

## Tomorrow

**How will tomorrow compare with today?**

- Worse than today
- The same as today
- Better than today

**Why?**

**Where do we place our hope? Really? Will it disappoint us?**

Prayer: "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know **the hope to which he has called you**, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe." *Ephesians 1:18–19*

1



## God's Greater Work Revelation 5

[bib.ly/Rev5.NIV](https://bib.ly/Rev5.NIV)  
[tiny.cc/cmchandouts](https://tiny.cc/cmchandouts)

2

## The Lord's Supper

**We celebrate it on the first Sunday of each month**

**We have a different emphasis each time**

- **God the creator: March → Revelation 4**
- **The problem of sin: April → Jesus abandoned by the Father on the cross because of our sin (Matthew 27)**
- **The grace of God: today**
- **Which we receive by faith**
- **Then we are called to obedience and mission**
- **Until the second coming of Jesus Christ**

3

## *Revelation 4*

**God on the throne in heaven giving off brilliant light**

**Surrounded by 4 living creatures**

**Surrounded by 24 elders seated on 24 thrones**

**→ representing all the greatness of all creation**

**They never stop praising God for...**

- **His being: holy, omnipotent, and eternal**
- **His act of creating everything that is**

**“The one holy, creator God  
alone will receive all the worship of all creation”**

4

*Revelation 5:1-4*

Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?”

But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.

5

*Revelation 5*

**1-4:** The cosmic crisis: no one worthy to bring God’s good

- The sealed scroll: perhaps the will of God to make right and good everything that is broken among all people and all creation
  - Can only be opened and implemented by a being who is as worthy as Almighty God on the throne

5-7: • **Nothing and no one** is found who is worthy to enact the will of God and turn the world for good

8-10: • **Crisis: no created being can fix the human problem!**

11-12: • Every human solution extends the human problem

13: • No spiritual power can solve the human problem

14: • John weeps because He knows the crisis!

6

*Revelation 5:5-7*

Then one of the elders said to me, “**Do not weep!** See, the **Lion of the tribe of Judah**, the **Root of David**, has triumphed. **He is able** to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.

Lion of the tribe of Judah = God’s promised king for His people  
 Root of David = God’s promised Messiah to bring His blessing  
 slain = slaughtered

7

*Revelation 5*

**5-7:** The Lion/Lamb of God is the one and only solution

- Lion of Judah/Root of David: the one God promised to bring His good
  - to His people
  - to all peoples
- He was also the Lamb who was slaughtered(!)
- He became the powerful ram
  - 7 horns: Perfection of power
  - 7 eyes: Perfection of wisdom
- 8-10:
  - Perhaps: the seven-fold (abounding) Spirit of God
- 11-12:
  - Perhaps: the seven-fold (abounding) Spirit of God
- 13: • He took the scroll from God’s right hand
- 14: • He accomplished God’s plan to bring peace by dying

8

*Revelation 5:8-10*

And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. And they sang a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll  
and to open its seals,  
because you were slain,  
and with your blood you purchased for God  
persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.  
You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,  
and they will reign on the earth.”

9

*Revelation 5***8-10: Worshipped by the 4 creatures and 24 elders**

- As God the Father was worshiped in chapter 4 now the Lamb is worshiped in chapter 5
- Answer to the question: “Who is worthy?”
  - The Lamb is worthy, and He is the only one
- Because He was a perfect and powerful sacrifice
  - Ransomed/purchased people for God
  - From every people group on earth!
  - To be one kingdom, and **all** are priests and rulers

11-12: • Our church's vision is God's vision!

13: • We get the amazing privilege of experiencing a taste

14: of this beautiful diversity today!

10

*Revelation 5:11-12*

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they were saying:

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

perverse = twisted, distorted

11

*Revelation 5***11-12: Worshiped by countless angels**

- Like a “bajillion” angels!
  - The biggest number words in Greek
  - Doubled
- Their loud voices (which John heard) proclaimed the worthiness of the slaughtered and risen Lamb of God
- He is worthy to be given every valuable thing in creation

13:

14:

12

*Revelation 5:13*

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
be praise and honor and glory and power,  
for ever and ever!”

creature = created being

13

*Revelation 5***13: Worshiped by every created being**

- Multiple ways to emphasize the inclusion of every created being in praise to the Lamb!
    - Heaven / earth / under the earth / sea
    - Plus everything in them!
  - Worshiping God the Father and the Lamb together
  - That will go on forever
  - What about those who rebel against God?
    - Including both people and evil spirits
    - They will submit to Christ (“every knee shall bow”)
    - They will not willingly worship or enjoy blessings,
- 14: for rebellion and judgment continue

14

*Revelation 5:14*

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

Amen = So be it! I agree!

15

*Revelation 5***14:** Affirmed by the 4 creatures and 24 elders

- All this praise is right and good
- And it prompts the creatures and elders to worship anew
- Proves the deity of the Son of God, as one with the Father

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*The Big Idea*

**The ONLY solution to the human condition  
is the perfect sacrifice  
of the perfect Son of God,  
who will be praised by every created being in all creation**

17

**Let God be Praised!**

**God's first great action: Creation**

- "By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,  
their starry host by the breath of his mouth." *Psalm 33:6*
- Demonstrates the power, wisdom, and creativity of God
- Prompts the praise of God

**God's second great action: Salvation**

- "You were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation." *Revelation 5:9*
- Demonstrates the humility, love, grace, and sacrifice of God
- Prompts even greater praise of God

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**The ONLY solution is the Son of God sacrificed**

**There is no human solution to the human condition**

- There is no human government or political party that can solve our trouble
- There is no reform effort, no human leader, no new tax plan or spending plan, no company, no organization, ...
- There is no educational system, prison reform, societal change, philosophy, attitude, moral teaching, ...
- There is no technology, technique, philosophy, ...
- Neither positive thinking, nor love, mercy, justice, tolerance, ...

**There is no human solution to the human condition**

19

**The ONLY solution is the Son of God sacrificed**

**There is no other supernatural solution apart from Christ**

- Apart from the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, no other religion or god or force or power can solve the problem
- Not “being spiritual”, meditating, finding peace, pleasing spirits, ...
- Not “being at one with the universe” or any other spiritual practice

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**The ONLY solution is the Son of God sacrificed**


**Even Christianity is powerless  
without the death & resurrection of Jesus**

- “And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.” *1 Corinthians 15:17*
- Not worshiping Jesus, loving your neighbor as yourself, having great faith, having a pure doctrine, being a good person, ...
- Not giving your all to Jesus, being filled with the Spirit, having all knowledge, doing miracles, having a transformed life, joy, ...
- Not finding a great church, being in a great Christian community, having deep relationships in Christ, ...

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**The ONLY solution to the problem of humanity  
is the Son of God sacrificed**

22



Without the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, good Christian beliefs, attitudes, words, and actions are just like dressing up a skeleton  
 → A lifeless form

Good Christian words, attitudes & actions toward God (like prayer and worship) or toward people (like mercy and justice) are empty if they are not rooted in the death & resurrection of Jesus Christ

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*The Big Idea*

**The ONLY solution to the human condition  
 is the perfect sacrifice  
 of the perfect Son of God,  
 who will be praised by every created being in all creation**

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### Application

## Make the death & resurrection of Jesus be the foundation of every hope

- We can so easily place our hope in so many other things
  - A person: friend, spouse, pastor, teacher, politician, leader, ...
    - Whom do you most fear losing or not having?
  - A community or organization or family or relationship
    - Where do you most fear being abandoned?
  - Ourselves: hard work, identity, gifts, abilities, wisdom, knowledge, sense of identity and worth, ...
    - What kind of failure do you most fear?
- Another spiritual power or spiritual practice

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### Application

## Make the death & resurrection of Jesus be the foundation of every hope

- What steals our joy and peace?
  - Poor health, conflict, oppression, injustice, disabilities, weaknesses, loss of resources or control, being robbed, unfairness, nonsense, ...
  - “Problem” people or communities
  - Our past: regrets, griefs, pains, ...
  - Our present: pains, sorrows, unfulfilled dreams, long to-do lists, ...
  - Our future: fears, worries, ...
- This reveals where our hope is actually placed
- There can be much good, but **none of these can be the foundation**

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### Application

“And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with **eloquence or human wisdom** as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. **For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.** I came to you in weakness with **great fear and trembling**. My message and my preaching were not with **wise and persuasive words**, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power.” *1 Corinthians 2:1–5*

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### Application

“But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, **I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. **I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.**” *Philippians 3:7–11*

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### Application

- No matter what comes or what the future holds...
  - The death and resurrection of Jesus has guaranteed the work of God to give eternal and abounding life to us in Him
- Other things may have great value (hard work, faith, prayer, justice, mercy, ...), but they are nothing compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing our crucified and risen Savior
- “With great power the apostles continued to **testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus**. And God’s grace was **so powerfully at work** in them all” *Acts 4:33*

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### Application

**Make the death & resurrection of Jesus be the foundation of every hope**

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### Application

#### Join the cosmic worship of Jesus and God the Father

- “Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” *Philippians 2:9–11*
- “Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!” *Revelation 5:13*

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### Application

#### Join the cosmic worship of Jesus and God the Father

- “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.” *Psalms 150:6*
- “We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete.” *1 John 1:3–4*

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### Application

#### Point others to the only true hope and the only true joy

- Our message is not a generic hope,  
or a call to love and forgiveness,  
or to better thinking or behavior,  
or ...
- It is the victory of the Son of God's sacrifice and resurrection
  - Sin and death, selfishness, corruption, racism, injustice, oppression, sickness, conflict, guilt, shame, vulnerability, ... have been defeated by Jesus on the cross forever!

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### Application

#### Point others to the only true hope and the only true joy

- John says, "I wept and wept because I saw no solution to this crisis. Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep! See, Jesus, the Son of God has triumphed through His death and resurrection. He is able to bring the perfect blessing of God!'"
- Who is weeping because there is no solution to the crisis?
- Who is trusting in something that cannot save?
- Say to them: "See, Jesus, the Son of God, has triumphed! He alone is able to bring the perfect blessing of God!"

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*The Big Idea*

**The ONLY solution to the human condition  
is the perfect sacrifice  
of the perfect Son of God,  
who will be praised by every created being in all creation**

35

**To the Slain and Risen Lamb we say with joy:**

You are worthy to take the scroll  
and to open its seals,  
because you were slain,  
and with your blood you purchased for God  
persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.  
You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,  
and they will reign on the earth.

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**To all creation we say with joy:**

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength  
and honor and glory and praise!

37

**To God the Father and God the Son we say with joy:**

To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
be praise and honor and glory and power,  
for ever and ever!

And they shouted “Amen!” and fell down and worshiped!

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