

Concord Community Church

Studying the book of Revelation (12)

Chapters 4 & 5 (01/06/2025)

Sermon Title: *"Behold the Throne: A Vision of Divine Majesty"* **Text:** Revelation 4

Theme: The Majesty of God's Throne and the Call to Worship

I. Introduction: A Shift from Earth to Heaven

The Book of Revelation is a prophetic book rich in imagery and divine revelation. Up to chapter 3, the focus has been on the messages to the seven churches. But in Revelation 4, there is a dramatic shift—from earth to heaven, from the Church's condition to the throne of God. This chapter is not about judgment or tribulation. It's about *worship*—pure, heavenly worship centered on the majesty of God seated on the throne.

II. Exposition of the Text

A. A Door Opened in Heaven (v.1)

- John sees a door open in heaven and hears a voice "like a trumpet," calling him higher.
- This speaks of divine invitation—God calls John up to see a heavenly perspective.
- Symbolically, this also pictures the rapture for some scholars, though not universally agreed.

Application: God still calls His people to come up higher—to move from a human perspective to a heavenly one. We need spiritual vision in chaotic times.

B. The Throne Set in Heaven (v.2-3)

- Central to the vision is the **throne**—mentioned 14 times in this chapter.
- The One on the throne is described with **jasper** and **sardius** stones—symbolizing purity, judgment, and covenant.
- A **rainbow** surrounds the throne—like unto an emerald. This echoes God's covenant with Noah and suggests mercy in the midst of majesty.

Application: God's throne is not empty. Heaven is not in chaos. God reigns in splendour, purity, justice, and mercy. Amid earthly instability, the heavenly throne remains unmoved.

C. The Twenty-Four Elders (v.4)

- Seated around the throne are 24 elders, clothed in white, wearing crowns.
- Many scholars believe they represent the redeemed—perhaps 12 tribes (Old Testament saints) and 12 apostles (New Testament believers).
- They are worshipers, not rulers in themselves.

Application: True spiritual authority comes through humility and worship. The crowns of victory are ultimately laid at God's feet.

D. The Manifestations Around the Throne (v.5-6)

- **Lightning, thunder, and voices** come from the throne—just like at Mount Sinai (Exodus 19).
- **Seven lamps of fire**—symbolizing the sevenfold Spirit of God.
- **A sea of glass**—like crystal—before the throne. This shows purity, stillness, and holiness. The sea often represents chaos, but in God's presence, it is calm.

Application: God is awesome and powerful. His presence provokes reverence. Our worship must balance intimacy and awe.

E. The Four Living Creatures (v.6b-8)

- Full of eyes (awareness, insight), they represent all of creation.
- Their forms: lion (wild animals), calf (domestic animals), man (humanity), eagle (birds)—similar to the vision in Ezekiel 1.
- They cry **“Holy, Holy, Holy”** continually—an echo of Isaiah 6.

Application: All of creation was made to worship. Holiness is the defining trait of God. When we lose sight of God's holiness, our worship becomes hollow.

F. The Response of Worship (v.9-11)

- Whenever the creatures worship, the elders respond by **casting their crowns** and falling before God.
- Their song: **“You are worthy, O Lord...”** gives us a theology of worship.
 - Why is God worthy?
 - He created all things.
 - All things exist by His will.

Application: Worship is not entertainment—it is surrender. It is acknowledging that all we are and all we have come from Him. Our crowns (achievements) are His glory, not ours.

III. Theological Themes in Revelation 4

1. **The Sovereignty of God** – God rules from His throne above all earthly powers.
2. **The Centrality of Worship** – Heaven’s atmosphere is one of constant, reverent worship.
3. **The Holiness of God** – God's holiness demands awe, not casual familiarity.
4. **The Purpose of Creation** – Everything created exists for God’s pleasure and glory.

IV. Application to Our Lives

1. **Refocus on God’s Throne**
 - Let us lift our eyes from our circumstances to God’s throne, like John did. Worship resets our spiritual perspective.
2. **Live a Life of Worship**
 - Worship is not just singing on Sunday. It’s laying our crowns before Him daily—our time, gifts, and decisions.
3. **Embrace the Majesty and Mercy of God**
 - His throne is surrounded by both lightning (judgment) and a rainbow (mercy). Approach with reverence and confidence.
4. **Anticipate Heavenly Worship**
 - This chapter is a glimpse of what eternity will be like. Will you be among the worshipers?

Let us align ourselves with heaven—casting down our crowns, lifting our voices, and declaring: “You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for You created all things, and for Your pleasure they are and were created.” (Revelation 4:11)

Text: Revelation 5

Theme: The supremacy of Jesus Christ as the only one worthy to open God's redemptive plan. **Key Verse:** “*Worthy is the Lamb that was slain...*” (Revelation 5:12, KJV)

I. Introduction: From the Throne to the Lamb

In Revelation 4, we were given a majestic vision of God's throne—a picture of worship centered around the sovereign Creator. But in chapter 5, the focus shifts from **God the Creator** to **Jesus the Redeemer**. This chapter is the hinge on which the whole book turns. It answers the question: “*Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?*”

This chapter reveals not only the worth of the Lamb but also the victory of redemption and the purpose of all history.

II. Exposition of Revelation Chapter 5

A. The Scroll and the Search (v.1–4)

“And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.” (v.1)

- The **scroll** in God's hand represents His redemptive plan for history—the title deed of the earth, the full unfolding of judgment, salvation, and restoration.
- It is **sealed with seven seals**, meaning it is complete and divinely secured.
- A **mighty angel** proclaims, "Who is worthy?"—not "Who is strong?" or "Who is intelligent?" but "**Who is worthy?**"
- John **weeps greatly** when no one is found worthy—this shows the utter hopelessness of creation if no redeemer is found.

Application: The world longs for someone worthy—someone to make sense of history, redeem suffering, and bring justice. Only one can do that: the Lamb.

B. The Lion Who Is a Lamb (v.5–7)

“Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah... has prevailed to open the book...” (v.5)

- One of the elders tells John not to weep—because **the Lion has conquered**.
- But when John looks, he doesn't see a lion—he sees a **Lamb as though it had been slain**.
- This Lamb has **seven horns** (perfect power), **seven eyes** (perfect vision), and **seven Spirits** (the fullness of the Holy Spirit).
- The Lamb **approaches the throne** and takes the scroll—an act of shared authority with God Himself.

Theological Note: Jesus is both **Lion** (kingly authority) and **Lamb** (sacrificial Savior). His victory is not through military conquest but through His death and resurrection.

Application: Power in the kingdom of God looks like humility. Victory comes through sacrifice. Jesus conquered by the cross, and so do we.

C. A New Song of Worship (v.8–10)

“And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book...” (v.9)

- When the Lamb takes the scroll, **heaven erupts in worship**.
- The **four living creatures** and the **twenty-four elders** fell-down to offer golden bowls full of incense—the **prayers of the saints**.
- They sing a **new song**—one that only the redeemed can sing.

The song proclaims:

- **He was slain** (sacrifice)
- **He redeemed us** by His blood (atonement)
- **He made us kings and priests** (purpose and identity)
- **We shall reign on the earth** (future hope)

Application: Worship is always a response to redemption. If we’ve been bought by the blood, we cannot remain silent. Every believer has a song the angels cannot sing—one of personal redemption.

D. The Worship of All Creation (v.11–14)

- The scene expands—**myriads of angels** (perhaps millions) join in worship, declaring:

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom...” (v.12)

- Then, **every creature** in heaven, on earth, under the earth, and in the sea joins in:

“Blessing and honour and glory and power be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb...” (v.13)

- The worship of the Lamb is **universal, eternal, and unified** with the worship of God the Father.

Application: Our worship should reflect heaven—Christ-cantered, Spirit-filled, global, and eternal. If all creation will worship, should we not begin now?

III. Key Doctrines Revealed

1. Christ’s Unique Worthiness

- No one else in heaven or earth could take the scroll.
- Christ’s worth is not just in His identity but in His obedience and sacrifice (Philippians 2:5–11).

2. Redemption Through the Blood

- The gospel is central to heaven’s song.
- It is through the blood of Christ that we are saved, transformed, and commissioned.

3. A Kingdom of Priests

- We are not just saved **from** something, but **for** something—serving God, representing Him, and reigning with Christ.

4. The Unity of the Godhead

- The Lamb receives the same worship as the One on the throne—pointing clearly to Christ’s deity.

IV. Practical Applications

A. Worship Jesus Daily

- Let your life echo the worship of heaven.
- He is not just worthy on Sunday—He is worthy every day.

B. Share the Gospel Boldly

- The Lamb was slain for **every tribe, tongue, people, and nation**—this should drive missions and evangelism.

C. Live as Kings and Priests

- Walk in authority (kingship) and intimacy with God (priesthood).
- Don't settle for a powerless Christian life—embrace your identity.

D. Rest in God's Sovereignty

- The scroll is not in human hands—it is in the hands of the Lamb.
- History is not spinning out of control; it is unfolding under His rule.

V. Conclusion: The Lamb Reigns

In Revelation 5, heaven does not panic—it **praises**. The Lamb has prevailed. The scroll of history is not sealed forever. Christ is redeeming, reigning, and returning.

The worship of Revelation 5 invites you to ask:

Is the Lamb at the centre of your life, your worship, your hope?

Invitation / Call to Respond:

- **To the seeker:** Come to the Lamb who was slain for your sins. He is worthy—and He is waiting.
- **To the believer:** Cast your crown. Sing your song. Live your calling. The Lamb is worthy of everything.