

## **The Worthy Lamb**

Revelation 5:11-14

Rev. Brian Bill

April 4-5, 2026

Recently, my wife Beth started reading a 580-page book and eventually moved to the 26-hour audio format so she could listen to it in the car or when she was out walking. She was gripped by the richly drawn characters and the masterful storytelling and couldn't wait to hear how it would resolve in the end. But, right as all the plotlines and narrative threads were starting to come together, the book abruptly ended! Beth told me she was quite disappointed because it was a cliffhanger: *"I felt cheated because I wanted resolution and it never came."*

The reason this happened is because the author died in mid-sentence while she was writing what some have called her masterpiece. On page 581, the editor wrote these words: *"Here the story is broken off, and it can never be finished. What promised to be the crowning work of a life is a memorial of death."*

Have you ever noticed that there's something inside each one of us that longs for resolution? We want the story to finish. We long for justice to be served. We desire for evil to be defeated. We expect things to make sense in the end.

The good news of Easter is that God's story doesn't end mid-sentence! The resurrection of Jesus guarantees that the narrative of redemption reaches its glorious conclusion, not as a memorial of death, but a celebration of new life.

In the Book of Revelation, the last book of the masterpiece known as the Bible, we're told how everything comes together as all of Heaven erupts in worship of the risen Lamb of God.

On this Easter weekend, we trace the greatest crescendo in history. We move from the agony of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, to His unjust judgment at Gabbatha, to His brutal execution at Golgotha, to an empty garden tomb in Jerusalem.

But the story doesn't end in the silence of a cemetery but rather rises into a cosmic celebration that shakes the entire universe, where countless angels, every creature in Heaven and on earth, and all of creation erupt in worship before the throne of God and the Lamb. Worship with me as we listen to Revelation 5:11-14:

***“Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, ‘Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!’ And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, ‘To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!’ And the four living creatures said, ‘Amen!’ and the elders fell down and worshiped.”***

Our main idea comes right from Scripture: *Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!*

The Apostle John, while imprisoned on the island of Patmos, has been taken up to Heaven and given a tour of the throne room of God. Last week, we were reminded that our God reigns and rules as we were challenged with this truth: *“There is no panic in Heaven because God has no problems, only plans!”* It was one of the most moving services I’ve ever been part of. If you missed it, I encourage you to check it out at [edgewood.church](http://edgewood.church).

As John surveys the celestial scene, he hears an ever-increasing explosion of praise in verse 11: ***“Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands.”*** The word **“many”** is a superlative and means, *“multitudes, a great number.”* There were so many angels they were beyond human calculation. The phrase, **“myriads of myriads”** was the highest number the Greeks had in their language.

Daniel 7:10 says, ***“A thousand thousands served Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him.”*** Hebrews 12:22 refers to them as ***“innumerable angels in festal gathering.”*** The idea is that even if one were to take the greatest number in antiquity and multiply it by itself again and again, it still wouldn’t capture the totality.

Their worship is loud and centers on the worthiness, or weightiness, of the Lamb in verse 12: ***“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”*** Notice the present tense **“is”** and the past tense **“was.”** The Lamb *was* slain on Good Friday and *is* now living as a result of Resurrection Sunday. The Lamb receives praise for seven attributes, which is the perfect or complete number in Revelation. These are the

same descriptions that belong to God alone in Revelation 4:11, and here they are also attributed to the Lamb of God.

In Revelation 5:6, John declares: “...*I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain.*” The lamb was slaughtered and died but He is now standing alive. This is a perfect Easter passage because it connects the crucifixion (the slain Lamb) with the resurrection (the standing Lamb). The Lamb is standing to show His substitutionary sacrifice was accepted by the Father as full and final payment for all of our sins. And He’s standing victorious over death, over our depravity, and over the devil!

*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!*

In verse 13, the adoration of the Lamb moves out in ever widening circles. It’s no longer just the four living creatures, or the twenty-four elders around the throne, or the uncountable angels. Now, *every* part of creation joins in: “*And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them...*” The word “*every*” means “*the totality.*” That means there are no exceptions and no holdouts. Every bird fish, animal, mountain, and ocean breaks out into worship. Easter is not just a human celebration; it’s a cosmic victory where every creature and every part of creation joins in worship.

Romans 8:22 says creation is groaning now but a day is coming when all creation will explode in praise of God’s glory. This is a fulfillment of Isaiah 55:12: “*For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.*”

The Apostle John started the chapter weeping but he ends in worship. Mary began Easter morning weeping when she thought someone had stolen the body of Jesus but she ends in worship at His feet in the garden. That’s the Easter movement: from tears to triumph, from weeping to worship.

Every creature, everywhere in creation, lifts its voice in loud, jubilant praise to the living Lamb who is also the Lion of the Tribe of Judah and who is Lord of all because the curse has been reversed: “*To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!*”

Everyone.  
Everywhere.  
Forever and ever.

This is a fulfillment of [Philippians 2:9-11](#), which tells us that everyone everywhere will forever confess Jesus Christ as exalted Lord: ***“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.”***

In response to this unending worship of the incomparable living Lord who is both Lion and Lamb, [verse 14](#) gives us the response of the four living creatures and the elders: ***“And the four living creatures said, ‘Amen!’ and the elders fell down and worshiped.”***

*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!*

Almost twenty years ago, a pastor, along with a data designer, compiled a massive visual cross-reference dataset of the Bible. The result shows 63,770 Scripture hyperlinks. At the bottom of the chart is a bar graph of every chapter in the Bible and sweeping above it are arcs forming a rainbow effect based on the distance between linked passages.

For example, [Genesis 2:9](#), which introduces the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden, is connected by a long arc to [Revelation 22:2](#), where the Tree of Life reappears in the final chapter of the Bible.

This illustration shows Scripture as one unified story. Behind the Bible stands one divine Author who moved forty human writers over a period of 1,500 years, on three continents (Asia, Africa, and Europe), in three languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek), across vastly different cultures and historical settings.

This weekend, we’re going to pick up two themes from [Revelation 5:11-14](#), involving **angels** and the **Lamb**, and we’ll trace them throughout the storyline of Scripture. As we do, we’ll see something remarkable: angels repeatedly appear at the most important moments in God’s plan of redemption, announcing and celebrating the work of the Lamb of God.

Incredibly, the word “*angel*” appears 67 times in Revelation, making Revelation the book with the highest concentration of celestial beings. However, angels are not the central focus because they continuously point everything back to the Lamb who was slain and now reigns victorious. Related to this, the title “*Lamb*” for Jesus appears 28 times in Revelation, making it the dominant and most frequent title used for Him in the book, even more than “Jesus,” “Christ,” or “Lord.”

From the opening chapters of Genesis to the closing vision of Revelation, God sends His messengers to declare the glory of His Son, the Lamb of God. When we see these connections unfold across the pages of Scripture, as the Almighty Author weaves the narrative thread of redemption, I’m praying that our response will be the same as the angels and the countless worshipers around the throne as we gladly declare, *Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!*

Here are the main themes that can be traced through **angels** and the **Lamb** from the beginning of the salvation story to its gripping conclusion.

- **The angels rejoicing.**
- **The humans rebelling.**
- **The Lamb redeeming.**
- **The Lamb rising.**
- **The Lamb reigning.**
- **The Lamb returning.**
- **The angels rejoicing.**

**1. The angels rejoicing.** Before sin ever entered the world, angels were already present at creation. In Job 38:7, God says that when He laid the foundations of the earth, the angelic host burst into joyful praise, “*the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy.*” The universe began with worship as the angels witnessed galaxies being formed, oceans being set in place, and mountains rising from the earth. Creation was so stunning that heaven burst into song.

**2. The humans rebelling.** The first hint of the need for a lamb to be sacrificed came when Adam and Eve sinned, and the world changed instantly, bringing death and creating distance from God. Yet even in the middle of that tragedy, God established the provision of redemption in Genesis 3:21 when He made garments of skin from a sacrificed animal for Adam and Eve to cover their shame. For the first time in the Bible, we see the principle of substitution: the innocent dying in the place of the guilty.

Genesis 3:24 tells us that after Adam and Eve were driven out of the Garden of Eden, God stationed warrior angels to guard the way to the Tree of Life. It's a striking moment in the storyline of Scripture. At the very beginning of the Bible, angels stand as sentinels, preventing sinful humanity from reentering God's paradise. Access to the Tree of Life is blocked...for now.

**3. The Lamb redeeming.** In Genesis 22:7, as they were heading up the mountain, Isaac asked his father Abraham where the sacrifice was: ***“Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?”*** Abraham's answer in verse 8 is a stunning statement of faith: ***“God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.”*** The Lord *Himself* would provide the substitute sacrifice for *Himself*! Just as Abraham was about to sacrifice Isaac, the angel of the Lord called out from Heaven. When Abraham looked up, he saw *the* substitute lamb.

In Exodus 12, God commanded every family in Israel to sacrifice a lamb and place its blood on the doorposts of their homes: ***“When I see the blood, I will pass over you.”*** The lamb had to die so the firstborn could live. From that moment on, lambs became central to Israel's worship through morning and evening sacrifices, and another Passover lamb was sacrificed every year. Thousands upon thousands of lambs were offered. But none of them could truly take away sin.

Centuries later, when the time was right, angels started working overtime when they made life-changing announcements to Zechariah, Mary, and Joseph. The sky above Bethlehem exploded with praise with a multitude of the Heavenly host declaring: ***“Glory to God in the highest.”*** The angels understood something the world did not yet see. The Lamb had arrived and the shepherds ran to see Him nestled in a feeding trough.

Throughout the life of Jesus, angels appeared at key moments.

- After Jesus defeated Satan in the wilderness, angels came and ministered to Him.
- In the Garden of Gethsemane, when the weight of the cross pressed upon Jesus, an angel strengthened Him.
- Even at the cross Jesus said He could call on twelve legions (72,000) of angels if He wanted to be rescued. But He didn't do that, because the Lamb came to die as substitutionary sacrifice.

**4. The Lamb rising.** On the morning of the resurrection, after rolling away the stone, the angels became the first messengers of the resurrection in Luke 24:5-6: ***“Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.”***

The angels announce that the Lamb who was slain is alive. Jesus is the victor over death, not the victim of death. He didn't just survive death; He used death to destroy death, to dismantle our depravity, and to defeat the devil. Through His death and resurrection, redemption has been accomplished.

Listen to what Jesus says about Himself in Revelation 1:17-18: ***“Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.”***

*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!*

**5. The Lamb reigning.** The Lamb who was slain now stands as the Lion who is now reigning. The resurrection was never just about survival; it was about coronation. Jesus didn't simply come back to life; He rose to take His rightful place at the center of the universe's throne. What looked like utter defeat on Friday became unchallenged rule by Sunday morning. Hebrews 1:6 declares: ***“And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, ‘Let all God's angels worship Him.’”*** The Lamb who was slain is not a victim. He is the Victor who now rules and reigns.

**6. The Lamb returning.** In Acts 1:11, the angels proclaim the promise of His return: ***“This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”*** When the Lamb returns as the Lion, Matthew 24:31 says the angels will gather the elect and 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 says they will accompany Him: ***“when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire...”***

Jesus *was* raised to Heaven.

He *is* reigning right now in Heaven.

And He *will* return from Heaven.

**7. The angels rejoicing.** We end where we began with the angels worshipping before creation and how myriads upon myriads and millions upon millions sing even louder as they worship the resurrected Lamb for His completed work of redemption.

The angels who watched creation, who guarded Eden, who provided for Abraham, who filled the skies above Bethlehem, and announced the resurrection, are now gathered around the throne worshipping the Lamb as He prepares to return. The entire Bible has been moving toward this moment!

They are locked onto the Lamb. Everything they do points to Jesus, the Lamb who was slain and now reigns victorious. The dominant image in Heaven is not winged messengers, but the scarred, worthy Lamb at the center of the throne.

Yet the angels' relationship to the Lamb goes even deeper than constant praise. They are also intrigued by the wonder of salvation because that's something they can never personally experience.

The apostle Peter captures this beautifully in 1 Peter 1:10–12 when he speaks of the prophets who searched intently into the grace that was to come and then adds this striking line: “*...things into which angels long to look.*” This phrase “*long to look*” carries the idea of “*stooping down, peering intently, or leaning over with eager curiosity.*” The picture is of someone bending low to examine something fascinating from the outside. Angels, who dwell in the presence of God and have never known the guilt of sin or the joy of forgiveness, find our redemption utterly captivating. Salvation is a mystery they observe with holy wonder but can never enter experientially.

This makes every conversion on earth a cause for Heavenly celebration as Jesus said in Luke 15:10: “*I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.*” When a lost person turns from sin and trusts in Christ and his name is written in the Lamb's book of life, the holy ones in Heaven erupt in exuberant joy. The angels don't just watch passively; they share in the joy because they see the glory of the gospel unfolding in real time. Every conversion magnifies the worth of the Lamb who purchased people for God from every tribe, language, people, and nation (Revelation 5:9).

In summary, angels bookend and punctuate God's redemption story: rejoicing at creation, guarding the garden, announcing the Savior's birth, proclaiming His resurrection, anticipating His return, and worshipping at His coronation. The same angels who shouted for joy at the world's beginning, now sing perpetual praise to the Lamb who has redeemed it.

On that first Easter, the women came to a tomb expecting death and heard the angel announcing life. John, in his vision, saw a slaughtered Lamb standing alive and victorious.

Easter reminds us that God's story does not end mid-sentence. The Author of our salvation died, but three days later He rose again. One day, the tension of history will resolve, every thread of redemption will come together, and the whole universe will erupt in praise as millions upon millions of angels and all creation will cry out, "***Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!***" God's redemption story does not end with confusion, suffering, or death. It resolves with the risen Lamb on the throne and the redeemed of God worshipping Him forever.

This week, I met with a guy to answer some questions he had about baptism. He and his wife have been coming since November. Interestingly, he has known about Edgewood for years. As a kid, he grew up near our building and spent hours riding his bike in our parking lot as a kid.

He just finished reading the Bible in a year and is now doing so again. As I reviewed the gospel with him, he said he was struggling with doubt, even though he wanted to fully believe. Amazingly, he told me that he was in the parking lot reading our "Ready or Not" booklet and had prayed the invitation prayer out loud before coming inside but wasn't sure it "worked" because he felt unworthy. When I told him he is unworthy (and so am I) because of our sin, the light bulb seemed to go on. We are unworthy, but Jesus is worthy.

After explaining the importance of repentance and receiving Christ, he closed his eyes and prayed out loud, asking Jesus to save him from his sins and to be born again. When he finished, he exclaimed, "*I know now that I'm saved. I don't have any doubt. I'm born again.*"

After spending some time talking about what a new baby in Christ needs to do to grow, I urged him to remember the date because he now has two birthdays. When I asked him to say the date out loud, he said, "*April 1, April F...*" I stopped him before he could finish and said, "*No, this is not April Fool's Day, it's 'April Faith Day' for you.*" He seemed to love that. As he walked out, he said, "*I don't have any questions about baptism anymore. I'm doing it.*"

Are you ready to have an April Faith day?

The Lamb who was slain has made a way for unworthy sinners to be forgiven. The Bible says that if you turn from your sin and put your faith in Jesus Christ, you will be saved. Don't leave this Easter with the story of your life unfinished, your sins unforgiven, and your purpose unresolved. If He can turn a Roman cross into a Heavenly throne, He can handle the broken pieces of your life. Right now, you can come to the risen Christ, receive His mercy, and know that one day you will stand among that great multitude and declare with the angels, "***Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!***"

I love what Ron Hutchcraft said about Easter: "*Jesus walked out of His grave so He would walk into your life.* Will you repent of your sins and invite Him to walk into your life right now so the angels can rejoice again?"

### **Invitation Prayer**

### **Closing Song: What a Worthy Name**

### **Final Words**

- If you'd like to talk to a pastor about a decision you made today, or are simply in need of prayer, Pastor Daniel and Pastor Dan will be in the conference room after the service.
- As you leave today, please pick up a handout called, "Coming Events."

It's become tradition at Edgewood to end our Easter services with a statement of faith.

I'm going to say, "**He is risen!**" and I want you to respond with everything you have: "**He is risen indeed!**"

**He is risen!**

**He is risen indeed!**

Amen. Go in the victory of the risen Christ.