

Introduction:

- In Revelation 1-3, there are 34 majestic terms used of Jesus to describe Him. You will also find 22 rewards mentioned in chapters 2-3 to those who overcome. All 56 of these things are to encourage the church/bride/us in her relationship with her Groom, Jesus!
- Having a vision of Jesus and knowing who He is will empower the church to overcome sin, compromise, persecution, and geo political pressures at the end of the age.
- God in His wisdom, gives us sight and insight to who the Lamb of God is and allows us to see Him before the judgements of the Book of Revelation are released. You can overcome if you can keep your eyes on this one called Jesus!
- Last Wednesday: A View Through The Open Door
 - Chapter 4—A picture of the Father on the throne.
 - Chapter 5—A picture of Jesus! The Lamb that is worthy to take the scroll
 - We begin to see His leadership at the end of the age.

I. God Invests In Jesus Leadership

- A. *"Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"* (Revelation 5:11-12, ESV) The Father affirms and supports who the Son is! The Son in whom He is well pleased! Ps 2
1. Note: Jesus is receiving something from the Father!
 2. Power - all political power and authority.
 3. Wealth - all financial resource will be His.
 4. Wisdom - all intellectual wisdom is His to govern the nations and be fruitful.
 5. Might - all the strength to carry out the will of God and bring all into subjection to Him.
 6. Honor - all nations will come and bow down. To honor him is to obey and follow willingly.
 7. Glory - all supernatural power will be at His disposal!
 8. Blessing - *"May his name endure forever, his fame continue as long as the sun! May people be blessed in him, all nations call him blessed!"* (Psalm 72:17, ESV)
- B. In the midst of worship to the Lamb, Jesus who has the scroll in hand breaks the first seal.
1. We read this chapter, but little to no commentaries speak of the worship and the movement of Jesus together.
 2. There is worship 4:8, 11. As the worship is happening the Lamb is moving to center stage. Worship moves the heart of God. I am NOT saying that our worship controls or causes God to act. We can't make God act, but worship to our God

from our heart certainly stirs Him.

3. John sees God (4), then there is worship. Worship rolls out from creatures, to Elders, to sea of glass and Lamb appears...and takes the scroll. (5) More Worship...Lamb reaches for a seal.
4. Ie. God says, "I love you!" It stirs our hearts! We say, "I love you!" back to Him and it stirs His heart! And this antiphonal thing begins to happen.
5. As Elders are falling down before Jesus, He reaches for a seal! Take Note: This is Jesus leadership at the end of the age. This is not bad stuff forcing Jesus. This is Jesus' continued obedience to the Father as He takes the scroll and prepares to make visible that which has been hidden from the ages. *"Worthy is the Lamb who opens the scroll," we are saying, "Worthy is the Lamb who releases His judgments to cleanse the earth."*

II. Jesus Opens The Seals

- A. Again, I am intentionally focusing on Jesus. I am intentionally not going into detail on what is released when seals are broken.
- B. *"The Lamb opened..."*
 1. Seven times this phrase is used. The Lamb opened! Say it with me: The Lamb opened!
 2. Most of the time this phrase is read and the focus is on what is released. When we do that, we are focused on the tragedy, the scary, the painful, etc., and we miss that it is Jesus' leadership at the time that is releasing the judgements of God. *"The Lamb opened!"* Seven times this is repeated.
 3. The word, "open" means 'to cause to be opened.' Jesus is taking direct action at the end of the age.
 4. It is His leadership, His power, His authority, His wisdom that is releasing the judgments associated with each of the seals.
- C. Jesus is releasing judgments
 1. To judge means to render a decision after thorough examination. To assess, determine, bring judgement. This is the beginning judgements, they get more severe as the Jesus moves through the end of the age. He is worthy because He was slaughtered and we were ransomed!
 2. We read the 'dark' things and think evil is so bad rather than thinking that God is so just!
 - a) *"Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you."* (Psalm 89:14, ESV) Also Ps 97:2
 - b) *"For the Lord loves justice; he will not forsake his saints. They are preserved forever, but the children of the wicked shall be cut off."* (Psalm 37:28, ESV)
 3. *"All human acts are a sowing (Gal. 6:7-8). God's judgment is a repayment (Rom.*

1:27). *There is an organic relation between act and consequence.*" Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). TDNT (p. 472). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.

- D. Important to understand: The judgments are being released against the antichrist system. This is what God is dismantling at the end of the age. Ie. Like Moses before Pharaoh in Egypt (Exodus) "God uses the least severe means to reach the greatest number of people at the deepest level!" Mike Bickle
1. Seven times it says, "*I watched as the Lamb opened/broke the...*"
 2. The seven judgments are getting more severe as they progress...but it is all happening under Jesus leadership

III. Jesus Avenges and Comforts His People Rev 6:9-11; 7:10, 15-17

- A. The Fifth seal initially seems like a light judgement but here is what you must not forget: The Bridegroom God is 'steaming' at what the enemy has done to His Bride. This is not just a consolation of the Bride, it is a reminder of the fierce love that Jesus has for his people. His vengeance will be swift, harsh and thorough. His passion is revealed as He avenges His bride.
- B. While the world is judged, these martyrs are given 'white garments' and told to rest.
- C. Once again, heaven is rejoicing in worship! Rev 7:10, 15-17.
1. We have to ask ourselves "WHY?" Why is there so much worship in heaven? Heaven recognizes who the Lamb is! The authority the Lamb has! And, the wisdom and strength in which He acts... no one can oppose! Heaven knows He cannot lose and that we are sure to win!
 2. For the Lamb on the throne will be their Shepherd! He will lead them to springs of life giving water. And God will wipe every tear from their eyes.
- D. Jesus' conversation with the Saints in white is climactic! Death, hell and grave are denied! The Lamb of God triumphs!!!

Conclusion:

"Worthy is the Lamb who opens the scroll," we are saying, "Worthy is the Lamb who releases His judgments to cleanse the earth."