

WORTHY IS THE LAMB

REVELATION 5:11-12 • TV248A

A television broadcast sermon delivered
SUNDAY, JUNE 16TH, 1985
by
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Transcribed, edited and published
OCTOBER 31ST, 2010

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Zebulon Baptist Church
6088 Zebulon Highway
Pikeville, KY 41501

Revelation 5:11-12

“And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.”

I’m speaking to you today from the **5th chapter of the Book of Revelation**. If you will, I would like for you to open your Bible with me. I am going to be speaking to you on the subject: **“WORTHY IS THE LAMB.”** Our reading will be from **Revelation 5: verses 11 and 12**. I want you to listen carefully.

John says, *“And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne of God and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands and thousands; saying with a loud voice; Worthy is the Lamb, that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessings.”*

Listen to this; *“And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and every creature such as are in the sea and all that are in them heard I saying, Blessing and honor and glory and power be unto Him who sitteth upon the throne and unto the Lamb forever and ever.”*

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Now, to the person who reads this **5th chapter of Revelation**, the Revelation of Christ Jesus, written by John, (who may have any understanding of the Bible at all), knows that the Lamb is our Lord Jesus Christ; He is *“The Lamb of God.”*

In **verse 6** it says, *“In the midst of the throne stood a Lamb.”* In **verse 8** it says, *“The four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped the Lamb.”* In **verse 12** it says, *“They cried with a loud voice; worthy, is the Lamb.”* In **verse 13**, *“And every creature in the universe, in heaven, every creature on earth, under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying; Glory and honor and blessings to the Lamb.”*

Every believer of every generation, which includes the Old Testament, New Testament and this present day (every believer or every generation), knows that it was by the grace of God that we were redeemed (from the Law, from the curse of the Law and from sin). We were redeemed by the blood of the Lamb of God.

Peter wrote it this way; *“For as much as you know; that you were not redeemed by corruptible things such as silver and gold (or works or rituals of ceremonies), from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers but you were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ as a Lamb without spot and blemish.”* This is something you know and is not something to be put to debate, argument or question.

Every believer knows that we were redeemed. It does not matter whether they lived in the Old Testament, New Testament, or present day. *“For as much as you know, you were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ.”*

The song of heaven which we have just read in **Revelation 5**, the song of the redeemed, the song of every redeemed person is made clear by John and it is every creature in heaven, in the New Heaven and the New Earth. All of them sing the same song; *“Worthy is the Lamb.”*

The song is not of some of them praising their works, the Law, or the ceremonies. Every one of them praises the Lamb. *“Worthy is the Lamb for Thou hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood out of every kindred and every tongue and people and nation.”*

This is the song of heaven and this is the true preacher’s theme. *“There was a man sent from God whose name was John.”* What was the theme of this man sent from God; what was the theme of his message? He cried, *“Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.”*

This is my subject today; I want to deal with this subject, **“The Lamb of God.”**

When we preach a message on the Lamb of God, we know that the Lamb is Christ Jesus. We know it is by the blood of the Lamb that we are redeemed. We know that the song of heaven is *“Worthy is the Lamb.”* We know that the true preacher’s theme is the Lamb of God, the blood of the Lamb.

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If you are going to preach a sermon on the “**Lamb of God,**” you begin at the beginning and talk about the “*Lamb slain before the foundation of the world.*” Christ is the *Lamb of God* before man was created, before man fell and before the world was created, “*He was the Lamb slain.*”

He was the Lamb who was the sin-offering and the sacrifice before the world began. God did not begin to look for a Saviour after Adam fell. God did not begin to look for a Saviour after Adam sinned.

Redemption by the blood of Christ was no afterthought. The Saviour stood as our Surety of an everlasting Covenant, before Adam ever fell in the Garden of Eden. The Scripture says, “*Known unto God are all His works from the beginning.*” Salvation is certainly His work. “*We are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus.*” So, “*Known unto God are all His works from the beginning.*”

I will tell you this, when Adam fell in the Garden of Eden, if there had not already been a Saviour in the mind and purpose of God, a Substitute in the purpose and plan of God a sin-offering and a Lamb slain; Adam would have been damned in that moment just as the angels were damned when they fell. It says in the Word of God, “*He took not upon Him the nature of angels but He took on Him the seed of Abraham.*”

The angels were created before men. The angels fell before men. When the angels fell, the Scripture says; “*From that moment they were reserved in everlasting chains of darkness unto the day of judgment.*”

When Adam fell, God had purposed to redeem a people out of Adam’s fallen race. All were conformed to be the perfect image of His Son. So; before Adam fell, before Adam transgressed the Commandment of God, “*There was a Lamb slain before the foundation of the world.*” Jesus Christ, our Lamb, the Lamb of whom they speak of in heaven, “*Worthy is the Lamb,*” has always been the Lamb.

His blood is the blood of an everlasting Covenant. He is the Surety of an everlasting Covenant. He was the Lamb slain in the purpose, mind, and will of God, before the world was ever created. That ought to be established clearly in our minds.

Salvation from sin is by substitution and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ is the way of salvation from the very beginning. All of these dispensations and all of these pictures and patterns are but types of Christ and are Christ Jesus revealed in different ways to different generations.

So, when you begin a message on the Lamb of God, you begin where God begins; “*He was the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world.*” This is in **Revelation 13:8**. The Book of Life is His Book; it is the Lamb’s Book of Life. These names (those who follow the antichrist) were not written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

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Where do you pick up the Lamb in Scripture? In **Genesis 4:4**; turn over there and read this; “*Abel brought to God a Lamb, the firstling of the flock; and the Lord had respect to Abel and his offering.*”

Here are two brothers. Adam and Eve sinned and God cast them out of the Garden. There were born to them several children (not just two, Cain and Abel). We know this from the Scriptures.

If the Scriptures had recorded every word spoken and every deed done and everything accomplished in those years, a library wouldn't hold the Books of the Bible. God only gave those things needful for us and glorifying to Himself.

We read of two of sons of Adam and Eve (Cain and Abel). I don't know how old these boys were but I do know this; they were not young children; they were not teenage boys. Both of them brought a sacrifice. Cain brought a sacrifice and Abel brought a sacrifice.

I think the reason (and this is what I believe) that each of them brought a sacrifice was because each was a family head at that time. Cain brought his sacrifice and Abel brought his; they were head of their own households.

What was Cain's sacrifice? Cain brought the fruit of the field. He was a farmer. He brought different things that he had raised. He built an altar and he brought to God these things as a sin-offering, a sacrifice. This is the way that Cain thought he would come to God for acceptance and come to God to worship. He brought his own fruit of the field, things that he had accomplished with his own hands.

What did Abel bring? Abel took the firstling of the flock as God had commanded and he slew that lamb and put the blood on an altar. The Scripture says; “*God had respect to Abel's offering and He rejected Cain's offering.*” Abel brought a lamb. He slew the lamb and offered it to God. That lamb represented the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The fact that Abel brought a lamb, indicated two things:

First of all: The fact that Abel brought a lamb and slew that lamb and offered its blood indicated that he knew he was a sinner and his sin deserved death. When he slew that lamb, he was saying, “*Sin deserves death; the wages of sin is death. Sin when it is finished bringeth forth death.*” The innocent victim had to die as a sin-offering for Abel.

Secondly: He was saying that he believed that God would one day provide a perfect sin-offering, not an animal sacrifice or the blood of an animal. “*The blood of bulls and goats (animals) cannot put away sins (the sins of men).*” Abel indicated two things by that lamb sacrifice (which was a blood sacrifice). He knew he was a sinner and his sins deserved death. He indicated his faith in the promise of God to redeem us by the blood of his lamb.

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I'm going to tell you this and it is very significant; the first religious quarrel on this earth was when God accepted Abel's offering and rejected Cain's. Cain rose up in anger against his brother and slew him.

The first religious argument, the first religious quarrel and division was over salvation by the blood of the Lamb. The first martyr died believing that salvation was in the blood of the Lamb. There is a pattern for religious conflict and division that has come right on down to this day. Every religious system is either a system of faith in Christ Jesus, the Lamb of God, or faith in our own works.

The Scripture says in **Hebrews 11:4**; "*Abel being dead, yet speaketh.*" Abel, although he is dead, still speaks to this generation. What does Abel say? He says this; "*Without the shedding of blood there is no remission.*" Abel also says this; "*The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin.*" Abel says this; "*Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy, He hath saved us.*"

This Lamb that they are praising in glory by singing "*Worthy is the Lamb, is 'the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.'*" This is the Lamb that Abel typified and pictured when he brought the blood sacrifice. God accepted it over his brother's sacrifice of works.

Thirdly: In **Genesis 22**: verses **7 and 8**, we read a conversation with which you are familiar with and have read many times. Isaac said to his father Abraham; "*Behold, my father; here is the fire and here is the wood but where is the lamb?*" Where is the lamb for the sin-offering?

Abraham said; "*My son; God will provide Himself a Lamb.*" This is one of the most significant conversations that have ever taken place on this earth. Here is this man Abraham who was a friend of God. The Scripture says, "*God spoke to Abraham face to face as a man with his friend.*"

Abraham is the pattern of the faithful. Abraham was a man whom God chose out of idolatry, paganism and idol worship to be the first of the children of Israel. He promised the Messiah, as the seed of Abraham. Abraham is called "*The father of the faithful.*"

God is about to test, try, and reveal, both to Abraham and to the world, this man's true faith and the object of his faith. Abraham had one son whose name was Isaac. He loved that son. I would say that Isaac was in his teens, 14, 15, or 16 years of age.

God came to Abraham and said, "*Abraham; take thy son whom thou lovest to Mount Mariah and sacrifice him unto me as a sin-offering.*" Without question and without argument Abraham got his servants together and saddled the donkeys and started toward Mount Mariah, which was a three days journey.

I'm sure that during those three days that Abraham would sit by the campfire and look at his son Isaac as he slept. There was no sleep for Abraham; he was troubled, distressed and not understanding fully because the Lord did not say anything else to him.

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The Lord did not say, “I am going to deliver Isaac; I’m going to have a Substitute for Isaac or bring Isaac back from the dead.” The Lord said, “*Take your son Isaac and offer him as a sacrifice to me on Mount Mariah.*” Abraham departed believing God. He believed God and believed that God would raise Isaac from the dead because He had already promised Abraham that in Isaac his seed would be called.

When they got to the mountain, Abraham left the servants, the donkeys, and the equipment at the foot of the mountain and he gave Isaac the fire at the end of a stick with some oil on it. He took the wood and put it on Isaac’s back.

They started up that mountain; they were going to worship God. They were going to seek communion with God, fellowship with the living God, the true and living God. As they walked up the mountain, Isaac turned to his father and said; “*My father; here is the fire and here is the wood; where is the lamb; where is the lamb for a sin-offering?*”

Isaac knew, as young as he was that without the shedding of blood, there was no forgiveness, no remission and no acceptance before God. Sin has to have a sin-offering. Abraham replied to him and said; “*My son, God will provide Himself a Lamb.*” God will provide a Lamb and God will provide Himself as the Lamb. He will be the Lamb. Jesus Christ is God Almighty in human flesh.

God will provide a Lamb for Himself in order that “*He might be just and justifier of those who believe.*” That is what the Lord Jesus meant later when the Jews said to Him; “*We have Abraham.*” He said, “*If you had believed Abraham, you would have believed me because Abraham saw my day. Abraham rejoiced to see my day. He saw it and was glad.*”

When did Abraham see the day of Christ? He saw it right here; “*God will provide Himself a Lamb.*” He saw it again when he got upon that mountain and put his son on the altar. He strapped him to the altar and raised the knife to slay him. God said, “*Abraham; touch not the lad.*”

Abraham looked behind him and there was a ram caught by his horns in the thicket. The Lord God said, “*Take the ram and put it in the place of your son and slay the ram as a sacrifice and a sin-offering.*” That is substitution!

That is what Christ did for us. He came and took our place upon the altar of sin as a sin-offering. He took our place as our Substitute. He bore the wrath of God in our place. “*My son, God will provide Himself a Lamb*” and that Lamb is Christ.

Let’s move on: In **Exodus 12:13** which is a significant verse, God said “*I will pass through the land of Egypt in Judgment. When I see the blood I will pass over you.*”

All of you are familiar with the word “Passover” (the Jewish Passover). You are familiar with the story of Israel’s deliverance out of Egypt. Israel had been in Egypt for 400 years. They were the people of God. God would deliver them out of Egypt and God would take them across the Jordan into the Canaan into that land that was promised to them. This was the land of milk and honey.

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First, there must be deliverance. That deliverance is a picture of our deliverance. Egypt is a picture of sin. Israel is a picture of the true church in the world, in sin. God is going to deliver His church out of the world, out of sin and take them to the Promise Land or to glory.

How is God going to do it? There were several plagues which had been brought upon Egypt. This was finally the last one. Moses said to the people; *“Select a lamb of the first year, (not an old lamb or a baby lamb), but one in prime of life, a lamb without spot or blemish. Put it up for four days that you might observe it. Make sure there is no fault in it, disease in it, or blemish in it.”*

So, they selected a lamb of the first year without spot or blemish and put it up four days. Then, they slew the lamb and roasted its body and put the blood on the lentil and the two side posts of the door. At midnight, when God came through Egypt with judgment and death, He said; *“When I see that blood, I will pass over you.”*

He said to Israel; *“You shall observe this feast forever, every year you will observe the Lord’s Passover. When your children say to you as you are sitting around and you have roasted the lamb and you are eating the carcass and you have given the blood on the altar as an offering for sin and your children ask you; ‘what do you mean by this service?’ You shall reply to them; ‘This is the Lord’s Passover when he delivered us by the blood of the Lamb out of the land of Egypt, out of the land of bondage and slavery.’”*

My friends, our Lord Jesus Christ on the night before He was crucified observed the Passover, the last Passover, with his disciples. As He observed that Passover, He stood before them and took bread and broke it. He said, *“This is my body (the body of the Lamb of God) which is shed for you.”*

His body was bruised, broken, slain, and was roasted in fire on the cross of Calvary. He said, *“This is my body which is broken for you.”*

Then; He took the wine and poured it in a glass and said; *“This is my blood shed for you. Now; eat this bread, this unleavened bread, and drink this wine. As oft as you eat this bread and drink this wine; you show the Lord’s death until He comes.”*

We no longer observe the Passover because the true Lamb has died. There is no need to kill a lamb and shed its blood, eat its carcass, or put its blood on the door because the Lamb of God has shed His blood. His blood has been placed not on this earth but in Heaven itself to redeem us.

Look at **Leviticus 17:11**; it says, *“For the life of the flesh is in the blood and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls. It is the blood that maketh atonement for the soul.”*

There was a tabernacle in the wilderness which Moses erected according to God’s specifications and directions. In that tabernacle was a Holy of Holies. In that Holy of Holies was a Mercy Seat, a Mercy Seat which covered over the Ark of the Covenant. In that Ark of the Covenant was the broken Law.

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On top of the Mercy Seat, once a year, the high priest would slay a lamb and bring the blood of that lamb along with a censer of incense. This pictures the prayers of our Lord Jesus Christ. He would bring that blood of the lamb and pour it on the Mercy Seat. That was called “*The Day of Atonement*.” That was called the sacrifice for sin, or propitiation.

Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God (who we have been talking about) was “*The Lamb slain before the foundation of the world*.” The Lamb pictured by Abel, the Lamb pictured by Abraham and Isaac, the Lamb pictured in Egypt and here, the Lamb whose blood was shed and offered as an atonement, is Christ.

In **Hebrews Chapter 9**; (you need to try to read the whole chapter), the Scripture says; “*Christ our High Priest of good things to come which is not this building, neither by the blood of goats and calves, but with His own precious blood He entered into the holy place (the Holy of Holies into Heaven itself) and obtained eternal redemption for us.*”

Isaiah 53 says this; “*He is brought as the Lamb to the slaughter. As a sheep before her shearers is dumb; He opened not His mouth.*” Our Lord Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God who was “*wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities and the chastisement of our peace was laid upon Him and by His stripes we are healed;*” He is the Lamb of God.

Listen to John the Baptist, the forerunner; God said, “*I will send my messenger before I come and he shall prepare a people and he shall prepare the way of the Lord.*”

John the Baptist stood out there on the banks of the Jordan and he saw Jesus of Nazareth coming toward him. He pointed to Him and said to his disciples gathered around him; “*Behold the Lamb of God.*”

My friend; this was the announcement that the whole world was waiting for. This was the announcement that God had prophesied, promised and predicted before the foundation of the world. This is a revelation of God’s redemption. John said, “*Behold, (look), the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.*” There He is, He is the fulfillment of every promise. He is the fulfillment of every prophecy; He is the fulfillment of every pattern; “*There is the Lamb of God.*”

Now, do you better understand these words that I read in **Revelation 5**; “*Worthy is the Lamb for He was slain and hath redeemed us to God by His blood out of every tribe, kindred, nation and tongue under heaven?*”