

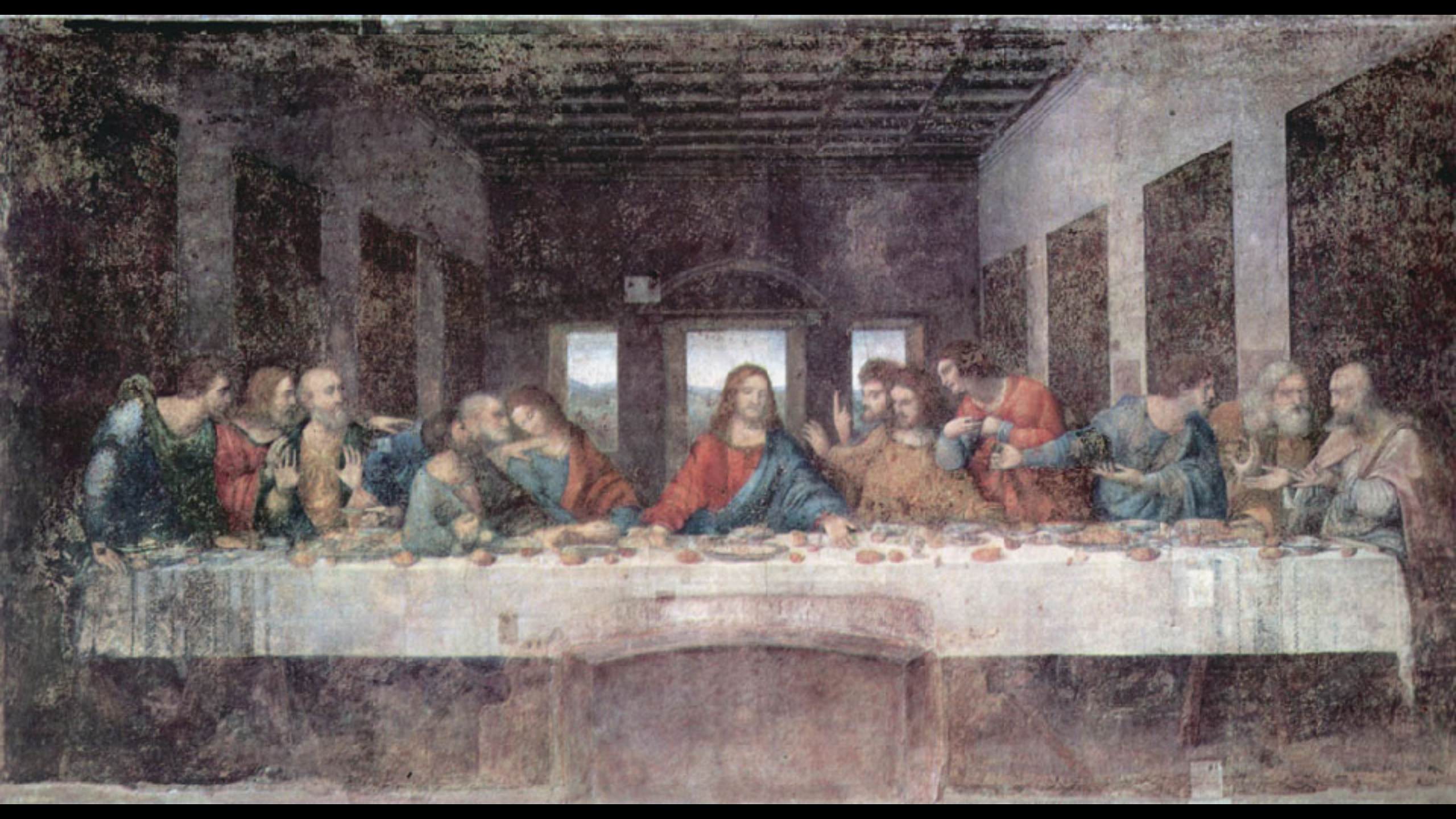


WORTHY

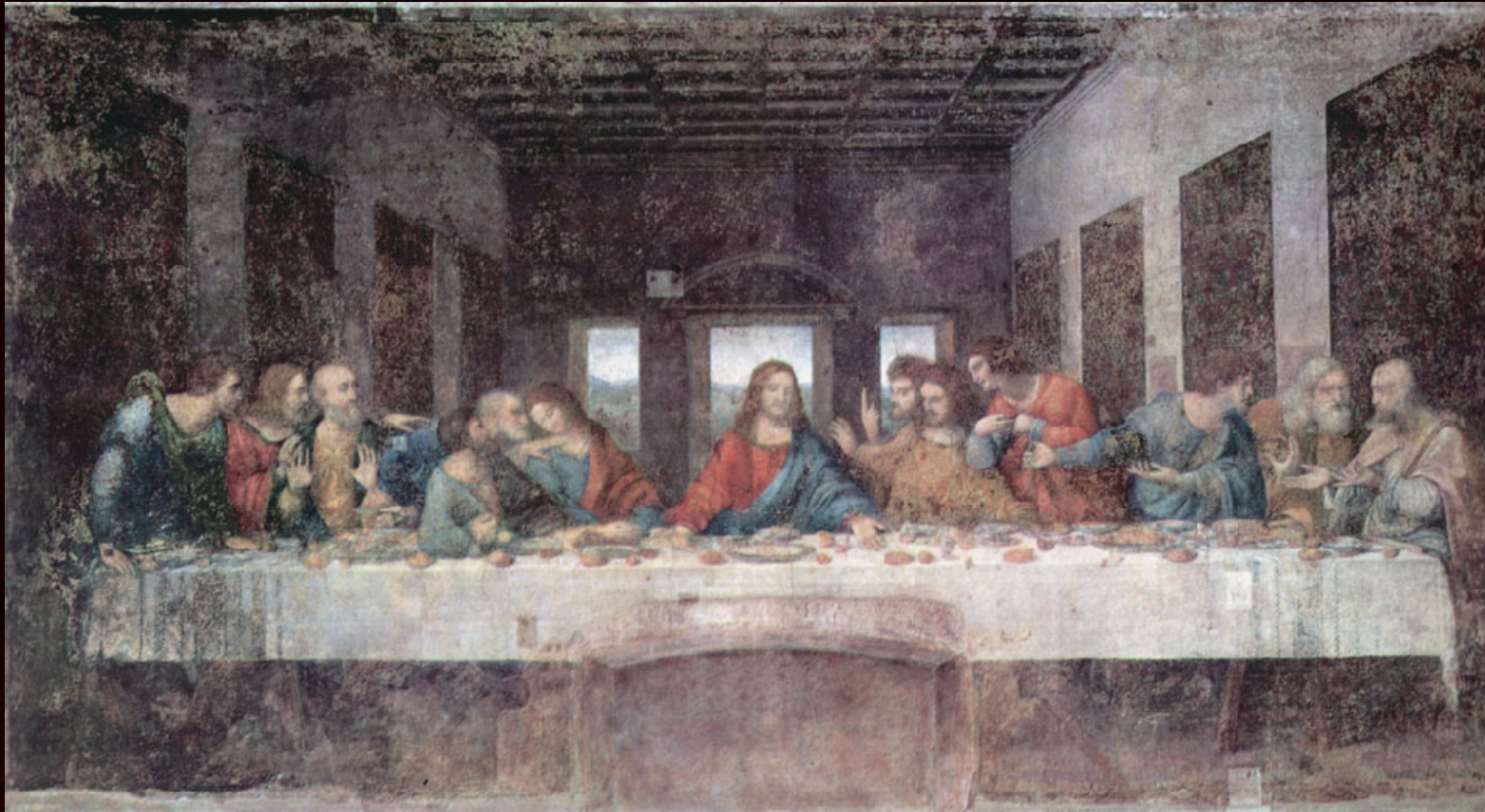
is the

LAMB

REVELATION 5



Of the many details worth describing, however, one stands out above all: da Vinci composed his work with astounding technical perspective, so that the head of Jesus is at the very center of the work. The placement of the disciples, surrounding architecture, and even the lighting are meant to focus our eyes on him.



Like a master Artist, God has composed universal history to focus our eyes on Christ's cross and resurrection.

In Revelation 5 we see that the Lamb of God is worthy to open the scroll that reveals the end of history and that He alone is the central focus of worship for every creature in the universe!

Revelation 5:1–2 (CSB) Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides, sealed with seven seals. I also saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?”

Revelation 5:3–4 (CSB) But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or even to look in it. I wept and wept because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or even to look in it.

Revelation 5:5 (CSB) 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 5:6 (CSB) Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

Revelation 5:7–8 (CSB) He went and took the scroll out of the right hand of the one seated on the throne. When he took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Revelation 5:9–10 (CSB) And they sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation. You made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth.

Revelation 5:11–12 (CSB) Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels around the throne, and also of the living creatures and of the elders. Their number was countless thousands, plus thousands of thousands. They said with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing!

Revelation 5:13–14 (CSB) I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them say, Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever! The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Revelation 5:1 (CSB) Then I saw in the **right hand** of the one seated on the **throne** a scroll with writing on both sides, sealed with seven seals.

Right Hand – hand of authority.

Throne – place of authority, mentioned over 40 times in Revelation (Revelation is a throne book).

Revelation 5:1 (CSB) Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a **scroll** with writing on both sides, **sealed with seven seals**.

Scroll – mentioned 8 times in chapter 5, written inside and on the back – it is filled with information called an “opisthrograph.”

Sealed with seven seals – it is perfectly or completely sealed up.

What is the scroll?

- 1) The title deed to the earth;**
- 2) Last will and testament (Roman model)**
- 3) Ezekiel's book of woe and lamentation
(Ezk. 2:9-10)**
- 4) The sealed book of Daniel 12:4ff.**

What is the scroll?

- 1) The title deed to the earth;
- 2) Last will and testament (Roman model)

Ancient wills under Roman law were sealed with seven seals. This opinion would understand the scroll as a will or title deed

What is the scroll?

3. Ezekiel's book of woe and lamentation (Ezk. 2:9-10);

The background is Ezekiel 2:9–10, where Ezekiel is given a scroll with words of “lament and mourning and woe” written on both sides.

Ezekiel 2:9–10 (CSB) So I looked and saw a hand reaching out to me, and there was a written scroll in it. When he unrolled it before me, it was written on the front and back; words of lamentation, mourning, and woe were written on it.

What is the scroll?

4. The sealed book of Daniel 12:4ff.

What was denied Daniel is now revealed to John. It is the remainder of the Revelation (chapters 6-19).

Daniel 12:4 (CSB) “But you, Daniel, keep these words secret and seal the book until the time of the end. Many will roam about, and knowledge will increase.”

As the scroll is opened, the remainder of the book of Revelation is a book of retribution, redemption and restoration.

1. Retribution – Judgment of the seals (chapter 6), trumpets (chapters 8 & 9), and the bowls (chapters 15 & 16) on a world that has said no to God's Lordship.

2. Redemption – Note chapter 7! 1) God is not through with the Jew (cf. Rom. 11:25ff; Zech. 12:10). Further, note the multitude of Gentiles in 7:9-17. There is a silver lining of redemption laced against the backdrop of the storm clouds of judgment.

**3. Restoration – Chapters 21 – 22, New
Heaven, Earth, Jerusalem; note especially
21:4-5!**

**Revelation 5:2 (CSB) I also saw a mighty angel
proclaiming with a loud voice...**

**With a loud challenge that rose above the
sound of the worship around the throne a
mighty, powerful angel (as in 10:1 and 18:1, 21)
indicated his great concern over the message of
the book.**

**Revelation 5:2 (CSB) I also saw a mighty angel
proclaiming with a loud voice...**

**Many believe this may be God's revelation-angel
Gabriel whose name is usually taken to mean
"man of God" but may mean "strength of God"
or "mighty one of God." Gabriel was the angel
who ordered Daniel to close and seal his book
(Daniel 12:4)**

Revelation 5:2–3 (CSB)...“Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” But **no one** in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or even to look in it.

no one – not Moses or Joshua, Elijah or Elisha, Jeremiah or Daniel, Peter or Paul! The emphasis is on the universal search.

Revelation 5:4 (CSB) **I wept and wept** because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or even to look in it.

I wept and wept – for a brief moment it looks as if God’s plan for the end of history and the consummation of the ages will be thwarted and not come to fruition. The universal search turned up no one!

Revelation 5:4 (CSB) **I wept and wept** because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or even to look in it.

I wept and wept – One must be found who is worthy, and there is only one who is. God's vindication, the saints glorification and heaven's anticipation all ride on the shoulders of the Lamb.

Revelation 5:5 (CSB) Then one of the **elders** said to me, “Do not weep. Look...

Elders, cf. 4:4, representative of the redeemed of all the ages.

Do not weep – stop weeping, crying, wailing

Because Jesus is Worthy...

1. Weep no more (vs. 1-5)

WORTHY

is the

LAMB

REVELATION 5

Revelation 5:5 (CSB) ...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.”

The Lion of the tribe of Judah – Gen. 49:10;

Messiah will come from Judah.

Lion – strength, majesty, a king.

**Genesis 49:9–10 (CSB) 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.**

Revelation 5:5 (CSB) ...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.”

The Root of David – Isa. 11:1, 10; (cf. 22:16).

Messiah will come from David.

Has Conquered –prevailed, overcome, triumphed, won the victory once and for all.

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

Isaiah 11:10 (CSB) On that day the root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples. The nations will look to him for guidance, and his resting place will be glorious.

The “Root of David” is a messianic title that echoes the promise that the ideal ruler would come from the line of David, through the “root of Jesse.” This image has been pictured artistically by the “Jesse tree” like the one shown in this photo. A typical Jesse tree has a reclining figure of Jesse at its base with a branch coming out of his side.



Side branches, foliage, or tendrils embrace figures that represent the ancestors of Jesus. Mary is usually included just beneath the topmost figure, which is Jesus. This ivory carving from Bavaria (AD 1200) shows a Jesse tree with two prophets on either side of Mary and Jesus.



Revelation 5:5 (CSB) ...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.”

As the lion He is the strength of our salvation, as the Root of David, He is the source of our salvation.

Because Jesus is Worthy...

1. Weep no more (vs. 1-5)

2. Witness His Exalted Position (vs. 6-8)

Revelation 5:6 (CSB) Then I saw one like a slaughtered **lamb** standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

Lamb - In verse 4 we are told to look for a lion, the Root of David. Instead we read in verse 6 of a slaughtered lamb.

Lamb (arnios) – a special word for lamb, used 29 times in Revelation, and only 1 time outside in John 21:15. The word means a little pet lamb, kept 4 days in the house before the Passover sacrifice, but is used also of the victorious “warrior lamb,” Jesus Christ. The word again occurs 29 times in Revelation; 28 times it is clearly in reference to Jesus.

***The exception: Rev. 13:11 and the false prophet**

The lamb theme is one rich in the history of salvation:

Gen. 22:8 Abraham and Isaac “God will provide for himself the lamb . . .”

Ex. 12 The Passover 12:5 “your lamb shall be without blemish.”

Is. 53 Servant of the Lord 53:7 “He was led as a lamb to the slaughter.”

John 1:29 “behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”

Revelation 5:6 (CSB) Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne...

He began to stand at a point and time in history and He continues to stand. In the center of the throne stands the living, resurrected Jesus! The resurrection is no myth, fable, legend or lie. He is alive, bearing the marks of His perfect sacrifice.

Revelation 5:6 (CSB) ...He had **seven horns** and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

Seven – perfect, complete

Horns – strength, power

***He has perfect power, He is omnipotent.**



Revelation 5:6 (CSB) ...He had seven horns and seven **eyes**, which are the seven **spirits of God** sent into all the earth.

Eyes – knowledge; He has perfect knowledge; He is omniscient.

Spirits of God – there is only 1 Holy Spirit

Revelation 5:6 (CSB) ...He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven **spirits of God** sent into all the earth.

Seven Spirits - He is, through the perfect Holy Spirit, present in all the earth. He is omnipresent.

If all I had was Revelation 5:6, I would know the Lamb, He is God!

Revelation 5:6 (CSB) Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the **four living creatures** and among the **elders**...

Four living creatures – angelic beings of worship introduced in chapter 4.

Elders – 24, introduced also in chapter 4. Again, they represent the redeemed of all the ages.

God's Perfect Lamb

**“Mary had a little lamb,
His soul was white as snow.
And anywhere His Father sent,
the Lamb was sure to go.
He came to earth to die one day,
the sin of man to atone.
And now He reigns in heaven above,
He's the Lamb upon the Throne.”**

The Three Hymns of Heaven

Verses 8 – 14 introduce us to 3 beautiful hymns sung in heaven. The first song is the longest, the second shorter, and the third shortest of all. Yet in reverse order, the first choir is the smallest, the second somewhat larger, and the third the largest of all. In heaven, who sings and what do they sing about the Lamb?

Revelation 5:8 (CSB) ...Each one had a harp and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Harp – instrument of praise

Golden Bowls – intercession of the saints, a major theme in Revelation (cf. 11:17, 18; 13:7, 9, 10; 14:12; 16:6; 17:6; 18:20, 24; 19:8; 20:9)

We have praise and prayer.

Because Jesus is Worthy...

1. Weep no more (vs. 1-5)

2. Witness His Exalted Position (vs. 6-8)

3. Worship Him (vs. 9-14)

Song Number 1 is Sung By the Saints

Revelation 5:9 (CSB) And they sang a **new** song:

New – (kainen) new in kind or quality, for a new day of salvation as dawned through the Lamb.

Revelation 5:9–10 (CSB) And they sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation. You made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth.

He is worthy for 4 reasons in verses 9 & 10:

1) “You were Slaughtered” – this word is used only in Revelation! (cf. Isa. 53:7)

2) “You purchased people by your blood” – The redeeming blood of the Lamb is no embarrassment in heaven. He redeemed us from everywhere. No one is excluded from the cross! All barriers are broken down.

He is worthy for 4 reasons in verses 9 & 10:

3) Made us kings (we reign) and priest (we serve).

4) Will reign on the earth (cf. Rev. 20:4-6) – looks to the millennial kingdom.

Revelation 5:11–12 (CSB) Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels around the throne, and also of the living creatures and of the elders. Their number was countless thousands, plus thousands of thousands. They said with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing!

Song Number 2 is Sung by the Angels

Revelation 5:12 (CSB) They said with a loud voice, **Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing!**

Revelation 5:11 (CSB) ... Their number was countless thousands, plus thousands of thousands.

Ten thousand times ten thousand is literally “myriads of myriads.” The number cannot be calculated.

Revelation 5:12 (CSB) They said with a loud voice, **Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing!**

Verse 12 is a 7-fold blessing.

*Note blessing (eulogia) – literally a “good word.”

Revelation 5:13 (CSB) I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them say...

A.T. Roberson called these “the 4 great fields of life.”

The 3rd Song Is Sung By Everyone!

Revelation 5:13 (CSB) ...**Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!**

The 3rd Song Is Sung By Everyone!

John sees a lamb standing on the throne and receiving the worship of every creature. Shown on the next slide is Michiel Coxcie's painting of the adoration of the lamb (AD 1557–59).



Revelation 5:13 (CSB) ...**Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!**

On the throne (God the Father, God of creation, chapter 4)

To the Lamb (God the Son, God of redemption, chapter 5)

Revelation 5:14 (CSB) The four living creatures said, “**Amen**,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Amen! So be it!

If the governor walks in, it is appropriate to stand. If the president walks in, it is appropriate to stand and applaud. But if Jesus, the Lamb, walks in, to stand is inadequate, to applaud is arrogant. The only proper response to who He is and what He has done is to fall down and worship!!! The Lamb is Lord in heaven. Is He Lord in your heart?

OLD TESTAMENT CONNECTIONS

The following slides contain many of the Old Testament references and allusions from Revelation Chapter 5. Please read them over to supplement your study of Revelation 5.

Revelation 5:1 Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides, sealed with seven seals.

1 Kings 22:19 Then Micaiah said, “Therefore, hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and the whole heavenly army was standing by him at his right hand and at his left hand. (See also 2 Chronicles 18:18)

Psalms 47:8 God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne

Revelation 5:1 Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides, sealed with seven seals.

Isaiah 29:11 For you the entire vision will be like the words of a sealed document. If it is given to one who can read and he is asked to read it, he will say, "I can't read it, because it is sealed."

Isaiah 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne, and the hem of his robe filled the temple.

Revelation 5:1 Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides, sealed with seven seals.

Ezekiel 1:26–27 Something like a throne with the appearance of lapis lazuli was above the expanse over their heads. On the throne, high above, was someone who looked like a human.

27 From what seemed to be his waist up, I saw a gleam like amber, with what looked like fire enclosing it all around. From what seemed to be his waist down, I also saw what looked like fire. There was a brilliant light all around him.

Revelation 5:1 Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides, sealed with seven seals.

Ezekiel 2:9–10 So I looked and saw a hand reaching out to me, and there was a written scroll in it. **10**When he unrolled it before me, it was written on the front and back; words of lamentation, mourning, and woe were written on it.

Revelation 5:5 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.”

Genesis 49:9–10 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? **10**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.

Revelation 5:5 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.”

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

Isaiah 11:10 On that day the root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples. The nations will look to him for guidance, and his resting place will be glorious.

Revelation 5:6 Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

Isaiah 53:6–7 We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; and the Lord has punished him for the iniquity of us all. 7He 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.

Revelation 5:6 Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

Zechariah 4:10 For who despises the day of small things? These seven eyes of the Lord, which scan throughout the whole earth, will rejoice when they see the ceremonial stone in Zerubbabel's hand."

Revelation 5:8 When he took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Psalm 141:2 May my prayer be set before you as incense, the raising of my hands as the evening offering.

Revelation 5:9 And they sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation.

Psalm 144:9 God, I will sing a new song to you; I will play on a ten-stringed harp for you—

Psalm 149:1 Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Psalm 33:3 Sing a new song to him; play skillfully on the strings, with a joyful shout.

Revelation 5:9 And they sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation.

Psalm 40:3 He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and they will trust in the Lord.

Psalm 96:1 Sing a new song to the Lord; let the whole earth sing to the Lord.

Psalm 98:1 Sing a new song to the Lord, for he has performed wonders; his right hand and holy arm have won him victory.

Revelation 5:9 And they sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation.

Isaiah 42:10

10 Sing a new song to the Lord; sing his praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea with all that fills it, you coasts and islands with your inhabitants.

Revelation 5:10 You made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth.

Exodus 19:6 and you will be my kingdom of priests and my holy nation.’ These are the words that you are to say to the Israelites.”

Isaiah 61:6 But you will be called the Lord’s priests; they will speak of you as ministers of our God; you will eat the wealth of the nations, and you will boast in their riches.

Revelation 5:11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels around the throne, and also of the living creatures and of the elders. Their number was countless thousands, plus thousands of thousands.

Daniel 7:10 A river of fire was flowing, coming out from his presence. Thousands upon thousands served him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was convened, and the books were opened.

Revelation 5:12 They said with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing!

1 Chronicles 29:11 Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the splendor and the majesty, for everything in the heavens and on earth belongs to you. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom, and you are exalted as head over all.

Revelation 5:12 They said with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing!

Isaiah 53:6–7 We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; and the Lord has punished him for the iniquity of us all. 7He 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.

Revelation 5:13 I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them say, Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!

1 Kings 22:19 Then Micaiah said, “Therefore, hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and the whole heavenly army was standing by him at his right hand and at his left hand.

Revelation 5:13 I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them say, Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!

2 Chronicles 18:18

18Then Micaiah said, “Therefore, hear the word of the Lord. I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and the whole heavenly army was standing at his right hand and at his left hand.

Revelation 5:13 I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them say, Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!

Psalm 47:8 God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.

Isaiah 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne, and the hem of his robe filled the temple.

Revelation 5:13 I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them say, Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!

Ezekiel 1:26–27 Something like a throne with the appearance of lapis lazuli was above the expanse over their heads. On the throne, high above, was someone who looked like a human. **27** From what seemed to be his waist up, I saw a gleam like amber, with what looked like fire enclosing it all around. From what seemed to be his waist down, I also saw what looked like fire. There was a brilliant light all around him.



WORTHY

is the

LAMB

REVELATION 5