

**Lewis Winkler**

9 February 2014

Message 10 of 20

**The Seal Breaker**

***Revelation 5***

**Introduction**

1. No matter how bad things look today, God is still in control (Rev. 4).
2. Chapters 4–5 are the transitional chapters from Christ’s sovereignty over the churches (Rev. 2–3) to Christ’s sovereignty over the future events (Rev. 6–22).
3. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Who is worthy to break the seal (5:1-4)?**
4. The scroll is written on both sides to depict God has much to say about the future!
	1. Papyrus has a unique quality where it is possible
	2. This is the fullness of what God seeks to reveal about coming events.
5. John longs to hear a message from God.
6. What is so hard about breaking a seal? Anyone can easily break wax!
7. The issue is not *strength* here—it is about worthiness to *judge*.
8. John weeps at not knowing what God has in store, but do we get upset at not hearing from God?
9. We actually have God’s information right in the Scriptures to hear from God!
10. People gave their lives so that we can have the Bible in our language of English. Do we appreciate this?
11. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus is worthy to break the seal (5:5-10)!**

Jesus is worthy due to his nature and work.

* 1. **Because of Who He Is (5-8):**
		1. **He is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Lion of the tribe of Judah (5).**
1. Jesus is worthy because of *who He is* as the Lion of the tribe of Judah.
2. Jesus fulfills the kingly and messianic lineage of Judah (5:5).
	* 1. **He is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Root of David (5).**
		2. **He is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Lamb who was slain (6-8).**
3. Jesus is worthy because of what He has done as the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world (5:6).
4. Jesus redeemed the world by shedding His blood.
5. The seven horns depict his omnipotence.
6. The seven eyes depict his omniscience.
7. Since God alone is omnipotent and omniscient, Jesus is clearly God!
	1. **Because of What He Has Done (9-10):**
		1. **He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ransomed people from every tribe, tongue, and nation (9).**
		2. **He made them a kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ priests (10).**
8. We are God’s representatives on earth *from* every tribe and nation and language and people with responsibility to represent God *to* every tribe and nation and language and people.
9. We have the responsibility for holiness.
10. “It is worth noticing that worship is reserved for God only. That the Lamb is worshipped is evidence of His full divinity” (Leon Morris).
11. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus is worthy of all worship (5:11-14)!**

**Conclusion and Application**

1. **Main Idea**: Jesus is worthy to reveal the future and be worshipped because He is the Divine Messiah and redeemed us from the penalty of sin, making us a kingdom of priests.
2. Not only this, but Jesus is the only one worthy to judge the world! Everyone else is under God’s judgment and thus not worthy to judge!

**Personal Application:**

1. Have you truly trusted in Jesus Christ to forgive your sin and bring you into a right relationship with God?

*This is the central issue in life.*

1. If so, does your life really reflect the fact that you are God’s representative on earth?
2. *Do you live in light of “What Would Jesus Do”?*
3. *People say they love God, but Jesus seems to be the dividing Person (cf. Matt. 12:32-39). This was the experience of C.S. Lewis, who first was converted to theism before he became a Christian. Eventually he concluded, “If ever a myth had become fact, had been incarnated, it would be just like this…”*
4. Do you regularly worship and give Christ the thanks and honor He rightly deserves?

**Thought Questions for Further Reflection and Home Group:**

1. Read the passage out loud together.
2. Is there is anything that surprises or confuses you? If so, talk about it and see if you can come to a clearer understanding of what this chapter is teaching us.

Christ as the Lamb pictures his redemption as the final sacrificial lamb (5:6).

The sevenfold Spirit emphasizes his sevenfold character (Isa. 11:2).

The incense is filled with the prayers of believers (5:8)

1. In verse 4, John weeps because no one can be found worthy to open the scroll. What does this say about his heart to know the things of God? How does your heart compare to his?

He didn’t know the scroll content but just knowing it couldn’t be opened burdened him

I weep too little for the lost—we can’t often share our faith but we can share our hope!

1. How can you increase your desire to know God through His word?

Teach it to someone else; realize the power of his words (Rom. 1:16-17; Heb. 4:12)

1. Would you say that you truly worship, appreciate, and honor Christ in your life?

I need to better realize that no one on earth can judge the earth—only Christ can break the seals!

1. If so, share some of the specific ways that you seek to worship and honor Him. If not, how can you begin to do this more?

Susan and I pray together while still in bed so that our focus is turned towards the Lord before we even get out of bed.

If we love him, we will take care of his lambs (John 21:15).