

WORTHY IS THE LAMB

1. **4:1:** He sees an open door in Heaven, through which he can look and behold the heavenly scene and the very throne room of God.
2. The trumpet-like voice from chapter 1:10 speaks to him again.
3. This time he is told to "*come up here*".
4. He is called up to be shown what "*must take place after this*"- What he was about to see depicted the battle of good against evil to take place in what to John would have been the near future.
5. **4:2-3:** John is immediately caught up in the power of the Spirit to see a scene in Heaven.
6. Apparently he remains here until the close of chapter nine.
7. The first thing he saw was a throne and the One who sat upon and dominated the whole scene.
8. There is a vast throne room and the central point of interest is the One who sits upon the throne.
9. God is on His throne reigning over the entire universe. No matter how bad things get
10. on earth, He is still in control.
11. Rather than try to describe God as a human figure, he uses three precious stones,
12. jasper (perhaps a diamond or an opal); sardius (a red-colored stone); and an emerald (a green stone like our modern-day emerald); and a rainbow (verse 3).
13. Around the throne is a circle of twenty four other thrones, with twenty four elders
14. arrayed in white garments and wearing golden crowns on their heads.
15. 8. The word for crown here describes a wreath of victory which the winners of athletic
16. contests received for their victory. The twenty four elders are victorious and are
17. allowed to sit in the throne room of God.
18. 9. Who are they? They are heavenly representatives of all the faithful, of all ages, as a
19. royal priesthood, victoriously offering worship and service to God (see 1:6).
- 20.
- 21. 4:5-8a:**
22. 1. This throne room is an awesome place of power and excitement!! Lightenings, thunders and voices proceed from it! (see Exodus 19:16ff)
23. 2. Before the throne are seven lamps of fire burning steadily.
24. 3. John interprets these as being the seven spirits of God. If this expression is referring to
25. the Holy Spirit in chapter 1:4, it probably refers to Him here also. (Remember, seven is
26. a symbol of completeness in Revelation and is not to be taken literally.)
27. 4. Lying out before the throne is something like a sea of glass. Imagine the lightenings
28. reflecting off of the glass and the excitement it would create!
29. 5. Next John describes four living creatures each had six wings and each was full of eyes
30. front and back and around and within (see verses 6b and 8).
31. 6. One creature was like a lion, the second like a calf, the third had the face of a man and
32. the fourth was like a flying eagle.
33. 7. These are similar to the creatures described in Ezekiel chapter 1, but they appear here
34. in a different order. They also bear some similarities to the Seraphim in Isaiah 6. They
35. are likely created, angel-like beings who serve around God's throne.
- 36.
- 37. 8b-11:**
38. 1. They don't rest day or night. Their time is spent singing praises to God.
39. 2. The theme of their hymn here is praise and adoration to God.
40. 3. They describe Him as the Lord, the Almighty.
41. 4. Notice "*Holy, Holy, Holy*" the same praise was shouted by the seraphim when Isaiah
42. was allowed a glimpse of the throne room in Isaiah 6:1-3. Did Isaiah see the same room into which we are looking now?

43. 5. "Who was and is and is to come" God has always been, He is alive and well and He will always be!
44. 6. The rest of those in the throne room, the twenty four elders also join the living creatures in the praise of God.
45. 7. They fall down (literally lie face down) before Him and cast their crowns before Him.
46. 8. The crowns are symbols of victory, and they are only victorious because of their
47. association with Him who sits on the throne, this is acknowledged by the casting of the
48. crowns before Him.
49. 9. Their praise gives proper credit to the Creator and Sustainer of the universe!
- 50.
51. Worthy – *Having worth or value; honorable, meritorious, having earned the right.*
52. In Revelation chapter 4 John sees a door open which enabled him to see into the throne room of God in Heaven.
53. In this room he saw God sitting upon His throne, and 24 elders clothed in white robes with crowns of gold on their heads sitting upon 24 thrones as well.
54. Before the throne was a sea of glass, like crystal, and around the throne were four living creatures.
55. The creatures and the elders were all bowing down and praising God.

I. THE THRONE ROOM SCENE CONTINUES:

- A. In chapter 5 we see that in the right hand of the one upon the throne is a scroll or book.
- B. The book is tightly sealed with 7 seals that no one is strong enough to open.
- C. When John realizes that the world may never get to hear what is written in the book, he begins to cry.
- D. But one of the elders comforts him and tells him to stop weeping because one has been found who is worthy and strong enough to open the seals and take the message of the book to all the world.
- E. He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah, a descendant of King David.
- F. But, when John looked in the direction of the throne, he didn't see a Lion, but rather a Lamb, which looked as if it had been slain.
- G. The Lamb took the scroll from the hand of God and the throne room erupts in to loud praise and adoration for the Lamb.

II. THE EXPLANATION:

- A. The scroll is God's word, the gospel.
- B. The Lamb is obviously Jesus.
- C. The lesson is the crucial role that Jesus played in getting the good news of God's saving grace out to the world.

III. THE CRITERIA: (9)

- A. Had to be slain and arise again from the dead (vs. 6 says He stood)
 - 1) He was no longer slain.
 - 2) The resurrection was an essential part of the plan.
- B. Had to pay the price of redemption for fallen mankind to God:
 - 1) The price was His blood "*Without shedding of blood no remission etc.*"
 - 2) The Blood of Christ *Reconciles*: "*Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him*" (2 Corinthians 5:18-21).
 - 3) The Blood of Christ *Redeems*. - Cannot be purchased any other way: "*And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*" (1 Peter 1:17-20)

- 4) The Blood of Christ Remits: Matthew 26:28 – *“For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”*
- 5) The Blood of Christ Washes: *Jesus loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood* (Revelation 1:5).
- 6) The Blood of Christ Sanctifies: Hebrews 13:12 *Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.*
- 7) The Blood of Christ Justifies: Galatians 2:16 - *knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.*
- 8) The Blood of Christ Purchases: The blood of Christ purchased the church of Christ (Acts 20:28).
- C. This redemption had to include all of mankind: (See: Acts 2:39 *“This promise is to you, your children, all who are afar off as many as the Lord our God will call”* Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16)
 - 1) Every tribe
 - 2) Every tongue
 - 3) Every people
 - 4) Every nation
- D. The Lamb is also worthy because He made us into a kingdom of priests: (Vs.10)
 - 1) He took a ragtag bunch of sin-soiled sinners and transformed us into a marvelous everlasting Kingdom.
 - 2) Colossians 1:13-14 *He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.*
 - 3) 1 Peter 2:9-10 *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.*
 - 4) This Kingdom is the church: Matthew 16:18ff

IV. THREE HYMNS OF PRAISE TO THE LAMB 5:9-14:

1. Song #1:

- a) They, the elders and the four living creatures sang a new song. It is new because of the theme.
- b) In chapter four their song praised God the Father sitting on His throne. Now their new song sings praises to the Lamb for redeeming mankind.
- c) He is worthy to take the scroll and open its seals because He was willing to die in order to redeem mankind.
- d) People from every nation, tribe and tongue have benefited from His great sacrifice.
- e) Because of His death and resurrection, He has taken lost, pitiful sinners and made us spiritual Kings, and priests! (See 1Peter 2:9)

2. Song #2:

- a) This song is sung not only by the four living creatures and the twenty four elders, but suddenly John looks and hears the voices of countless angels joining in as well!
- b) These numberless angels tell us seven things that Christ deserves because He was slain: He is worthy to receive
 - 1) power (Matthew 28:18)
 - 2) riches (Matthew 6:
 - 3) wisdom (
 - 4) strength
 - 5) honor
 - 6) glory
 - 7) blessing.

3. Song #3:

- a) The third song is sung by *“Every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea and all that are in them.”*
- b) This hymn praises both God the Father who sits on His throne and the Lamb, His Son who died to redeem mankind!

4. The four living creatures keep on saying "amen" and the elders lie face down again

before God and Christ in worship.

V. BECAUSE OF THIS HE IS WORTHY TO BE PRAISED:

- A. John then hears an untold number of worshippers praising the Lamb:
- B. Verses 12-13 Elders, Creatures, and 10 thousand times ten thousand and thousands and thousands.
- C. Then every creature in Heaven and on the earth, under the earth and in the sea praised both God on His throne and the Lamb.
- D. The four living creatures then said “amen.”
- E. And the elders fell down and worshipped Him again
- F. Lively worship service!!!
- G. Power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, blessing, and glory all belong to the Lamb!

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Mohammed didn't die for the forgiveness of your sins.
- 2. Buddah's blood never cleansed, anyone from the guilt of sin.
- 3. Only the Lamb, the Son of God, Jesus Christ could do that.
- 4. He is therefore worthy of our exclusive praise, honor, respect and worship.
- 5. Worthy art Thou.
- 6. You can be cleansed by His blood and added to His Kingdom.