



Worship the King, All Glorious Above!  
P James • July 16, 2017

- I. Last week, we tried to use our imaginations and get a good sense of the heavenly throne room.
  - A. The Roman emperor had nothing to match this huge space, filled with thrones, living creatures, twenty-four worshiping elders, thunder, lightning, and a sea of glass that reflected the scene and made it look twice as big.
  - B. The worship in the throne room is highly instructive for us: We can see how those in God's very presence recognize and celebrate his worth in wor(th)ship.
  - C. We heard that worshiping God is good for us. God uses our worship to transform us into who he created us to be, for his sake and the sake of his creation.
  - D. This week, we meet our King — the only one who is worthy to open the scroll, to act on God's behalf.
- II. In Luke 21:25-28, Jesus promised us that we will not miss his second coming!
  - A. The end will not come "right away" (Luke 21:9).
  - B. "When you see the Son of Man coming in his glory..." We will all see this at the same time and we will know the end is finally here (verse 27).
  - C. Should we be in terror? Certainly not! *Our* King is coming!
- III. Revelation 5 reveals our King—and he is Awesome!
  - A. We begin with a question: Who is worthy to open the scroll of judgment and mercy?
  - B. Only the Lion of Judah is worthy! (See Genesis 49:8-10).
  - C. Only the Root of Jesse is worthy! (See Isaiah 11).
  - D. Only the Lamb who was slain is worthy!
    1. Jesus is celebrated as the "Lamb of God." This looks back to the Passover and to the suffering servant in Isaiah 53, especially verse 7, and see John 1:29 and I Corinthians 5:7.
- IV. We can be instructed by the worship we see in Revelation 5.
  - A. The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders worship the Lamb in song *because* his death purchased for God "persons from every tribe and language and people and nation" (verse 9).
  - B. God loves this world and all people in this world! He would redeem us all if we would let him!
  - C. The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders worship the Lamb *because* the Lamb has made people of all nations "a kingdom and priests to serve our God."
  - D. The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders worship the Lamb *because* the Lamb makes people of all nations "reign on the earth" (verse 10). This is our future in the new heaven and new earth (Revelation 22:3-5).
  - E. See how the choir grows: Four creatures (Rev 4:8) and twenty-four elders (Rev 4:10) sing praise to the Lamb (Rev 5:8-9). They are joined by 100 million angels (Rev 5:11-12). Finally, "*every creature* in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea" joins in worship: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" (Rev 5:13, italics added).
  - F. This last addition is the one that challenges my imagination the most. If God intends that we are all transformed by worship, why do we resist his love?
  - G. We will see that there are two sides in the great battles in Revelation. Those who live for the Lamb will suffer as he suffered, and finally be seated with him in glory.
  - H. Those who oppose him will be judged and destroyed. There is no fence to sit on. There is no safe middle ground. Yield to his love and follow Jesus. Amen!
2. Our Messiah (King) lived for us, died for us, and rose from the dead *for us*. Only he is worthy to open the scroll unleashing God's judgment and mercy!