



RELATED SCRIPTURES

Revelation 5:2–3 | 1 Peter 2:9 | Philippians 2:5–10

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 12.21.25

SUMMARY

We turn our attention to a different type of Song of Christmas, moving from songs sung around Jesus' incarnation to a song that will be sung at his second coming. It begins with a question asked by a single angel, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" (Revelation 5:2). Each of the three verses sung in response builds upon the last. The first verse is sung by "four living creatures and the twenty-four elders" (Revelation 5:8). They sing that Jesus, the Lamb of God, is able to open the scroll because his blood ransomed people for God, not only from Israel, but from the whole earth, fulfilling Isaiah's prophesy, "I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth" (Isaiah 49:6). The second verse is sung by a choir that has grown from a few voices to many thousands (Revelation 5:11), all proclaiming Jesus' ability "to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing" (Revelation 5:12). The choir of the third verse grows even larger, comprised of every creature in existence, offering praise "to him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb" (Revelation 5:13). The choir of the whole creation is worshipping God the Father and God the Son, just as Paul writes to the Philippians, "Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11). This song to the Lamb of God concludes with an "Amen," and the elders bowing down in worship to the one true God. As we celebrate Christ's birth, may we remember his promise: "'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20).

GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of Revelation 5:6-14.

Does it seem strange to read a song from Revelation at Christmas? As you think about Jesus' birth, does it stir a longing for his return?

Read Philippians 2:5-11. How do these verses describe Jesus' first coming and second coming? Compare how Jesus came the first time with how he will come again.

If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today's themes in what you bring before God.