

Adoration in the Court of Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Structure and Content

- A. Worship of God as Creator
(4:1–11)
- B. Worship of the Lamb Who
Alone is Worthy to Open the
Scroll (5:1–14)

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Structure Review

One way to understand the structure of Revelation is as six *cycles of visions* (Koester)

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Structure Review

1. Cycle 1: Christ and the Seven Assemblies
2. Cycle 2: The Seven Seals (4:1–8:5)
3. Cycle 3: The Seven Trumpets (8:6–11:18)

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Structure Review

4. Cycle 4: The Dragon, the Beasts, and the Faithful (11:19–15:4)
5. Cycle 5: The Seven Bowls and the Fall of Babylon (15:5-19:10)
6. Cycle 6: From the Beast's Demise to New Jerusalem (19:11–22:5)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is
Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

Revelation 5:1–5 (ESV)

Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴ and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

Revelation 5:6–9 (ESV)

⁶ And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. ⁸ And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

Revelation 5:9–10 (ESV)

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, ¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

Revelation 5:11–12 (ESV)

¹¹ 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, ¹² 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!”

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

Revelation 5:13–14 (ESV)

¹³ And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” ¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides, sealed with seven seals.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

*¹ Then I saw in **the right hand** of the one seated on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides, sealed with seven seals.*

Right hand symbolizes power
to bring judgment and
salvation.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

*¹ Then I saw in **the right hand** of the one seated on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides, sealed with seven seals.*

Exodus 15:6 (judgment)

Lord, your right hand is glorious in power. Lord, your right hand hattered the enemy.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

*¹ Then I saw in **the right hand** of the one seated on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides, sealed with seven seals.*

Psalm 48:10 (salvation)

Like your name, God, so your praise reaches to the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with justice.

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Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

*¹ Then I saw in **the right hand** of the one seated on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides, sealed with seven seals.*

Isaiah 41:10 (salvation)

Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will hold on to you with my righteous right hand.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

*¹ Then I saw in **the right hand** of the one seated on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides, sealed with seven seals.*

Could be that the scroll being in the right hand indicates that the *content of the scroll has to do with both judgment and salvation.*

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides, sealed with seven seals.

Possible interpretations of the content of the scroll:

1. Visions disclosed in the Revelation (most likely)

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides, sealed with seven seals.

Possible interpretations of the content of the scroll:

2. The book of life

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides, sealed with seven seals.

Possible interpretations of the content of the scroll:

Revelation says that at the last judgment the books of human deeds and the scroll of life will be opened (20:12; 21:27). Since the Lamb receives the scroll from God and later passages refer to “the Lamb’s scroll of life” (13:8; 21:27), the sealed scroll in 5:1 might list the names of the redeemed. However, this scroll’s seals are opened in Rev 6–7, yielding threats, whereas the scroll of life is opened only at the end.

Koester

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides, sealed with seven seals.

Possible interpretations of the content of the scroll:

3. The Scriptures

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides, sealed with seven seals.

Possible interpretations of the content of the scroll:

The idea here is that Jesus reveals the meaning of the Scriptures, namely, OT prophecy.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides, sealed with seven seals.





Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides, sealed with seven seals.

Soft wax and strings to prevent tampering. Only those authorized can break the seals.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

*¹ Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides, **sealed with seven seals.***

That the scroll is sealed means that the content is inaccessible. In this case, God's will/plan for the is only actualized because of Jesus. Jesus alone actualizes God's redemptive plan for the creation.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

²I also saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?”

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

²I also saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?”

A “mighty angel” appears
holding the scroll open in
10:1

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Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

²I also saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?”

Revelation 10:1–3 (CSB)

Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head. His face was like the sun, his legs were like pillars of fire, ² and he held a little scroll opened in his hand. He put his right foot on the sea, his left on the land, ³ and he called out with a loud voice like a roaring lion. When he cried out, the seven thunders raised their voices.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

²I also saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?”

“mighty angel” could indicate rank (though Revelation does not explicitly state that there is a hierarchy among angels).

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Strange order (opening *then* breaking the seals).

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²I also saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?”

it seems to the mighty angel
that there is *no one* who is
worthy (next verse)

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²I also saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?”

The implication: Jesus is in a unique category as the only one who is worthy. Jesus is unique among humans and angels.

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Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

³ But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or even to look in it.

**Encompasses all of the
creation (in heaven, earth,
or under the earth)**

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³ But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or even to look in it.

Once again, Jesus is in a unique category (Jesus alone can save)

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³ But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or even to look in it.

Right/Orthodox Christology

1. Jesus is fully God. Co-equal, co-eternal, and indivisibly united with God the Father and God the Spirit.

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³ But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or even to look in it.

Right/Orthodox Christology

2. **Jesus is fully human.** Jesus can only redeem that which he has assumed. He must be human to redeem humans/humanity.

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³ But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or even to look in it.

Right/Orthodox Christology

3. Jesus has two natures (*divine/human*), *but is only one person*. Persons are acting subjects, natures are not. What is true of each nature is true of the one person (“communication of attributes”)

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³ But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or even to look in it.

Right/Orthodox Christology

As a result of the incarnation, the divine Son subsists and acts in two natures without changing the integrity of either nature, confusing them, or making them a hybrid of divine and human.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

4 I wept and wept because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or even to look in it.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁴*I wept and wept because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or even to look in it.*

Weeping is common in apocalyptic literature, but normally it's a response to grief from judgment.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁴I wept and wept because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or even to look in it.

Here, the weeping is because the impossibility of knowing God's will.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Look, the Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered so that he is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁵ *Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Look, the Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered so that he is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”*

Elders have wisdom, and here, they give John counsel.

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⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Look, the Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered so that he is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

There is cause for weeping in Revelation (judgment), but this is not it. God’s plan/will *will be* carried out.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁵ *Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. **Look, the Lion from the tribe of Judah**, the Root of David, has conquered so that he is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”*

Lions are associated with
power and royalty.

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Messianic prophecy
fulfilled (Isaiah 11:1)

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*⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Look, the Lion from the tribe of Judah, **the Root of David**, has conquered so that he is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”*

Isaiah 11:1 (CSB)

Then a shoot will grow from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit.

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⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Look, the Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered so that he is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

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the messianic Lion and Root conquered by suffering death as a slain Lamb. The Lamb's death is a victory because it is a refusal to capitulate to God's adversaries, it brings redemption for others, and it culminates in resurrection.

Koester, [Revelation: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary](#), 376.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Look, the Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered so that he is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

John 16:33 (CSB)

I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

6 Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁶ Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

Three dimensions of meaning to
“slaughtered lamb”

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⁶ Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

1. Vulnerability. This is in contrast to the lion known for killing sheep.

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⁶ *Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.*

*2. Sacrifice of Deliverance.
Passover lamb (Ex. 12:6)*

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⁶ Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

*3. Sacrifice of Atonement.
Frees from sin (Rev. 1:5-6)*

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Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁶ Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

Jesus brings the paid penalty for our sin to the throne of God (atonement, expiation, and propitiation)

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Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁶ Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

His presence in the midst of the four living creatures (throne guardians) means he has access to the throne.

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Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁶ Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

The other beings (elders and creatures) are peripheral to the throne, but the lamb is of central focus.

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Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁶ Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

horns are a symbol of power and honor. Also used in association with the Davidic ruler.

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⁶ Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

Psalm 89:17 (CSB)

¹⁷ For you are their magnificent strength; by your favor our horn is exalted.

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⁶ Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

Psalm 92:10 (CSB)

You have lifted up my horn like that of a wild ox; I have been anointed with the finest oil.

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⁶ Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

Psalm 112:9 (CSB)

He distributes freely to the poor; his righteousness endures forever. His horn will be exalted in honor.

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Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁶ Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

Psalm 18:2 (CSB)

The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock where I seek refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

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⁶ Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

1 Samuel 2:10 (CSB)

Those who oppose the Lord will be shattered; he will thunder in the heavens against them. The Lord will judge the ends of the earth. He will give power to his king; he will lift up the horn of his anointed (messiah).

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⁶ Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

Psalm 132:17 (CSB)

There I will make a horn grow for David; I have prepared a lamp for my anointed one.

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Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁶ Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

Luke 1:69 (CSB)

He has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David...

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⁶ Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

The horns, then symbolize Jesus's messianic identity, yet as the lamb, he saves through his own sacrifice.

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⁶ Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

The seven eyes resonates with Zechariah 4:2 and 10 where there is a lampstand with seven lamps which are the eyes of God.

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Zechariah 4:2 (CSB)

² He asked me, “What do you see?” I replied, “I see a solid gold lampstand with a bowl at the top. The lampstand also has seven lamps at the top with seven spouts for each of the lamps.

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⁶ Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

Zechariah 4:10 (CSB)

¹⁰ For who despises the day of small things? These seven eyes of the Lord, which scan throughout the whole earth, will rejoice when they see the ceremonial stone in Zerubbabel's hand."

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Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁶ Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

Revelation initially depicted the seven spirits as torches before God's throne (4:5)

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁶ Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

Revelation 4:5 (CSB)

⁵ Flashes of lightning and rumblings and peals of thunder came from the throne. Seven fiery torches were burning before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁶ Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

Now the seven spirits (which are flames) are now the eyes of the lamb, whose eyes are like flames of fire.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁶ Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

Whether or not the seven spirits are angels, or the Holy Spirit, the point is that God/Jesus sees all.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁶ Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

This fits with Jesus's refrain in his letters to the seven churches, "I know your..."

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁶ Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

As the one who will ultimately judge the world and the church, no one is exempt from his scrutiny.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁶ Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

Jesus having seven eyes means that he's fit to judge.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

7 He went and took the scroll out of the right hand of the one seated on the throne.

Jesus receives the scroll from God just as Jesus receives this revelation from God.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

7 He went and took the scroll out of the right hand of the one seated on the throne.

Revelation 1:1 (CSB)

The revelation of Jesus Christ that God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John...

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

7 He went and took the scroll out of the right hand of the one seated on the throne.

Receiving the scroll symbolizes
Jesus as the agent of God's
revelation.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁸ When he took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

8 When he took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Worship of the lamb
(prostration)

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

8 When he took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

This worship is a response to the lamb being the only one authorized to take and open the scroll. He's of special status.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

8 When he took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Music is consistently a part of worship in the heavenly temple of God (the book of *tehillim*).

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁸ When he took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Offering bowls were common in Jewish and Greco-Roman worship.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁸ When he took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Exodus 25:29 (CSB)

²⁹ You are also to make its plates and cups, as well as its pitchers and bowls for pouring drink offerings. Make them out of pure gold.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁸ When he took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Numbers 7:86 (CSB)

⁸⁶ The twelve gold bowls full of incense each weighed four ounces measured by the standard sanctuary shekel. The total weight of the gold bowls was 3 pounds.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁸ When he took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Incense was offered in the morning and evening in the temple and prayer often associated with the offering.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁸ *When he took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the saints.*

Luke 1:10 (CSB)

¹⁰ *At the hour of incense the whole assembly of the people was praying outside.*

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁸ When he took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Psalm 141:2 (CSB)

² May my prayer be set before you as incense,
the raising of my hands as the evening offering.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁸ When he took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

The prayers directed to Jesus.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁸ When he took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

“saints” (i.e., “holy ones”) is a common term used for Christians because of the cleansing of sin
guilt.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁸ When he took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Christ's blood purifies all sin and therefore makes holy.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁹ And they sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁹ And they sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation.

Connotes praise.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁹ And they sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation.

Psalm 40:3 (CSB)

³ He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and they will trust in the Lord.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁹ And they sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation.

Isaiah 42:10 (CSB)

¹⁰ Sing a new song to the Lord; sing his praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea with all that fills it, you coasts and islands with your inhabitants.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁹ And they sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation.

singing a new song to Jesus is
synonymous with worshipping
Jesus.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁹ And they sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation.

“slaughtered” highlights the brutality of the crucifixion. Purchasing occurred through scourging, nails in hands and feet, and other wounds.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁹ And they sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation.

“slaughter” was also used for describing what happened to the Passover lamb.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁹ And they sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation.

Exodus 12:6–7 (CSB)

⁶ You are to keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembly of the community of Israel will slaughter the animals at twilight. ⁷ They must take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses where they eat them.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁹ And they sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation.

In the divine economy, Jesus purchases people for God. Metaphor for redemptive (“setting right”) action.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁹ And they sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation.

This is contrasted later with those who accommodate the beast in order to “purchase” goods in the marketplace.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁹ And they sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation.

selling one's eternal soul to
purchase goods that perish.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

*⁹ And they sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood **from every tribe and language and people and nation.***

Jesus's redemptive work is available to all, not just Jews.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

*⁹ And they sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood **from every tribe and language and people and nation.***

Genesis 12:1–3 (CSB)

The Lord said to Abram: Go from your land, your relatives, and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make you into a great nation, I will bless you, I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

*⁹ And they sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood **from every tribe and language and people and nation.***

Romans 1:16–17 (CSB)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek.

¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, just as it is written: The righteous will live by faith.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

⁹ And they sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation.

Romans 3:23–26 (CSB)

²³ For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented him as the mercy seat, by his blood, through faith, to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his restraint God passed over the sins previously committed. ²⁶ God presented him to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so that he would be just and justify the one who has faith in Jesus.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

¹⁰ You made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth.

“reigning” has a range of meanings

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

¹⁰ You made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth.

- 1. Reigning over sin in our lives.
We are not subject to the guilt
and power of sin.*

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

¹⁰ You made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth.

2. *Reigning over the powers of darkness in the world*

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

10 You made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth.

Colossians 1:13–14 (CSB)

13 He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. 14 In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

10 You made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth.

Colossians 2:15 (CSB)

15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them publicly; he triumphed over them in him.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

¹⁰ You made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth.

3. Judging angels

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

¹⁰ You made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth.

1 Corinthians 6:3 (CSB)

³ Don't you know that we will judge angels
—how much more matters of this life?

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

¹⁰ You made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth.

4. Restoring the original purposes of humanity to reign over the creation

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

10 You made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth.

Genesis 1:26 (CSB)

26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.”

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

¹⁰ You made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth.

Genesis 1:28 (CSB)

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth.”

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels around the throne, and also of the living creatures and of the elders. Their number was countless thousands, plus thousands of thousands.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

*¹¹ Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels around the throne, and also of the living creatures and of the elders. **Their number was countless thousands, plus thousands of thousands.***

Greek: “myriads of myriads”

“myriad” = 10,000

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

*¹¹ Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels around the throne, and also of the living creatures and of the elders. **Their number was countless thousands, plus thousands of thousands.***

Grandness of the number is
reflective of the grandness of
God.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

12 They said with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing!

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

¹² *They said with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing!”*

His obedient sacrifice
makes him worthy of praise.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

¹² They said with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

7 forms of praise.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

¹² *They said with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing!”*

1. *Power*
2. *Riches*
3. *Wisdom*
4. *Strength*

5. *Honor*
6. *Glory*
7. *Blessing*

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

¹² *They said with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing!”*

“and” (Gk. *kai*) between each creates a sense of grandeur.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

¹² They said with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

these are all attributes
attributed to God in the OT.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

13 I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them say, “Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!”

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

¹³ I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them say, “Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!”

Praise expands to the entire
creation.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

¹³ I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them say, “Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!”

Philippians 2:9–11 (CSB)

⁹ For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow—in heaven and on earth and under the earth—¹¹ and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

¹³ I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them say, “Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!”

“blessing” ended the previous doxology (v. 12) and here it starts it.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

¹³ I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them say, “Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!”

Praise to God the Father
and to the Lamb.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

¹³ I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them say, “Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!”

Jesus is co-equal with the
Father.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

14 The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

The church (24 elders)
worships God the Father and
Jesus.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

14 The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

The four living creatures
affirm (“amen”) the worship
of the creation.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

Revelation 5:1–5 (CSB)

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides, sealed with seven seals. ²I also saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” ³But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or even to look in it. ⁴I wept and wept because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or even to look in it.

⁵Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Look, the Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered so that he is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

Revelation 5:6–9 (CSB)

⁶ Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth. ⁷ He went and took the scroll out of the right hand of the one seated on the throne. ⁸ When he took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

Revelation 5:9–10 (CSB)

⁹ And they sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slaughtered, and you purchased people for God by your blood from every tribe and language and people and nation.¹⁰ You made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth.

Adoration in the Court in Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

Revelation 5:11–14 (CSB)

¹¹ Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels around the throne, and also of the living creatures and of the elders. Their number was countless thousands, plus thousands of thousands.

¹² They said with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing! ¹³ I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, on the sea, and everything in them say, Blessing and honor and glory and power be to the one seated on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever! ¹⁴ The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Worship of the Lamb Who Alone is
Worthy to Open the Scroll (5:1-14)

Adoration in the Court of Heaven (4:1–5:14)

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