

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

The Praise of the Worthy Lamb

Revelation 5:8-14

1. at the Cross

The death of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross was the long awaited fulfillment of the Lord's promised means of redemption from the penalty of sin (cf. Gen 3:15; 22:8). God had always pointed to Himself as the only means of securing the salvation which sinners desperately require (Isa. 43:11; 45:22; Hos 13:4; cf. Acts 4:12). The entire sacrificial system clearly declares man's absolute inability to offer God a proper restitution for the sins which we commit against Him (cf. Heb. 10:1-4). Only the promised Savior (Gen. 3:15), who willingly (Isa. 53:7) went to His own undeserved death (Isa. 53:9) on behalf of those who deserved condemnation (Isa. 53:8), could be the accepted offering for sin that would please God (Isa. 53:10) and justify sinners (Isa. 53:11). The price paid for sinners is an indication of just how dire our situation is (2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:24; cf. 1 Cor. 6:20), and it is the hinge upon which man's salvation and the fulfillment of all of God's promises hinges.

2. at the Cross

Not all beings who sin are able to be redeemed because of the work of Christ on the cross (Heb. 2:16). God's design was always to save men by the atoning work of Christ (cf. Eph 1:3-10). The way of redemption was always by faith (Hab. 2:4; Eph 2:8-9) and not on account of perceived human righteousness (1 Sam. 16:7; Luke 18:13-14). One of the ways that God's kindness may be shown is for a person to be born into an environment where His Word is exalted and where He is worshipped (cf. Rom. 3:1-2), but that itself is no guarantee of eternal salvation (Luke 3:8). The salvation which is from God is by faith for all who believe, and all who believe are redeemed in the same way (Gal. 3:28). It is God's design for His glory that heaven will be populated by redeemed men and women from every imaginable cross-section of creation

3. of the Cross

Prior to the incarnation, the Son dwelled with the Father and Spirit in unapproachable light and undiluted glory (John 17:5; 1 Tim. 6:14; cf. 1 John 1:5). His condescension to put on flesh in order to redeem a people for His name (cf. Phil 2:5-11) was the way that God secured for Himself a unique priesthood (1 Pet. 2:9-10) who would forever be able to sing of His mercy and grace from a standpoint of experience (cf. Eph 1:6). The victorious mission of the Son verified to us that He rightfully is Lord (cf. Rom. 1:4). He is worthy to receive the praise due to the true and perfect potentate that God had promised to give men long ago (cf. 1 Chron 29:11-12).