

Dear you who reap songs of joy:

Is it easy for you to cry...either tears of sorry or joy?

- Watching an emotional movie
- Upon hearing bad news
- Upon seeing one of your children get married.
- Upon hearing great news
- Upon visiting a family member who is very ill

Jesus cried when He was on earth. Remember the shortest verse in the Bible is John 11:35.

Remember what it says: **“Jesus wept.”** Why did he weep?

- Jesus told his disciples that Lazarus had “fallen asleep”; but that he was going there to “wake him up.” Lazarus had died but Jesus was going to raise him from the dead. The disciples thought that Jesus was only saying that Lazarus was resting in sleep.
- Jesus arrives at Bethany and was told that Lazarus had been dead for four days already.
- The Bible says “When Jesus saw Mary, Lazarus’ sister, weeping and the other family and friends of Lazarus weeping, he was ‘deeply moved in spirit’”.
- Jesus was taken to the tomb of Lazarus and there at the tomb it says: “Jesus wept”
- As Jesus came to the tomb it says he was “once more deeply moved.”

Jesus was true God but also true Man. He cried. He showed emotion. He cried over Lazarus death even though he knew that he was going to raise Lazarus up from the dead in a few moments at the tomb.

What do you cry about? What causes you to overcome with emotion at times?

- Are the financial demands sometimes overwhelming?
- Are the time demands placed upon you overwhelming?
- How about family tensions?
- Have you ever been falsely accused?
- Do your friends ever let you down?
- Are you unsure of the future?

Jesus has been there. He wept, too. He was deeply moved, too.

The Bible says that Jesus experienced “all the pain, all the testing” so that you and I would know that **“he is able...to run to the cry of...”** those who are being tempted and tested and tried.” Hebrews 2:18

Whatever you are facing, he knows how you feel.

At the time the book of Revelation was written the believers were doing a lot of weeping. It was a time of severe persecution of the followers of Jesus. The believers were being forced to worship the Roman emperor and they would not comply. They only would worship the Lamb of God.

Revelation is the vision that the Apostle John was given by the Lord. The vision John saw covered events in his own day until the end of time. Imagine if you were given a vision of the rest of time. Imagine if you knew what would happen from now to the end of time. This is the vision the Apostle John had. He recorded his vision for us in the Book of Revelation.

In Revelation 5 John brings us to that part of the vision he had of heaven. This is a picture of the throne of God with believers and angels surrounding the Lord and worshiping Him.

As John sees heaven and the Lord on the throne he notices a scroll – a seven sealed scroll in the hand of God. What was this scroll?

- It represents Christ's title deed to the world
- Psalm 2:8 says Jesus would have the nations of the world as His inheritance
- Hebrews 1:2 says Jesus would be appointed "heir of all things."

A title deed or will can only be opened by the appointed heir. Jesus is the appointed heir here in Revelation 5. Only he can open the scroll.

When John first saw the vision of heaven and the scroll it says that no one in all the universe could be found worthy enough to break the seals. No one could open the scroll. That is why John wept! He thought God's glorious plan of salvation for the world would never be completed because no one could open the scroll.

We, too, would weep if God's plan of salvation was not complete. But it is complete as we read in...

- Romans 8:1
- Psalm 32
- John 6
- Revelation 21

Revelation 5 reminds us that Jesus is the ONE who opened the scroll.

- He was willing to redeem us
- He was able to redeem us

- He gave his life to restore our lost inheritance

In Revelation 5 we are given four reasons why we do not have to weep anymore. We are given four reasons why we don't have to weep. We are given for four reasons why we worship Jesus instead of weeping over the conditions of life.

“The cache of Christianity is Christ. Not money in the bank or a car in the garage or a healthy body or a better self-image. Secondary...fruits perhaps. But the Fort Knox of faith is Christ. “  
p. 6 Lucado

- Fellowship with him
- Walking with him
- Pondering him
- Exploring him
- In him we are part of something ancient, endless, unstoppable and unfathomable
- Christ is the reward of Christianity
- The Apostle Paul says: “I want to know Christ.” Philippians 3:10

### **We worship Jesus because of who He is vv5-7**

Three unique titles are given to our Lord to describe who He is. He is called...

#### **A. The Lion of Judah**

The tribe of Judah was the tribe of Israel from which the kings would come to rule over Israel. Jesus was born of the virgin Mary and his human ancestry could be traced back to Judah – the tribe of David, king of Israel.

The image of “the lion” speaks of Jesus’ dignity, sovereignty, courage and victory. Jesus was the Son of David. But he also was the Creator of David.

#### **B. The Root of David**

Jesus is also true God, the Creator. He created David and you and me. He is the eternal God, the Ancient of Days. Jesus was both David’s son and David’s Lord. Matthew 22:41

Jesus is the Lion but he is also the Lamb.

#### **C. The Lamb of God**

Jesus is called the Lamb at least 28 times in the book of Revelation. The Greek word “Lamb” means “A little pet lamb”

- God's wrath upon sin was the wrath of the Lamb of God Rev 6:16
- God washed us by the Blood of the Lamb Rev 7:14
- The Church (you and me) is the Bride of the Lamb Rev 19:7

The Lamb presents the person and work of Jesus Christ.

- John 1:12
- Revelations 5:12

In verse 6 the description of the Lamb is to be understood symbolically. It conveys spiritual truth. The number 7 is the number of perfection and Jesus is described here as having...

- Perfect power - 7 horns
- Perfect wisdom – 7 eyes
- Perfect presence – 7 spirits

These are Jesus' godly attributes of being all-powerful, all-knowing and present everywhere! This was good to know for those early believers who were suffering persecution under the hand of Rome.

### **We worship Jesus because of where He is. V6**

Where is Jesus?

- Not in the tomb
- Not on the cross
- Not in the manger

He ascended into the heavens 40 days after the resurrection. He is in charge of what happens in our life and the life of this world from the glories of heaven. He is in the midst of heaven. He is at the center of all that happens.

- All creation finds its center in Him - ie the 4 living creatures
- All of God's people have their center in Him ie the elders
- Jesus is at the center of all things in heaven and on earth

We do not worship a baby in a manger or a corpse on a cross. On earth Jesus was the gentle carpenter and the humble teacher. Now he is the risen and exalted Lord. We worship the living and reigning Lamb of God who is in the midst of heaven, earth and our hearts. John 14:21

## **We worship Him because of what He does vv8-10**

When the Lamb came and took the scroll the weeping ended and the praising began. God's people and God's creation join voices in a song of praise to the Lord. Jesus receives praise and prayers as noted by the incense. Psalm 141

What kind of song did those in heaven sing to the Lord?

- It was a worship hymn for they said: "You are worthy!" To worship means "to ascribe worth" Jesus alone is worthy
- It was a Gospel song for they sang that Jesus was "slain" The word means "violently slain"  
Heaven sings about the cross and the blood and that is why we do, too.
- It was also a missionary song for they sang about people from "...every tribe and language and people and nation."

A story is told about the Christian who for some reason was against sending money to foreign missions. One day in church as they passed the offering plate, he told the usher, "I don't believe in missions!" The usher replied: "Then take something out of the plate, it's for the heathen."

- It was also a devotional hymn for it refers to our unique position in Christ as a "Kingdom of priests."
- It was also a prophetic hymn for it refers to believers someday "reigning on earth" with Jesus.

## **We worship Jesus because of what He has vv11-14**

In a final burst of praise the angels and every creature in the universe join together to worship the Redeemer. Jesus deserves to be praised because of his sacrificial death on the cross.

- He was born in weakness and He died in weakness
- He became on earth the poorest of the poor, yet He owns all the riches of the world
- He was laughed at while on earth and called a fool; yet He is the very wisdom of God.
- He shared in the weakness of our flesh as he hungered, thirsted and became weary, yet today in glory he possesses all strength.
- On earth Jesus was ridiculed, reviled and laughed at His kingship, but now He has received all honor and glory.

“ When it comes to Christ...Call him crazy, or crown him as king. Dismiss him as a fraud, or declare him to be God. Walk away from him, or bow before him, but don't play games with him. Don't call him a great man...Don't clump him with Moses, Elijah, Buddha...or Confucius...He is either God or godless.” P. 135 Lucado

The worship service in Revelation 5 ends with the whole world praising God. And there was a loud “Amen!” from the four living creatures! In heaven we are permitted to say “Amen.”

Christ the Savior is the redeemer and as King he is an “ever-present help in trouble.” Psalm 46

“The presence of troubles doesn't surprise us. The absence of God, however, undoes us. We can deal with the ambulance if God is in it. We can stomach the ICU if God is in it. We can face the empty house if God is in it.” p. 125-126 Lucado *Next Door Savior*

All of heaven's praise came because the Lamb took the scroll from the Father's hand!

“Christ is running the show right now. A leaf just fell from a tree in the Alps. Christ caused it to do so. A newborn baby in India inhaled for the first time. Jesus measured the breath. The migration of the belugas through the oceans? Christ dictates their itinerary.” P. 160 Lucado

- God's eternal plan of salvation would now be fulfilled
- God's creation of the world be set free from the bondage of sin
- One day the Lamb will break the seals and return to earth
- We, too, can say AMEN!