

He Is Worthy!

Psalm 19:1: **“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.”** How well do we know this! The beautiful sunrises and sunsets we enjoy in El Paso and the galaxy of stars we get to see in the desert sky testify to the truth of Psalm 19:1. And how well did we and millions of others get to observe Psalm 19:1 with the solar eclipse that occurred this past Monday! You will never hear me denounce or belittle this wonder.

HOWEVER! That eclipse is not worth or worthy of the praise it received this past Monday with little to no acknowledgment of the only true God and Creator of the universe. I am not exaggerating, because I watched, I read, and I listened for it. Oh, the false god “mother nature” received her accolades. People were drooling and weeping over her. But when it came to the true God and his powerful, creative hand? Crickets!

Why am I making such a big deal about this? Because our God deserves so much better from us. Rather than a forgotten thought, God deserves to be the first thought. He deserves to be the first thought of our day, of our life, and of our existence – the first thought when we see the sun, moon, and stars in the skies above; the first thought when we see the food on our table, the clothes on our back, and the roof over our heads; the first thought when we wake up in the morning and go to bed at night. We are nothing without God. And yes, a solar eclipse should remind us of that.

But it’s more than that. So much more! It’s the wonder that the same God, who allowed us to witness the power of his creative hand this past Monday, is the same God whose hands extended upon the cross, the same God who suffered and died for us on that cross, the same God whose wounds cleanse us from all our sins. This is the greatest wonder of all, to never be eclipsed by an eclipse or anything else in life. It explains the reason for the scene we read in Revelation 5:11-12:

¹¹ Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. ¹² In a loud voice they were saying: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

John, inspired by God, gives us a picture of heaven that is amazing and almost incomprehensible at the same time: Around the throne of God are “thousands upon thousands” of angels, literally “a myriad of angels times a myriad of angels.” A myriad in classical history represented a division of 10,000 soldiers. Now imagine this, a myriad times a myriad of angels. That’s 100 million angels! Then around the throne of God are the living creatures, representing his creation. And there are the elders, representing his Church, the sum total of all believers in heaven. Now you know why I said the picture is as amazing as it is incomprehensible.

But notice why they all surround the throne of God. Notice who is at the center of the throne. Notice who is the object of the angels’, the living creatures’, and the elders’ praise. It is the Lamb who was

slain. Why? Because there is the greatest wonder of God – the greatest wonder that God sacrificed his only Son on the cross to save a world of sinners from all their sin, so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life (just as you are seeing in this scene in Revelation 5).

There is something really important to realize about heaven. When we get to heaven, we have all these preconceived notions of whom we are going to see first and what we are going to do first. But this scene in Revelation 5 teaches us that we can expect and anticipate that the first person we are going to see in heaven is Jesus and the first thing we are going to do is praise him. Why? Because **WORTHY IS THE LAMB WHO WAS SLAIN**. The “why” you are in heaven will always be the center of your attention in heaven. This is why we intentionally keep Christ the center of our worship at Christ Our Redeemer, because every worship service of ours is meant to give us a foretaste of what our worship will be like in heaven. Every worship service is intentionally meant to resound with a loud voice: **WORTHY IS THE LAMB WHO WAS SLAIN**.

Yes, WORTHY!

Worthy to receive power! Can you live the perfect life that God demands you to live? No, but Jesus did – for you – by his perfect life. Can you do anything to take away the guilt and shame of your sin? No, but Jesus did – for you – by his death on the cross. Can you do anything to overcome the inevitability of death? No, but Jesus did – for you – by his victorious resurrection. Do you know anything more powerful?

Worthy to receive wealth! Jesus’ wealth is not measured by earthly or material things. His wealth is measured by the precious blood that he shed to cover and cleanse you from all your sins. His wealth is measured by the high price he paid to secure your place in heaven. Do you know any greater treasure now or in eternity?

Worthy is the Lamb to receive wisdom! If you gathered all the wisdom of the world from all the wisest people in the world from all the generations of the world and compared it to Christ’s wisdom, you would notice one vital difference. All the wisdom of the world teaches that the way to heaven is up to what you do to get there; where Christ’s wisdom teaches that the way to heaven is up to what he has done for you so that you can be certain you are going there. Now think about that a moment. Do you know any greater wisdom than to put your trust in Christ’s wisdom?

Worthy is the Lamb to receive strength! The strongest person I know did not complain or retaliate when he was brutally beaten and callously crucified. The strongest person I know loved his enemies. The strongest person I know sacrificed himself for others. The strongest person I know overcame and defeated sin, death, and the devil. Do you know anyone stronger than that?

Worthy is the Lamb to receive honor and glory and praise! Christ receives honor, glory, and praise because he deserves it. That’s what “worthy” means. He is why you surrender your pride. He is why you live faithful and obedient lives. He is why you love and forgive. He is why you tell others about him. Do you know any better way to express your honor, glory, and praise?

Then today, let us join the myriads of angels and living creatures and elders in praising the Lamb who was slain. Join in this song as you feel comfortable. (*Is He Worthy? by Andrew Peterson*)

Amen.