

WORTHY IS THE LAMB

Revelation 5:1-5

Revelation 5:1-4 (ESV)

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴ and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.

The Apostle John was distraught. No one in all the universe is worthy to open the scroll; not the Father, not the Spirit, not an angel, not a human being.

John weeps.

But then...

Revelation 5:5 (ESV)

⁵ ...one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

Who is *the Lion of the tribe of Judah*?

Who is *the Root of David*?

Who is He and what has He done so that He is the only One in all the universe qualified to open the scroll?

Because we have the completed canon of Scripture, we know that He is Jesus. But do not let that knowledge diminish our contemplation of who He is in all His fullness. Again, the questions guiding our study this morning are these:

Who is He and what has He done so that He is the only One in all the universe qualified to open the scroll?

Jesus is Worthy Because He Is the One Designated by God to rule the earth (Rev. 5:5)

By what two titles did the Elder refer to Jesus?

Revelation 5:5 (ESV)

⁵ ...behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David..."

The first title, *the Lion of the tribe of Judah* comes from Genesis 49:8-12. Genesis 49 records the blessings Jacob spoke upon each of his twelve sons (the namesakes of the 12 Tribes of Israel). Verses 8-12 record Jacob's blessing upon Judah. We will read verses 8-10:

Genesis 49:8-10 (ESV)

⁸ "Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. ⁹ Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him? ¹⁰ The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

A more accurate translation of verse 10 is this:

¹⁰ The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

To what does Jacob liken Judah? To a lion. Why? As the lion "rules" the animal kingdom so Judah's tribe will rule the twelve tribes of Israel. But in verse ten, Jacob prophecies that one particular

descendant of Judah will take up the royal scepter, the ruler's staff and rule not only the twelve tribes of Israel, but all peoples of the earth.

Jacob died in 1879 B.C.¹ This prophecy, spoken before his death, is one of the earliest prophecies of a coming ruler. It reveals that God the Father had already designated Jesus to ultimately rule the world. Of all the people groups and families in the world, God's designated ruler will be a descendant of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Judah. Jesus' genealogical records verify that He is a descendant of Judah (Matthew 1:2-6; Luke 3:31-33).

Jesus, *the Lion of the tribe of Judah*, is worthy to open the scroll because He is the One designated by God to rule the earth.

The second title by which the Elder refers to Jesus is *the Root of David*. This title comes from Isaiah 11 verses 1 and 10. The Old Testament prophet Isaiah wrote the book of Isaiah between 700-685 B.C. As we begin reading Isaiah 11:1 you'll notice that the actual title used by Isaiah is *the root of Jesse*. Jesse was King David's father. Why, then, does the Elder refer to Jesus as *the Root of David*? He may have altered the title because 1) David, the son of Jesse, is the more famous of the two and 2) because David became King over Israel and was promised an heir who would reign on his throne forever (1 Chronicles 17:9-14). Notice the emphasis in chapters 11 & 12 of Isaiah upon the reign of *the root of Jesse* and the characteristics of the kingdom over which he will reign. This is the Messianic Kingdom – the restoration of our inheritance!

[Read Isaiah 11:1 – 12:6]

The Elder refers to Jesus as *the Lion of the tribe of Judah* and *the Root of David*.

These two titles emphasize that:

Jesus, *the Lion of the tribe of Judah* and *the Root of David*, is worthy to open the scroll because He is the One designated by God to rule the earth.

Jesus is Worthy Because He Has Conquered (Rev. 5:5)

Who is presently ruling the earth?

Three times in the Gospel of John, Jesus refers to Satan as *the ruler of this world* (John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11).

But who was originally designated by God to rule the earth?

Genesis 1:28 (ESV)

²⁸ *And God blessed them (Adam & Eve). And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

How, then, did Satan usurp man's authority?

Genesis 3:4-6 (ESV)

⁴ *But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."* ⁶ *So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.*

By yielding to his temptation, Adam and our entire race, were conquered by Satan.

When Jesus began His public ministry at age 30, Satan knew it was the beginning of a divine invasion to dethrone him. Satan went head to head with Jesus in the Wilderness using the same tactics that had been so successful in the Garden. This was a critical test: would Jesus conquer or be conquered?

[Read Luke 4:1-13]

¹ Rusten, Sharon with E. Michael. *The Complete Book of When & Where in the Bible and Throughout History*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2005.

Who conquered whom in the Battle of the Wilderness?

This was just the beginning of His conquest; our study of verses 6-14 will take us deeper into our Lord's victory and why it is that He, alone, is worthy to open the scroll.