

Worthy is the Lamb!

1 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 in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 He came and took the scroll from the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. 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 the saints. 9 And they sang a new song:



"You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because You were slain, and with Your blood You purchased men for God 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."

Here 4 + 24 beings worship

11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. 12 In a loud voice they sang:

"Worthy is the Lamb, Who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

Here 4 + 24 + 10,000 x 10,000 worship

13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing:

"To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

Here EVERY being worships

14 The four living creatures said, "**Amen**," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Proskuneo: (from a word meaning to kiss, like a dog licking his master's hand); to fawn or crouch to, i.e. (literally or figuratively) prostrate oneself in homage (do reverence to, adore):

Aspects of Worship

1. In Heaven Worship is God-Centered: worship is for God. We must seek to satisfy Him, not ourselves. All worship wars center on “what kind of worship is most pleasing to me.” Wrong question. Worship in heaven is thoroughly preoccupied with God. Not once on worshipper’s lips in heaven do ever hear “I” or even “we”. God is both the subject and object of worship (8,11). God praised for who He is (8), what He does (11). Our worship should not be driven by what gives me good bumps or great feelings. That makes worship as means to an end: my good feelings. Worship is its own end.

2. In Heaven Worship is Intelligent: it has content. It ascribes glory, honor, thanks, and worth to God for His attributes of Holiness, Power, and Eternality. The attributes of God should fuel our worship. Worship is a right response to Truth. Doctrine and theology not bad words. They are the logs that provide fire of worship to God. Worship should come as response to Truth. End of meetings.

3. In Heaven Worship is Passionate: not only important what we sing, but how we sing. Worship is incessant there. Day & night. Intensity of devotion beyond question. 24 elders fall down before God. Supreme gesture of honoring another as greater than yourself. Worship means “to turn toward to kiss.” Kiss garment or even feet of One being worshipped. Cast crowns: take what represents their dignity and give it back to Him. Acknowledge all their dignity has been derived from God. 5:11 – sheer number indicates passion. 5:12 – LOUD voice. Some churches have no regard for truth experiencing wildest kind of enthusiasms in name of worship. Other churches have high regard for truth w/ no enthusiasm whatever. Worship is never empty-headed emotionalism, or empty-hearted intellectualism.

4. In Heaven Worship is Physical: falling down, casting crowns. Clap hands, shout to God, lift up hands, praise the Lord with dance. Affection for God, or “what will they think if they see me raising my hands?” Can’t be spiritual w/o being physical.

5. In Heaven Worship is Corporate: emphasis in Scripture is on congregational worship, not private. Each doxology intensifies in the size of the choirs in Chs. 4-5. Can you think of just one place shows worship of God on part of just 1 human or angel? No! Cuz public glory brings more glory than private glory. Nothing done individualistically, secretly. No soloists. Seems that most Christians regard corporate worship of congregation as more of aid to own private worship experience, rather than their own private worship experience as an aid to more important worship of congregation. Easy & convenient to say, going to stay home cuz can worship God by myself, in garden, at lake. We so often sing “I” rather than “we”. We worship together not to provide isolated individuals with privatized worship experience, but to express their corporate praise. M. Henry: “Let every saint praise Him, but especially the congregation of saints. When they come together let them join in praising God, the more the better. It is more like heaven.”

