

Worthy Is the Lamb

Revelation 5:1–14 • Pastor Raul Granillo • July 12, 2026

TODAY'S TEXT

“Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?’ ... See, **the Lion of the tribe of Judah... has conquered.** ... Then I saw ... **a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, with seven horns and seven eyes...**”

— Revelation 5:2, 5, 6

BIG IDEA

John *hears* a Lion. He turns to look — and *sees* a Lamb, standing as though slaughtered. **The Lamb is not the consolation prize.** The Lamb *is* the Lion. The wound is the credential. God overcomes the world not by force but by sacrificial love — and the entire logic of empire is turned inside out.

KEY TRUTH

Every system built on the threat of death as leverage has **already lost**. By absorbing the world’s ultimate weapon and rendering it useless, Jesus did not merely secure personal salvation — He dismantled the foundation of every dominance structure the world has ever built. A church shaped by the Lion tends toward violence and empire. A church shaped by the slaughtered Lamb tends toward martyrdom and service. Only the latter is what God is calling us toward.

HEAR A LION, SEE A LAMB — THE GREAT REVERSAL

ELEMENT	WHAT JOHN HEARS	WHAT JOHN SEES
IDENTITY	Lion of Judah • Root of David — warrior-Messiah titles from Gen. 49 and Isa. 11.	A little lamb (arnion, ἀρνίον) — the diminutive: small, tender, vulnerable.
STATE	“Has conquered” (Greek perfect tense) — the victory is done, its effects permanent.	Standing as though slaughtered — the wound is permanent. The cross carried into eternity.
POWER	A warlord who overthrows Rome by force. First-century audiences leaned forward expecting this.	Seven horns (perfect power) • seven eyes (omniscience). All power — but through sacrifice.
CREDENTIAL	Roman logic: worthiness derives from military victory, survival, domination.	“Worthy because you were slain.” The death is the qualification. The wound is the proof.
POSITION	A champion who takes the throne after the battle.	Standing IN the center of the throne — not beside it. Fully God, from the beginning.

DEFINE THIS

Arnion (ἀρνίον) — Greek diminutive meaning “little lamb.” Not the word for a mature sacrificial animal. John chose it deliberately. It is tender, small, disarming. This is not the fierce ram of triumph — this is a lamb you would carry in your arms. And He holds all authority in heaven and on earth.

QUOTE TO REMEMBER

“God overcomes the world not through a show of force *but through the suffering and death of Jesus, the faithful witness.*” — Michael Gorman

TAKE IT HOME — REFLECTION

- Where in my life am I still “hearing the Lion” — expecting God to solve my problems through dominance, force, or the removal of my enemies — when Christ is calling me to “see the Lamb”?
- A church shaped by the Lion tends toward crusade. A church shaped by the Lamb tends toward service and martyrdom. Which of the two is more visibly shaping how I show up in my family, my work, and my church this week?
- The elders held golden bowls of incense — the prayers of the saints. What prayer of mine, offered this week, is rising like incense to the throne right now?

MY NOTES