



THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

"Billions & Billions Saved"
5:11-14

Revelation 5:11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,

Revelation 5:12 saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

Revelation 5:13 And 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, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power *Be* to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

Revelation 5:14 Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

On September 21st 2004 to mark the United Nation's International Day of Peace a million-voice global choir was organized. The extraordinary worldwide musical event was made possible by the technology of the Internet as children sang together by simulcast. One commentator said, "The children's singing will ripple around the world like a musical wave at a ballpark."

There have been and will be other global musical moments we could cite. There seems to be a deep yearning to unite our voices as one in celebration of our humanity.

I think it is a vestige of the fact we were created to worship God in unison with others and with all creation. The various global events are all imperfect examples of one ultimate moment in the future when we who have been taken to Heaven will be joined by angels and creatures of all kinds in a multi-billion voice chorus of praise to the only One worthy of such singing.

Our studies in the Revelation has brought us to that moment. Jesus Christ, the risen Savior, has stepped forward to take the scroll from His Father. He is about to break its seals and finish His great work of redeeming creation. It calls forth extraordinary praise.

Revelation 5:11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,

We've discussed the identities of these before. The **living creatures** are cherubim. The **twenty-four elders** are the resurrected and raptured Church in Heaven. We will be joined by **many angels**.

Ten thousand times ten thousand is (if my math is right!) 100 million. But this isn't to indicate a specific number. It's expressing an innumerable choir of billions and billions.

It's not immediately clear if only the angels sing or if they join the chorus at this point. I prefer to see all singing together.

Revelation 5:12 saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

Loud means great in fervor and intensity. It isn't just volume; it's vehemence. It describes more an internal quality. The choir will be passionate about their presentation.

You can tell when a performer 'feels' the music. You are drawn into the performance. As part of the heavenly choir we will feel the music

in every fiber of our being both as participants and hearers. It might be the greatest single musical moment thus far in history.

The lyric is simple. **Worthy is the Lamb who was slain**. Seven words that are a powerful summary of doctrine and devotion. We've seen before how the **Lamb who was slain** is an expression that captures the essence of the entire plan of redemption from Genesis through the Revelation. Everything in human history was about fulfilling the promise of the **Lamb** who would take away the sin of the world. He would be **slain**, that is, sacrificed as a substitute.

He **was slain** but is very obviously alive and in Heaven exercising authority over the universe.

Worthy captures the understanding He alone is worthy to qualify as our redeemer.

It also introduces the things Jesus is going to **receive** as reward for His work as the **Lamb**. He will receive seven things. Being the number of perfection and completion these seven undoubtedly cover every possible reward due our Savior. It would be foolish to simply define the words; they represent more than they mean. Let's explore them one-by-one.

Power. If there was any doubt who has the real power in the universe the remainder of the Revelation will put that to rest. The moment Jesus begins to break open the seals on the scroll you see He has received power to deal with sin, Satan, and the consummation of all things.

Riches. Certainly this is not describing objects no matter how precious they may be. No, the **riches** of Jesus Christ are the souls of men and women He has redeemed.

Wisdom. How does a perfect Person **receive... wisdom**? **Wisdom** is an action word. It implies the application of knowledge. It might be that what is being described here is that Jesus will finally and fully reign over creation without interference. Then we will all marvel at His wisdom as we see the world as it was intended.

Strength. This means inherent virtue. **Power** is **strength** in action. It means the Lord will receive the go-ahead to act fully according to His nature and rule and reign in righteousness.

Honor. Think today of how the name and person of Jesus are maligned or misunderstood. Think of all He's done to save lost mankind and most remain apathetic towards His incarnation and sacrifice. Not so in the future when He will receive the **honor** He deserves.

Glory. It's a word that means full recognition. But it's more than just being recognized for who He is and what He's done; **honor** captures that. **Glory** takes it a step further as the proper response to the one honored by praising Him.

Blessing. It is the Greek word from which we get our English word eulogy. It means to use excellent speech or good words. We normally think of a eulogy as a speech at a funeral commemorating a life well lived. We will indeed speak well of Jesus for His life well lived only in His case He is risen. I get the sense that what is intended is the understanding that throughout eternity we will, in our conversations with men and angels, eulogize the life of Jesus in everything we say.

We haven't even scratched the surface of the seven-fold description of the Lamb who was slain. But then how could we ever exhaust His attributes?

Revelation 5:13 And 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, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power *Be* to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

It all sounds very Narnian in terms of **creatures... on the earth and under the earth and... in the sea**. There most definitely will be animals in Heaven. We know for sure there will be horses because Jesus returns from Heaven on one and so do we. It seems they will have intelligence and the ability to converse. Wild!

The animal creation repeats a portion of the chorus. Why not all seven attributes? It's probably just the way the song is echoed.

They sing not just to Jesus but to His Father [who sits on the throne](#). It is the celebration of the culmination of what was planned in eternity past and completed in history.

The Holy Spirit was part of that planning and of its implementation in history. He is present at the throne; we've seen Him described as [the seven spirits of God](#). He is Deity and Deity is worthy of worship. He is not specifically mentioned as being worshipped.

So why don't we worship Him? It's because His mission is to glorify Jesus. He defers worship to the Lord.

[Revelation 5:14](#) Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

The cherubim seem to function more-or-less as the worship leaders, although it is clear everyone knows their part. At their [Amen!](#) the chorus has reached its end. All that remains is for the church to fall [down](#) and worship Jesus.

This choir of billions and billions will appear from time to time as Jesus breaks the seals. We'll see ourselves again in 7:11, 11:16-19, 14:3, and 19:1-6. We will worship until we ride out of Heaven with the Lord at His Second Coming.

Worship often precedes war in the Bible. Bow down and only then go to battle.

History is moving towards this great praise service. In the mean time we can acknowledge to Jesus what He will receive in the future.

We can acknowledge His [power](#) over our lives...

We can give acknowledge His [riches](#) available to us to live a life of victory...

We can acknowledge His **wisdom** in the sense we trust His leading over our own...

We can acknowledge His **strength** in every situation and circumstance...

We can **honor** Him by understanding His nature as revealed in the Word...

We can bring Him **glory** by being a people given over to praising Him...

We can **bless** Him in our communication to others – both our words and our deeds...

