

## **Blessing, Glory, Honor Forever – Teaching Notes**

(Revelation 5:6-14; 4/29/18; Dr. Baines, Jr.)

**Introduction:** A key idea in today's Sunday School material is that there is great praise in Heaven. Prayerfully, we will be challenged to enthusiastically praise God with our lips and lives.

### **Body:**

#### **Read Revelation 5:6-8**

**I. Seeing the Lamb.** A Lamb appears to John. The Lamb is slain and is circled by the four living creatures and 24 elders. The Lamb has seven horns and eyes, which are the seven spirits of God. The Lamb took the scroll from the right hand of the One on the throne. The four living creatures and 24 elders fall down before Lamb with harps and golden bowls full of incense (i.e., prayers of God's people).

#### **Applications –**

- **Jesus the slain lamb.** Notice in vs. 6 that the Lamb is pictured with seven horns and eyes, which are the seven spirits of God. The commentator suggests that the seven horns symbolize complete strength or power, the seven eyes symbolize complete knowledge, and the seven spirits symbolize the Holy Spirit. There is room to debate these matters. What is beyond debate is that Jesus was slain and killed for the sins of the world. *Let's live like we believe that Jesus is the slain lamb.* This kind of living should be noted for obedience and praise. We will talk about the creatures and elders praise below.

#### **Read Revelation 5:9-10**

**II. Singing a New Song.** The four living creatures and 24 elders are said to sing a new song. The lyrics of the song talk about how the Lamb is worthy to take and open the scroll. The Lamb's death purchased people from every tribe and nation for God. The people of God have been made a kingdom of reigning and serving priests for God.

#### **Applications –**

- **Singing for God's glory.** Notice in vs. 9 there is the singing of a new song. Also notice that the new song had godly lyrics. First, even though we may have our favorite "old songs," we should be open to singing new songs. God is not restricted to our past experiences. Second, we should make sure that the lyrics to both our old and new songs are godly. God doesn't get any glory out of what sounds good but is not biblically sound. *Let's work on singing songs that bring glory to God.* It should be noted that our churches sing their best when we all sing, instead of just watching the choir sing before us.

- **Redeemed for service.** Notice in vss. 9-10 that the Lamb purchased people from all around the world to be a reigning kingdom of priests who serve God. First, every believer has been redeemed or purchased back. Thus, we owe the Lord our allegiance because He redeemed us from going to Hell. Second, we have been redeemed to serve the Lord with our stewardship of the world and spreading the gospel with our lips and lives. *Let's work on living like we appreciate Jesus redeeming us for service.* This kind of living should be known for all us at least inviting and trying to bring people with us to worship and growth groups.

### **Read Revelation 5:11-14**

**III. Worshipping With Hosts.** There is a huge number of angels encircling the four living creatures and 24 elders. The angels are talking in a loud voice about how the Lamb was worthy. Then all of the creatures in Heaven, on Earth, under the Earth, and on the sea joined. They were all talking about praise, honor, and glory going to the One on the throne and the Lamb. The four living creatures are saying “amen” and the elders fell down and worshipped.

#### **Applications –**

- **Everyone praising the Lord.** Notice in vss. 11-14 that everyone is participating in the praise service. There are too many people who behave as if they are somehow exempt from praising the Lord with enthusiasm. In reality, everything that has breath should give God enthusiastic praise for His goodness towards us and His marvelous plan for our lives. We should not allow our age, status, problems, or issues with people to stop us from giving our best to God. *Let's enthusiastically praise God.* We can at least add our “amen” (i.e., it is true) to the worship experience.

- **He deserves so much.** Notice in vss. 12-13 that the Lamb is worthy to receive so much – power, wealth, wisdom, and more. We cannot give God too much. If we really believed this, there would not be so much tension around getting people who have been in church for well over 5 and 10 years to pay their tithes and give their offerings. *Let's demonstrate that we understand that God is worthy of so much.* We can start with praise and tithes. But God actually wants us to obey His principles for every area of our lives.

**Conclusion:** Let's work on enthusiastically praising God with our lips and lives. God has much for those who obey His will.