He is Worthy in 2011

Revelation 5:12
(A message for the New Year)
1/9/2011

Introduction: Revelation 4 & 5

*The Lamb of God (Jesus Christ) is worthy to receive everything we have to offer Him in this New Year

I. *The Lord is Worthy to Receive Our* **POWER**
(Our Abilities & Talents need to be used for Him)

II. *The Lord is Worthy to Receive Our* **RICHES**
(Our Wealth & Resources need to be invested for Him)

III. *The Lord is Worthy to Receive Our* **WISDOM**
(Our Intellect & Perception need to be engaged for Him)

IV. *The Lord is Worthy to Receive Our* **STRENGTH**
(Our Energy & Might need to be exercised for Him)

V. *The Lord is Worthy to Receive Our* **HONOUR**
(Our Highest Value & Respect needs to be bestowed upon Him)

VI. *The Lord is Worthy to Receive Our* **GLORY**
(Our Exaltation & Spotlight need to be shined upon Him)

VII. *The Lord is Worthy to Receive Our* **BLESSING**
(Our Good Words & Praise need to be spoken for Him)

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Introduction:

Revelation 4:1-11

Rev. 4 & 5 give us a glimpse of Heaven and the majesty of God.

In heaven the focus is around the <u>throne</u> of God.

Key word in chapter 4 = "Throne" (14x)
(46 x in entire book of Revelation)

4:2
"In the Spirit" = John entered into the spiritual (cp. Rev. 1:10).

"Throne" - depicts the <u>majesty</u> of a Ruler (king) and the <u>authority</u> of a Judge.

4:3
NOTE: John sees no form of God (Ex. 24:10; Jn. 4:24), but only the brilliant flashing gems that reflect His glory.

"Jasper" = was a translucent (clear) crystal; like diamond, pointing to the <u>glory</u> of God (Rev. 21:11); possibly hinting at the purity and holiness of God (Mounce).

"Sardine" - sardius stone. This was a <u>blood red</u> stone named after Sardis near which it was found. The color "blood red" may hint at the blood that Christ shed; or the coming wrath or judgment of Christ, who wears "a garment dipped in blood" (Rev. 19:13).

This rainbow was a complete circle, not merely 180 degrees.

4:4
"24 elders" - literal 24 saved believers who were redeemed by the blood of Jesus (cp. Rev. 5:8-10), who have received a special position of reigning with Christ. NOTE: Every resurrected or raptured believer will reign with Christ in the 1,000 year kingdom (Rev. 20:4, 6).

These 24, however, seem to have a pre-eminent position in their reign (hence the title "elder").

"White raiment" - symbolized imputed righteousness and purity.

"Crowns" - a "stephanos" or victor's wreath.
Such a crown would evidently indicate that they had been faithful during life on earth -- possibly martyrs (cp. the connection between crowns and martyrdom - REv. 2:10).

"Crowns of gold" - victor's wreaths were normally made of corruptible materials (I Cor. 9:25). EX: Int he Isthmian games, it was a crown of pine.

These crowns are incorruptible! Pure!

4:5

"Seven spirits of God" - the 7-fold manifestation of the Holy Spirit. These 7 spirits are called "lamps" (Lights; burning torches - Zech. 4:2), and are part of Jesus Christ (the Lamb) - called His "eyes" (Rev. 5:6; cp. Zech. 4:10).

These "7 spirits" refer to the Holy Spirit in His perfection (Zech. 4:6).

4:6

"Sea of glass like unto crystal" = Everything associated with God is pure, clean, and clear. Those saved during the tribulation are said to "stand on the sea of glass" (Rev. 15:2-4).

"Beasts" = living creatures

"Four beasts" - cherubim - angelic creatures that had the appearance of a fiery bright flame.

SEE: Ezekiel 1:4-14.

These creatures can see in all directions. Ezekiel describes them as being four-sided.

Rev. 4:8 - "six wings"; Ezek. 1:6 - "four wings"

NOTE: They had 6 wings, but 2 were linked to each other (Ezek. 1:9), forming a circle.

NOTE: Rev. 4:9 - "Round about the throne" = encircling the throne. These creatures surround the throne! They are constantly gazing into the face of God. No wonder all they can say is "holy, holy, holy"!

4:6b

EX: As the President of the U.S. is surrounded by bodyguards who protect him wherever he goes, so the angelic beings in Rev. 4 protect the holiness of God (Epp, p. 28).

The "four beasts" comprise the inner circle around the throne; the 24 elders form an outer circle (4:4), and Jesus Christ is in the center! (cp. 5:6) next to the Father (5:7).

4:7
These living creatures were created solely for the purpose of worshipping God!

Therefore they comprise the best of the animate world. They are the noblest (lion), strongest (calf - ox), wisest (man) and swiftest (eagle) (Swete, cited from Reinecker, p. 823).

(v. 8)

"Rest not" - unceasing praise! Non-stop adoration! They do not pause in their praise.

They Praise His <u>Purity</u>

They praise God's:

"Holy, holy, holy" (cp. Is. 6:3).

Why is God holy three times?

--An allusion to the Trinity
--An emphasis on this attribute

God's holiness is manifest in two ways:

1) Majestic <u>Transcendence</u> - God is set apart from all that is created (Is. 57:15)

2) Moral <u>Purity</u> - God is set apart from all that is unclean (Hab.1:13; I Peter 1:13-16)

They Praise His <u>Power</u>

"Lord God Almighty"

They Praise His <u>Permanence</u>

"was..is..is to come" - God is eternal!

NOTE: In Rev. 4, the praise goes to God as <u>creator</u> (v. 11); in Rev. 5, the praise goes to God as <u>Redeemer</u> (v. 9ff).

Essentials to True Worship:

A deep sense of one's own <u>unworthiness</u> (v. 10

"Cast their crowns" - depicts an attitude of unworthiness to wear the crowns. They view themselves as not worthy of recognition or honor. All honor goes to the Lord.

A recognition that God is <u>worthy of all</u> praise (v. 11a)

"Worship" = an old English word that meant worth-ship. To ascribe <u>worth</u> to one.

God is worthy; only God is worthy ("worship <u>God</u>" - REv. 19:10; 22:9).

A desire to bring to God the <u>pleasure</u> that is due Him (v. 11b)

God created all things for himself.

REVELATION 5:1-14

v. 1
"Right hand" = the hand of power. God the Father has power over the timing of the unfolding of the events described in the scroll.

Full of what? What are the contents? Answer: The future destiny of the world. Specifically future judgment - cp. Ezek. 2:9, 10. A similar scroll contained "Lamentations and mourning and woe" (v. 10).

V. 4
"Wept" - to cry out loud or wail

V. 5
"Lion of the tribe of Juda" - Jesus' lineage stems from Judah "according to the flesh" (Mt. 1, 2, 3; cp. Gen. 49:8, 9).

"Prevailed" - conquered; overcome; won a victory.
v. 6
"Lamb" - representing Christ (John 1:29).

"Slain" - lit. slaughtered. Perfect tense indicates the lasting effects of Christ's crucifixion. He will forever bear the marks of His death (Lk. 24:40; John 20:2, 27).

"Seven horns" - "horn" - a symbol of strength, power or might. It often symbolized a conqueror (EX> Alexander the Great and his four succeeding generals - Dan. 8:3, 8). (Ex: 10 horned confederacy of the revived Roman empire and the little horn representing the Anti-christ (Dan. 7:7, 8, 20).

"The Seven Spirits of God" = a reference to the Holy Spirit in His perfection.

Proof -

1. The seven spirits being pictured as the eyes "of Christ" are part of Christ as is the Holy Spirit. (Jn. 14:18).

2. SEE: Zech. 4:2, 6, 10

WORTHY IS THE LAMB TO RECEIVE THE PRAISE OF HIS SAINTS (V. 8-10)

V. 8

After triumphantly taking the scroll out of the Father's hand, heaven erupts into an applause of praise and worship of Christ.

"Golden vials" = a vial was a flat shallow bowl.

"Full of odours" - incense (a fragrant smoke)

The point: Our prayers are never forgotten. Rather, they are collected and brought into remembrance before God.
ILLUS: How certain good smells remind you of a certain time or event that took place in your life. Our prayers have a scent to them that is pleasing to God.

V. 9

The believer was not merely redeemed, but redeemed ... to God. We became God's property (I Cor. 6:20 - For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit which are God's.")

WORTHY IS THE LAMB TO RECEIVE THE PRAISE OF <u>ANGELS</u> (V. 11-12)

An innumerable host of angels encircle (surround) the throne, encircle the beasts and encircle the elders.

The form the outside perimeter of the host that envelopes God's throne.

WORTHY IS THE LAMB TO RECEIVE THE PRAISE OF THE <u>ENTIRE UNIVERSE</u> (v. 13-14)

Every created living creature will one day praise God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

"In Heaven" = Beasts; 24 elders, angels, and raptured believer

"On earth" those living during the tribulation.

"Under the earth" - those in graves

"In the sea" = lit. upon the sea - those on sea vessels

"all <u>things</u> that are in them" = even sea life and animal life will utter praise to God.

The universal praise (in v. 13) is believed to be proleptic (J.B. Smith P. 117)-- that is, with a view to the <u>future</u> when every knee bows and every tongue confesses (Phil. 2:9-10) (not simultaneous with the tribulation). However, God can do the miraculous and may receive worship even from unbelievers at some moment during the Tribulation.

(cp. Luke 19:40 - "the stones" ; Balaam`s donkey)

NOTE: "The Lamb" (Jesus Christ) receives <u>equal honor</u> with the Father eternally!

Revelation 5:12
Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

"Worthy" – Axios (we derive our term "axiom" a self-evident truth where the definition is equal to the term defined; The word was used of balancing the scales where the object weighed matched the weight of the other side of the scale; Here the word "worthy" refers to the fact that Jesus Christ is fully equal to any and all of the virtues ascribed to Him; And He is equal to all that we can give to him; Contrast this thought with someone who receives undeserved recognition. Where praise is heaped on someone who really is undeserving; Such is not the case with Christ. He is fully deserving of any and all praise that can be heaped on Him)

"Receive" – lambano – to take to Himself. Implied here is that someone gives to Him the virtues described.

Now being God (deity) Christ already has all of the mentioned attributes. He has them to the fullest measure. He does not need us to add to his warehouse of attributes. This declaration by the Angels means that He is worthy to receive our exercise of these virtues for Him. He is worthy that all creatures (whether Angelic of Human) offer to Him their power, riches, wisdom etc.

One reason the Lamb of God is worthy to receive all of our power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and blessing is because He is the source of all such. You and I would not have even a trace of what these virtues entail if it were not for Christ giving them to us. This is the reason why we cast our crown back at his feet. He alone is worthy!

*The Lamb of God (Jesus Christ) is worthy to receive everything we have to offer Him in this New Year

I. *The Lord is Worthy to Receive Our* **POWER**
(Our Abilities & Talents need to be used for Him)

"Power" – dunamis – a term which basically refers to ability or the power to accomplish anything. Jesus is worthy to receive

1 Peter 4:10-11
As every man hath received the gift, *even so* minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, *let him speak* as the oracles of God; if any man minister, *let him do it* as of the **ability which God giveth**: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Col. 1:29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

Use the Power He gives to Serve Him!

II. *The Lord is Worthy to Receive Our* **RICHES**
(Our Wealth & Resources need to be invested for Him)

Deut. 8:18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for *it is* he that giveth thee power to get wealth

Honor God first with your money
(Prov. 3:9-10; Prov. 11:24-26; Compare: Gal. 6:6-10; II Cor. 9:6-12;
I Kings 17:11-16)

Proverbs 3:9-10
Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

Proverbs 11:24-26
There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and *there is* that withholdeth more than is meet, but *it tendeth* to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself. He that withholdeth corn, the people shall curse him: but blessing *shall be* upon the head of him that selleth *it*.

2 Corinthians 9:6-12

But this *I say*, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work: (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for *your* food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;

Christians generally establish the "tithe" (10 % of your income) as the minimum standard of giving to God through your local church (Lev.27:30).

Help others in need with your money
(Prov. 19:17; Prov. 21:13; Prov. 22:9; Prov. 25:21-22; Prov. 28:27)

III. *The Lord is Worthy to Receive Our* **WISDOM**
(Our Intellect & Perception need to be engaged for Him)

1Co 1:24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

1Co 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

Eph 3:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

IV. *The Lord is Worthy to Receive Our* **STRENGTH**
(Our Energy & Might need to be exercised for Him)

Php 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Vital Ingredients for a Healthy Temple:
--Our bodies are "wonderfully made" (Ps. 139:14)

1) Righteous Living

"Shortly after God miraculously brought the nation of Israel out of Egypt, He spoke to the people through Moses, given them an awesome promise:

"If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee." (Exodus 15:26).

2) Physical Exercise
1 Tim. 4:8
For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

3) Healthy Eating Habits

God's original design was that man eat only fresh vegetables and fruit

Genesis 1:29
And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

God did allow for the eating of meat after the blood (Gen. 6:19-21)

People need self-control in eating habits
(Gal. 5:22-23; 1 Cor. 6:12-13; 1 Cor. 9:25-27)

1) Don't be a slave to your appetites (Prov. 23:2)

2) Eat for energy, not for pleasure

3) Eat only what you need (Prov. 25:16)

4) Eat "real" food (Gen. 1:27, 29)

a) Organic is best
b) Avoid spoiled (by man's corruption) or refined food

5) Make plant food the foundation of your diet (Gen. 1:29)

a) Grains without refinement
b) Fiber
c) Vegetables, fruits, beans, seeds, and nuts

6) Prefer "clean" animal flesh (Gen. 9:3) (Lev. 11)

(Don't be prideful, divisive or judgmental over this issue – Acts 10:15; 1 Tim. 4:1-5; Col. 2:16)

7) Don't eat blood or improperly prepared meat

8) Don't eat the "hard" fat of animals (Lev. 3:17, 7:23)

Hard Fat = fat under the skin that covered the organs and muscles

Note: The only oils which should be used are those which are liquid when at room temperature. Any oil which is a solid at room temperature (i.e. lard, margarine, butter, shortening) will solidify in your system and is unhealthy.

9) Give yourself periods of prayer and fasting (Joel 2:12; Ezra 8:23)

4) Clean Air & Clean Water

a) Clean Air
--No intentional smoke
--A clean house

b) Clean Water
Deut. 8:7
For the Lord thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills;

5) Adequate Rest
A good night's sleep (Ps. 127:2)

V. *The Lord is Worthy to Receive Our* **HONOUR**
(Our Highest Value & Respect needs to be bestowed upon Him)

Just as a human judge is honored, and is referred to as "your honor," so Jesus Christ will be honored by all who are judged by Him (Phil. 2:10).

To "honor" means to treat with value or great worth. To view with deep respect.

Do you value Jesus Christ? How important is He to you?

Joh 5:23 That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

> **"Even as they honor the Father" –** If Jesus is to be viewed with the exact same value and worth as the Father, He must be equal with Him.
>
> Such a statement would be utter blasphemy if Christ was not divine and do-equal with God, for God said that He would never share His glory with another.
>
> To not honor the Son is to not honor the Father.

We honor Him with our Words, Attitudes and Actions.

VI. *The Lord is Worthy to Receive Our* **GLORY**
(Our Exaltation & Spotlight need to be shined upon Him)

"The glory of God" - We ought to do everything so that God would shine; that He would be magnified; that His principles, precepts, and program would be credited, praised, and honored.

1 Corinthians 10:31
Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

What does it mean to glorify God?
Does He shine (in the minds of men) as a result of my attitudes or actions.

The sole purpose for man's existence is to glorify God.

"To know God and to glorify Him forever"

You were created to glorify God.
You were saved to glorify God.

The degree to which we glorify God reflects the degree to which we fulfill God's purpose for our lives.

The overruling principle that should guide our attitudes and actions must be: "Do all to the Glory of God"

1. The Principle of Glorifying God governs the Christian Liberty areas of our life
("Whether therefore…")

Note the previous context of areas of liberty that believers are conscientious about for the sake of weaker brothers.

ILLUS: The time Scott Berry and I asked Bill Gothard Sr. a question about whether or not a certain network marketing program would be wise to participate in. he responded with the simple yet profound question: "Would God be glorified?"

2. The Principle of Glorifying God governs the Mundane areas of our life
("eat or drink..")

3. The Principle of Glorifying God governs Each Individual area of our life

("Whatsoever ye do…")

"Whatsoever" - Includes every activity we do; every place we go; everything we partake of.

"Do all" - Nothing excluded; there ought not to be a distinction between the secular and the sacred for the Christian, for "all ground is holy ground."

--Does my attitude toward my children or spouse today glorify God?

--Are my thoughts glorifying God?

--Will this decision glorify God?

--Will this purchase glorify God?

--Is my language glorifying God?

--Are my actions glorifying God?

Should any area of our lives be "off limits" to God?

If not, then we should not mind if He has front row seats to every activity we do!

4. The Principle of Glorifying God governs Every area of our life
("Do All to the glory of God")

When making choices, which choices would bring the most glory to God?

God is glorified when we make . . .
--The right choice (a decision based on righteousness as revealed in Scripture)

--The unselfish choice (a decision based on how others, not merely self would be benefited)

--The difficult choice ((difficult due to the effort required; difficult due to the low popularity of the choice)
Is God glorified by divorce?
Is God glorified by mistreating your spouse or children?
Is God glorified by dishonesty?
Is God glorified by laziness?
Is God glorified by His people viewing wickedness? (on TV, pornography, etc.)

Is God glorified by gossip?
Is God glorified by poor performance on the job?

A question which should be continually popping up in our minds throughout every minute of every day is the question, "Does this glorify God?"

--Who do you give the credit to for the successes of your life?

--How do you handle applause?

--Where do we want the spotlight to shine?

--Where do we want the credit to go?

Herod Agrippa was judged because in the moment of opportunity when he should have denied the people's acclaim of deity to him, he did not. "He gave not God the glory."

[NOTE: If the greatest thing we can do is glorify God, then the greatest sin is to steal His glory for ourselves]

God, however, says: "I am the LORD (YAHWEH - the eternal "I AM"): that is my name; and my glory will I not give to another" (Is. 42:8; cp. Ex. 3:15; Ps. 83:18).

Satan fell because he sought the glory that only belonged to God (READ Is. 14:9-15).

When God saves a soul through your testimony, where do you want the credit to go?

--The intellect, talents, and abilities you have -- where did they come from? Then who should received the glory? I Cor. 4:7 - "For who maketh thee to differ from another . . ."

Hymn - "To God be the glory, great things He hath done..."

Shining for Him

By letting our light shine and doing good works, God will be glorified.

Will others have a better view of God by the picture they see of His working in our lives? (Mt. 5:16 - *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."*).

VII. *The Lord is Worthy to Receive Our* **BLESSING**
(Our Good Words & Praise need to be spoken for Him)

"Blessing" – eulogia – to say a good word about; The word refers to public praise.

Were you silent about Jesus Christ last year? Did you intentionally bring Him up in conversation? Isn't He worthy of your unashamed testimony?

Blessing the Lamb of God applies to our Testimony and Witness

Your Testimony

Call to remembrance the events that led to your salvation. Then write out your testimony and memorize it so you can be ready to tell it to others.

You can use this outline to write your testimony:

1. BEFORE I trusted Christ (what I was before)

2. HOW I trusted Christ (what I realized)

3. SINCE I trusted Christ (what He has done in my life)