"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" (Revelation 5:13)

Amazing God, you are worthy of praise and adoration. We give thanks for your love for your people since the beginning of time. We look forward to that day when we will stand before your throne and sing praises with the angel choirs. May we worship you in sincerity and awe all our days. We pray through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Introduction

Long ago, a Christian named John wrote about the visions God had shown him. God revealed to him many important things about the past, present, and future, and showed to him how multitudes from across the world will one day praise the Lord together!

Read: Revelation 5:1-14

On reading these verses, what are some of your initial impressions and questions? What stands out to you?

The Biblical Context

Many people look at Revelation as a book of wrath, threatening readers with frightening warnings of the future. But the book was originally written to be a Word of hope and promise to people of faith suffering adversity.

Describing events and themes from the beginning of creation to the end of time, Revelation uses symbolic picture-language, to show how God continues to be at work fulfilling his promises in Jesus — the victorious "Lamb who was slain." The book shows us that the risen Jesus is at the center of our lives as Christians — both in this world and the next.

Along with the faithful angels of heaven, we too are God's messengers in a world filled with danger and evil. But we have the assurance that God's victory is certain. We have nothing to fear!

Discussion Questions

1. The full name of the last book in the Bible is "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" (1:1). The word *revelation* is singular, not plural. Why do you think that is? In what sense is this book not simply pointing us to future events, but to a Person?

2. Chapter 5 of Revelation continues John's vision of the heavenly throne room from the previous chapter. What are some of the things you find most strange or disturbing in John's vision?

3. Who would you say is the central focus of Chapter 5? What are some of the things said about this Being?

4. The image of the Lamb of God calls to mind how John the Baptist first described Jesus, in John 1:29 and 1:36. Biblically speaking, what does the image of the lamb symbolize? How does it foreshadow Jesus' mission and the promise he gives us?

5. A scroll is a long, rolled-up piece of paper and was the form taken by "books" in biblical days. What do you think was written on the scroll John saw? Who do you imagine had originally written this scroll?

6. John said that no one in heaven or on earth was worthy to open the scroll or look into it — except the Lamb. Why? Why would the *death* of the Lamb qualify him alone to reveal the promise of God? What does this tell us about Jesus?

7. According to verse 10, what two things has the Lamb made out of us? In what sense do all Christians share that citizenship and perform that function in our present lives?

8. According to what Jesus says in Matthew 19:28-30, on the last day, who will come to sit upon his glorious throne? Who will sit with him? What does it mean that all who follow Jesus will "inherit eternal life"?

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