

Let the Bible Be Weird Week 3

Let Revelation Be Weird

Revelation 5:1-14

Big Idea

The strange symbols of Revelation are not there to feed speculation, but to reveal reality from heaven's perspective and reshape our allegiance around the Lamb.

Introduction: Reading Revelation Well

Revelation is vivid, symbolic, strange, and sometimes unsettling. But the goal is not to flatten it into timelines, charts, headlines, or speculation. Revelation is an apocalypse: an unveiling. It pulls back the curtain so we can see reality from heaven's perspective.

This week's Bible-reading question is:

What is the main thing that is clear?

When we come to strange passages, we should not begin with the details that confuse us most. We start with the clear center.

In Revelation 5, the main thing is clear:

- God is on the throne.
- The world needs someone worthy.
- The Lamb who was slain is worthy.
- His blood has ransomed a people for God.
- All creation worships Him.

Text Setup: Revelation 4-5

Revelation 5 flows out of Revelation 4, where John sees the throne room of heaven. The center of reality is not Rome, Caesar, empire, or chaos. The center of reality is the throne of God. Revelation 5 continues that vision with a scroll in the right hand of the One seated on the throne.

1. Start With the Throne, Not the Tiny Details

Revelation 5:1–4

John sees a sealed scroll in God’s hand, and a mighty angel asks:

“Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?”

The question is not who is strong enough, clever enough, or able to decode the details. The question is who is worthy.

No one is found, and John weeps because if the scroll remains sealed, history remains unresolved, evil remains unanswered, suffering remains unexplained, and God’s purposes remain hidden.

Key Truth

Revelation begins not with beasts, charts, or speculation, but with the throne, the scroll, and the ache of a world waiting for redemption.

2. The Lion Is Revealed as the Lamb

Revelation 5:5-7

John hears that the Lion of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered. This is royal, messianic, victory language.

But when John looks, he sees:

“a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain.”

John hears Lion.
He sees Lamb.

The Lion is the Lamb.

Key Truth

Revelation does not merely tell us that Jesus wins. It shows us what His victory looks like. Jesus conquers through sacrificial faithfulness, self-giving love, and resurrection victory.

The question is not only, “Do you believe Jesus wins?” but, “Do you understand how Jesus wins?”

3. The Symbols Reveal Reality, Not Speculation

Revelation 5:6-10

The Lamb has seven horns and seven eyes. This is symbolic language. Horns represent strength or power. Seven represents fullness. Eyes suggest sight, knowledge, and watchfulness.

The point is clear: the slain Lamb is not weak. He has complete power and complete sight.

The Lamb takes the scroll, and heaven erupts in worship. The elders hold golden bowls of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. God’s people are not forgotten.

The Lamb is worthy because He was slain, and by His blood He ransomed people for God from every tribe, language, people, and nation.

Key Truth

Apocalyptic symbols are not escape-room clues for end-times hobbyists. They are concentrated theology.

4. Revelation Is a Call to Worship and Allegiance

Revelation 5:11-14

The worship expands until every creature joins the song:

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

Revelation moves us not first to speculation, but to worship. Not first to anxiety, but to allegiance.

Worship is not merely singing. Worship is allegiance: what we trust, fear, obey, and organize our lives around.

Key Truth

The beast is not worthy.

Babylon is not worthy.

Rome is not worthy.

Power is not worthy.

Comfort is not worthy.

The Lamb is worthy.

Applications

1. Start with what is clear.

Do not begin with the detail that confuses you most. Ask:

What is the main thing that is clear?

2. Read symbols as symbols.

Symbolic language is not less true. Sometimes it is more powerful.

3. Let the Lamb define victory.

If your understanding of power does not pass through the slain Lamb, it will probably start looking beastly.

Ask:

- Does winning mean getting my way or being faithful to Jesus?
- Does strength mean control or sacrificial love?
- Does courage mean crushing enemies or bearing witness when it costs me?

4. Let Revelation form faithfulness.

Revelation may tell true things about the future, but it was given to help churches endure, worship, resist compromise, and remain faithful.

5. Examine your allegiance.

Revelation 5 asks: **Who is worthy?**

What gets your trust, fear, loyalty, imagination, and obedience?

The answer is clear:

The Lamb is worthy.

Conclusion

Revelation is weird, but its weirdness is not the problem. Its weirdness is part of how it tells the truth.

It is not mainly a chart.

It is an unveiling.

It shows us that God is on the throne, Jesus is the Lamb who was slain, His cross is His conquest, and all creation will one day join the song:

Worthy is the Lamb.

So let Revelation be weird.

Let the symbols speak.

Let the throne re-center you.

Let the Lamb redefine power.

Let worship confront your allegiances.

And when the passage feels strange, ask:

- What kind of thing is this?
- What is this text doing?
- What is the main thing that is clear?

In Revelation 5, the main thing is gloriously clear:

The Lamb is worthy.

So follow the Lamb.