life for the sins of the world. John caught a spiritual glimpse of the glorious worship that Jesus will receive because of His sacrifice and victory over sin. The heavenly worshippers shall sing a “new song,” declaring the purpose of their worship—the Lamb's redemptive work on humanity's behalf. Every blood-bought child of God has been purchased from sin's slave market and, therefore, has a reason to praise God anew each day, and every gathering for public worship as a witness. As they worship, believers proclaim to the world that He still redeems lost sinners.

## CLOSING PRAYER

Gracious Father, we worship Your Son, the Lamb, who was slain for our redemption, with a new song of praise: “We've Been Redeemed!” We commit our lives to humble service and loving sacrifice in gratitude for His sacrifice. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## CONCLUSION

(Preparing for Next Week's Lesson)

Next week's lesson explores the cost of acting outside of God's will (1 Chronicles 21:14-30).

### Home Daily Bible Readings

MONDAY, April 28	“Answer Me, O Lord”	(Psalm 86:1-7, 10-17)
TUESDAY, April 29	“Be Alert”	(1 Peter 5)
WEDNESDAY, April 30	“The Lord Will Not Reject Forever”	(Lamentations 3:21-36)
THURSDAY, May 1	“God Patiently Waits for Repentance”	(2 Peter 3:1-10)
FRIDAY, May 2	“Live the Godly Life”	(2 Peter 3:11-18)
SATURDAY, May 3	“A Presumptive King”	(1 Chronicles 21:1-13)
SUNDAY, May 4	“A Costly Sacrifice”	(1 Chronicles 21:14-30)

## Notes

---

---

---