

A graphic featuring a large, gnarled tree trunk in the center, with two glowing circular openings. The word "GENESIS" is written in small, gold, all-caps letters above the tree, and "REVELATION" is written in the same style below it. The word "BOOKENDS" is written in large, white, serif, all-caps letters across the middle of the tree trunk. The background is a dark, atmospheric scene of a city street at night, with lights reflecting on the pavement.

# GENESIS BOOKENDS REVELATION

## WORTHY IS THE LAMB

*REVELATION 5*

### SYNOPSIS

This sermon from Revelation 5 confronts the central question of life: Is Jesus truly worthy? John's vision reveals a crisis when no one is found worthy to open God's scroll, exposing humanity's deep need for redemption. The tension resolves in the paradox of Easter. The conquering Lion is the slain Lamb, Jesus Christ, who through His death and resurrection conquers sin, Satan, and death. Because He alone is worthy, the only fitting response is to say "Amen," submit fully to Him, and worship Him with a life of joyful devotion. The sermon calls each person to repent and declare Christ as supremely worthy.

### SERMON OUTLINE

1. **The Crisis of Worthiness:** In Revelation 5:1-4 John fears for a moment that nobody is "worthy to open the scroll," and he begins to weep. John's weeping is a point of contact for us to understand our need of a Savior. John's crisis is our crisis.
2. **The Paradox of Worthiness:** John hears that the "Lion of the tribe of Judah" is worthy, and he turns and sees a "Lamb, standing, as though it had been slain." The paradox of Easter is that is just this, "the conqueror" of verse 5 conquered not through strength or might, but through sacrifice.
3. **The Response to Worthiness:** In verse 14 the elders before the throne respond in three ways. First, they say "Amen." Second, they fall down. Third, they worship. Every true born again believer must respond in the same way.

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## LOOKING AT THE TEXT

*These text-based questions are only guides for you, and you do not need to use them. The goal is to get your group studying the text before reflecting on the sermon. Some groups will do this quite naturally by just observing what they see in the text. Others may need a few guiding questions like the ones below.*

1. Revelation 5:5 references Genesis 49:9 “the Lion of the tribe of Judah” and Isaiah 11:1, 10 “the Root of David.” What contributions to your understanding of the text does it make to know how these passages are connected?
2. In the ESV translation, Revelation 5:6 begins “And *between the* throne and the four living creatures...” The KJV reads “And I beheld, and, lo, *in the midst of* the throne and of the four beasts...” What difference do these two translations imply?
3. Revelation 5:6 makes reference to Zechariah 3:9 and Zechariah 4:10. What significance, if any do you see here?
4. Beginning in verse 8 through the end of verse 13 we see a progression of worship that begins with a smaller group worshipping, and culminates in a much larger group worshipping. Identify the three groups mentioned (verses 8, 11, 13), and consider what this progressive and culminating anthem of worship might communicate to us as readers.

## GROUP REFLECTION & APPLICATION

1. **The Real Question Beneath the Surface:** When you look at your actual life, not just your words, what do your time, affections, and priorities reveal about what you truly believe is “worth it”? Where other things might your life be declaring you subtly believe to be more “worthy” than Jesus?
2. **Facing the Crisis Honestly:** John weeps when no one is found worthy. In general, modern Christians are not great at reflecting on their own life enough to really see the depth of their own sin. This unfortunately can cause us to not really experience our need of a Savior, the way John did when he wept. Share a root of sin in your life that may be much deeper than you have fully considered before.
3. **Inviting Others to Believe:** The end of this sermon was a direct call for folks to surrender their lives to Christ. This is an important part of evangelism, both corporately (as happened on Sunday) but also in our own personal evangelism.
  - a. Who are you praying for to come to know Christ?
  - b. How have you intentionally shared Christ with them?

4. **What Does “falling down” Really Mean?:** The elders around the throne “fell down” before Christ. Identify a current area of your life where you are resisting full surrender to Christ. Be specific. What would it practically look like this week to “fall down” in that area and submit to His authority? What is holding you back?
  
5. **Worship as Delight, Not Duty:** The sermon describes worship as delighting in Christ, not just obedience to him (though worship includes obedience). What currently competes for your delight, and what practical steps could help reorient your heart toward deeper joy in Jesus?