

Sabbath School Lesson #4 – Worthy is the Lamb – 19-25 January 2019

Christ continues to reveal Himself. To John in vision was revealed the worthiness of Christ when John was overwhelmed by the fate of humans. “And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof” (Revelation 5:5).

Sunday: In the Heavenly Throne Room – We note here the fact that only Two Divine Beings are exalted in the throne room, only the Father and His Son. All creatures exalt only Two Divine Beings. “And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, *be* unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever” (Revelation 5:13). Why only Two on the throne are exalted? “*The Father and the Son Alone are to be exalted*” (Ellen White, *YI*, July 7, 1898). “Jehovah, our Father, and His Son Jesus Christ are alone to be exalted. The knowledge of God is eternal life to those who receive it” (Ellen White, *Ms11-1898.11*). We worship Christ not because He is co-eternal with the Father, but because the Father has ordained that we worship Christ as well. If the doctrine of “co-eternal” was true, it would not be necessary for the Father to command us to worship Christ if He was co-eternal or was of the same age with His Father. Christ Himself declares that “as the Father hath life in himself, so hath he *given* to the Son to have life in Himself” (John 5:26). Christ also says, “All power is *given* unto Me in Heaven and in earth” (Matthew 28:18). Paul declares that the Father has highly exalted Christ and *given* Him a name above every name (Philippian 2:9). The Father Himself says, “Let all the angels of God worship Him” (Hebrews 1:6). All honour given to Jesus goes to the Father. “And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:11). “That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which sent Him” (John 5:23).

Monday: The Heavenly Assembly in the Throne Room – Revelation 4:4 refers to twenty four elders in the assembly. It will be observed that they are clothed with white raiment, and have on their heads crowns of gold; which are both tokens of a conflict completed and a victory gained. From this we conclude that they were once participants in the Christian warfare, once trod, in common with all saints, this earthly pilgrimage, but have overcome, and for some good purpose, in advance of the great multitude of the redeemed, are wearing their victor crowns in the heavenly world. Indeed, they plainly tell us as much as this, in the song of praise which they, in connection with the four beasts, ascribe to the Lamb, in the 9th verse of the following chapter: “And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book and to open the seals thereof; for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood, out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.” This song is sung before any of the events in the prophecy of the seven seals transpire; for it is sung to set forth the worthiness of the Lamb to take the book and open the seals, on the ground of what he had already accomplished, which was their redemption. The song expressed an absolute and finished fact in the history of those who sung it. These elders are class of redeemed humans, redeemed from this earth, by the precious blood of Christ. These are among those Paul refers to when he writes to the Ephesians thus: “Wherefore he saith, when he [Christ] ascended up on high, he led captivity captive and gave gifts unto men” (Ephesians 4:8). And they were among those resurrected at the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ: “And the graves were opened. And many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many” (Matthew 27:52). Matthew records their resurrection; Paul, their ascension; and John beholds them in the throne room performing the sacred duties which they were raised up to accomplish.

Tuesday: The Sealed Scroll – John says, “I saw in the right hand of Him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the back side, sealed with seven seals” (Revelation 5:1). The scroll or book was held in the right hand of God, the Father of Christ. The right hand of the Father holds the record of our lives, and unless one can approach within the inner circle of the majesty of the Eternal One, he cannot look within this book. It is written both within and without. Within, is the life which is known only to the Creator, – the secret, known only to

the soul and its Creator. Without, is the reflection of the gaze of others. As the condition of the individual, so is the condition of the church of God. A challenge is made by an angel: "Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?" None of all creatures in the universe could open the book. John wept at the fact that "no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon." Then one of the elders – who had once lived on earth, who was born in sin, who had fought and conquered in the name of Christ, and who had risen with Him a victor over death – spoke to John, spoke to his fellow man. The elder, speaking from experience of the righteousness of Christ, says to John, "Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book." The elder used language familiar to John, for John, as a Jew, had throughout his life listened to the prophecy of Christ told: Jacob had blessed Judah and likened him to a Lion and said that the "sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come" (Genesis 49:9-10). "Shiloh," Christ was promised as the "Lion of the tribe of Juda." John had read the prophecies of Jeremiah: "Behold ... I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, ... and this is His name whereby He shall be called, the Lord Our Righteousness." "I will bring forth My servant the Branch," the Lord had said through the prophet Zechariah. "In that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people." Christ, in the presence of John, had used these same symbols to designate His own work in the earth. As the Lion of Juda and the Root of David, our Lord Jesus Christ had overcome the world and prevailed to loosen the seals and open the book.

Wednesday: Worthy is the Lamb – John who wrote in Revelation also records in the letter about how we overcome: "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (1 John 5:4). Paul says, "Where is boasting, then? It is excluded, By what law? Of works? Nay; but by the law of faith" (Romans 3:27). The redeemed saint will have no cause for boasting over the lost sinner. True, the law, when applied to their lives, reports perfection in the one case, and only sin in the other; but the saint cannot boast, for without Christ he would have been nothing. If Christ had not put his own righteousness upon him, he would be in as hopeless a condition as the sinner. And to all eternity the redeemed host will join with the heavenly choir in saying: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing" (Revelation 5:12). "That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" (1 Corinthians 1:29-30). "This is His name whereby He shall be called, The Lord our Righteousness" (Jer. 22:6).

Thursday: The Significance of Pentecost – The significance of Pentecost is that since the resurrection of Christ we receive the glorified Christ in the person of His own Spirit. We read: "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you" (John 6:17). "But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given; because Jesus was not yet glorified" (John 7:39). After Christ resurrected and went to heaven, He was glorified by His Father, and the glorified Son of God was sent on the day of Pentecost. Contrary to unbiblical doctrine that the Holy Spirit is not Christ, the Bible teaches that Christ is omnipresent – Christ is the Spirit in us. "And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening Spirit" (1 Corinthians 15:45). In other words, "the last Adam [Jesus Christ] was made [after His resurrection] a quickening Spirit." Christ has given His own Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church. "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father" (Galatians 4:6). The Spirit of the Son of God is His own omnipresence. "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (2 Corinthians 3:17). Christ ministers physically in heaven, and ministers spiritually in us. Ellen White says, "We want the Holy Spirit, which is Jesus Christ" (Lt66-1894.18).

We cannot overcome sin in spirit of antichrist that says someone else, not Christ, lives in us. Christ, "author and finisher" (Hebrews 12:2) of our salvation (Acts 4:12) "will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5), for He "was made a quickening Spirit" (1 Corinthians 15:45), and hence "God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts" (Galatians 4:6).