

COWBOYS STADIUM

For sports fans, there are some places that leave you totally breathless. For me, nothing beats seeing the screen at the Dallas Cowboys' AT&T stadium for the first time. It was jaw dropping. The words "big screen" don't do justice to the 40-million-dollar, 60-yard wide, jumboest of jumbotrons.

The color and brilliance of that screen at AT&T stadium, pales in comparison to what John saw from our study last week. He was transported to the Throne Room of God and watched heavenly beings worship in response to the glory of God. Today, we will look at the price of admission so that you and I can glimpse God's glory as well.

REVELATION 5:1-14

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴ and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

⁶ And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. ⁸ And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, ¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" ¹³ And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" ¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

"Cause we were the beggars, Now we're royalty. We were the prisoners, Now we're running free. We are forgiven, accepted, Redeemed by His grace. Let the house of the Lord sing praise!"

God proved his love that he sent Christ for those who were helpless (Romans 5:12). Last Week, we worshiped God for his glory revealed in his heavenly Throne Room. This Week, we worship because Christ made our presence possible. He purchased our ticket with his blood.



DISCUSSION

How has your view of worship been challenged in this study?

ICEBREAKER

OBSERVATION

1. What did the mighty angel ask? (2)
2. Describe the response...
 - From Heaven and earth (3)
 - From John (4)
 - From one elder (5)
3. On what basis was the Lamb worthy? (9-10)

4. Who is the Lamb? What did the sacrifice accomplish and for whom? (5, 9, 12-13)

INTERPRETATION

5. How does Christ's sacrifice impact your...
 - eternity?
 - purpose?
 - relationships?
 - choices?

APPLICATION

Most people believe getting to heaven is through being a good person and doing more good than bad. Wrong! If you have thought that or have questions, talk to your coach today.

STUDY NOTES

COWBOYS STADIUM CONT.

My first experience at AT&T stadium was made possible at the invitation of a friend. My friend works for a company that often receives tickets to various events from other businesses hoping to gain or retain their business. These tickets were amazing. *First*, they allowed us to park *at* the stadium—not *near* the stadium, *at* the stadium. We were so close they checked under my friend's truck for a bomb. *Second*, our tickets allowed us to go almost everywhere, but there were for a box suite on the 50-yard line, eye level with the jaw-dropping screen. There was even an "all you could eat and drink" spread. This wasn't your average cold hot dog and ballpark nachos; this was gourmet cooking. *Third*, they brought a cheerleader in the room to take pictures with people. I declined because my wife would kill me, but you get my point. This was, for me, a VIP experience in the extreme. Also, the Cowboys beat the Steelers in overtime, so even the game was incredible.

As a broke seminary graduate student planning to go into ministry, tickets to any game were outside of my price range. It would have broken the bank to buy a nosebleed ticket, park 5 miles away, and just look at the concessions stand. What I experienced was far beyond what I could have done for myself. The business that bought the tickets didn't offer them out for someone in my position. They *never* would have given me that ticket. Instead, they wanted my friend's business and as his guest, they treated *me* as a valuable client.

Although I'm a big Cowboys fan, Cowboys stadium isn't exactly the Throne Room of God. Likewise, the Cowboys' victory in any game can't compare to what we see celebrated in today's passage.

OUR WORSHIP RECOGNIZES CHRIST'S SACRIFICE

As John beheld the majesty of God's Throne Room, he *saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?"*

Just like I had no capacity or influence of my own at that time to even attend a Cowboys game, much less be treated to a VIP experience, *no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it.* John wept *loudly because no one was found worthy. One of the elders said to John, "Weep no more; behold,*

the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

Just then, *between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders* John *saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain.* The lamb *took the scroll* and all of heaven *fell down* in worship singing, *"Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."*

CHRIST'S GLORY IS REVEALED THROUGH OUR WORSHIP (PART II)

Last Week, we described worship as an outpouring of a heart overwhelmed by God in surrender and/or praise. We see worship unlike any other as the *living creatures, the elders*, and the *many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands*, cried out *"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"* Now that is worship!

I would suggest the primary catalyst for worship is gratitude. I could not fully express the gratitude I had for my friend taking me to the Cowboys game, primarily because I could not have done it without him. Well, guess what, Christ has offered each of us a VIP all-access pass to visit the Throne Room of God. However, you will not get there on your own. You will only have access *through* Christ (John 14:6). We are hopeless because of sin. Our hearts should overflow with gratitude for the Lamb that was slain for he is worthy.

The penalty for our sin is death—an eternal separation from God in Hell. Christ died our sin, but the Bible makes clear not everyone will receive it. Most people never see their great need. They're consumed with the worship of themselves or some created thing. That's what sin does. It blinds us to our need for a Savior. Even as a Christian, we need reminders. We need to spend time in God's Word daily, praying daily, worshipping daily. Anything less basically says, "Don't worry about me today God. I got this one."

No matter the accolades or achievements you gain, you will never be worthy to enter God's Throne Room on your merit alone. We come at the invitation of a Friend. If you've never accepted that invitation, what's holding you back? If you've accepted Christ's invitation, how can you daily remind yourself to honor that gift in worship?