

# Changing The Lyrics In Our Life Song

Revelation 5:6-10

## I. The More We See Christ's \_\_\_\_\_, The Less We Focus On Our Accomplishments

<sup>6</sup>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.

- Standing, Slain, Sovereign, Sees All (cf. Zeph 4:10), Spirit-Empowered, Sent

## II. The More We Realize Christ's \_\_\_\_\_, The More We Become Humbled

<sup>7</sup>And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. <sup>8a</sup>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,

## III. The More We Realize Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ Our Future, The More We Pray (cf. Rev 8:3; Ps 141:2; Lk 1:10)

<sup>8b</sup>and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

## IV. The More We Realize Our \_\_\_\_\_, The More We Sing A New Song (cf. 2 Cor 5:17; Ps 33:3; 149:1; Isa 42:10; Rev 14:1-3)

<sup>9</sup>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,

## V. The More We Realize His Kingdom \_\_\_\_\_, The More Our Life Has Meaning (cf. Rev 20:4-6; 2:26-27)

<sup>10</sup>and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

### Conclusion:

1. Find your \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ who died for our sins and rose to rule.
2. Find your \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ who controls our present and future.
3. Find your \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ who will share His future reign with us.

# Changing The Lyrics In Our Life Song

## Revelation 5:6-10

### I. The More We See Christ's Majesty, The Less We Focus On Our Accomplishments (6)

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### V. The More We Realize His Kingdom Purpose, The More Our Life Has Meaning (10, cf. Rev 20:4-6; 2:26-27)

*<sup>10</sup> and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."*

### Conclusion:

1. Find your **salvation** in Christ who died for our sins and rose to rule.
2. Find your **song** in Christ who controls our present and future.
3. Find your **significance** in Christ who will share His future reign with us.

# Changing The Lyrics In Our Life Song

## Revelation 5:6-10

**Revelation 5:6-10** <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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, <sup>10</sup> and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

### Introduction:

- **Turn to your neighbor: What is your favorite song and why?**

1. Tape recorder – write a story and insert lyrics from popular songs
2. Today – I like to insert my own lyrics into songs
  - There is not a song I cannot mess up
3. Why do we like or connect to certain songs?
  - It reflects our **mood** (love, anger, joy, discontent)
    - Music stirs our emotions and reactions
      - ie/ Ravel's "Bolero" – sensuality
      - ie/ Theme from "Jaws" – fear
      - ie/ "Pomp & Circumstances" – joyful majesty
      - ie/ Lullabies – relaxation
      - ie/ Patriotic marches – national patriotism
      - ie/ Grunge – lost-ness, meaninglessness
      - ie/ Rap – rebellion against the disadvantages in the "hood"
  - our **passions**
  - our **interests**
  - our **situation** (romance, war, discouragement)
  - **Aristotle:** *"Music directly represents the passions or states of the soul - gentleness, anger, courage, temperance...if one listens to the wrong kind of music he will become the wrong kind of person; but conversely, if he listens to the right kind of music, he will tend to become the right kind of person."*
4. Did you know that God also loves music? He listens to music while He does His work (do you wear earbuds while doing homework or sitting in the cubicle?)

### God Accompanies His Work With Music

- At The Creation

**Job 38:4-7** "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?"

- At The Incarnation - Luke 1-2

- a. The Magnificat Of Mary (Luke 1:46-55)
  - similar to Hannah's song in 1 Sam 2 and many Psalms
  - title from Latin version "Magnificat anima mea Dominum"
  - meaning "My soul magnifies the Lord"
- b. Benedictus Major Of Zechariah (1:67-79)
- c. Gloria of Angels (2:14)
- d. Nunc Dimittis Of Simeon (2:29-32)
- e. Benedictus Minor Of Elizabeth (1:41-45)

- At The Second Coming

**1 Corinthians 15:52** In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

## God Sings

**Zephaniah 3:17** The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, **He will rejoice over you with singing.**"

## God Composes - Psalms

### I. **The More We See Christ's Majesty, The Less We Focus On Our Accomplishments (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.*

- Our current songs are about either what we've done or what we want to do, who we are or what we want to be
- When we see Christ, we realize this universe isn't about us
- These 4 living creatures, elders and angels

### A. **Standing**

- Christ is now **standing** in the center of the throne – not seated at the right chair of the throne any more
  - He is not on the side, in the back or behind the stage

- He is in the center
- This solicits a great response of praise
- Christ is now the Revealed One who will unleash the future

## **B. Slain**

- "As though it had been slain" = *esphagmenon* = "with its throat cut"
- Perfect tense: a past act with present and future results
- Could refer to the "marks of death" the living Lamb still bore or to his appearance "as if being led to the slaughter," i.e., "marked out for death" (EBC)

## **C. Sovereign**

- **Horns** are symbolic of power.
  - Seven is symbolic of perfection.
  - Seven horns picture Christ's perfect power.
  - In Daniel 7, the horns represented the power of nations
- The Lamb is being Lionized!

## **D. Sees All** (cf. Zeph 4:10)

- 7 eyes – perfect vision
- Christ sees all

**Zephaniah 4:10b** These seven are the eyes of the Lord, which range through the whole earth.

## **E. Spirit-Empowered**

- The seven Spirits is most likely a reference to the Holy Spirit.
- Seven represents "fullness" and Christ

## **F. Sent**

- *Apostello* – to send as an official representative (Thomas, Rev 1-7, p. 395)
- Fulfilled in John the Baptist's claim that the Lamb of God came to take away the sins of the world

## **II. The More We Realize Christ's Authority, The More We Become Humbled (7-8a)**

*⁷And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. ⁸a 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,*

- Jesus is able to do what no other person could do

**Revelation 5:2-3** <sup>2</sup>And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" <sup>3</sup>And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it,

- Christ takes the scroll – the future of mankind – saved and unsaved.
- Robert Thomas: "This momentous transfer of the scroll evokes an overwhelming response from the special orders of angelic creation in heaven ... His taking of the scroll marks the initiation of proceedings to convert its contents into reality and eventually usher in the promised kingdom, the determined opposition of all foes notwithstanding. This is more than sufficient to evoke overflowing praise from this heavenly company" (*Revelation 1-7*, p. 396)
- The 24 elders fell down before the Lamb and worshipped.

### **Praise Him instrumentally!**

- Each elder had a **harp** (*kitharan*) – like the harp that played the Psalms in the OT
  - The 144,000 future missionaries would also worship through the harp

**Revelation 14:2-3** <sup>2</sup>And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their **harps**, <sup>3</sup>and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.

- After the wrath of God was poured out on the Tribulation, the victorious worshipped with the harp

**Revelation 15:2b** and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with **harps** of God in their hands.

**Psalms 150:3-4** Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp! Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes!

- J.S. Bach "The aim and final reason of all music should be nothing else but the glory of God and the refreshment of the spirit."
- The Elders are in awe of the Lion. John still sees Christ as the Lamb, and reports it that way. But this Lamb has been lionized. The devil would like you to think of Christ merely as a helpless lamb. But once the Lamb was sacrificed, the Lion was unleashed. This Lamb now holds the future of the world. The only response is to worship the Lamb.

**III. The More We Realize Christ's Controls Our Future, The More We Pray (8b; cf. Rev 8:3; Ps 141:2; Lk 1:10)**

<sup>ab</sup> and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

- "golden bowls" = *phialas chrysas*
  - Bowl or saucer that contained incense
  - "golden" because of the royalty of the One worshipped

**Revelation 8:3** And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne,

**Psalm 141:2** Let my **prayer** be counted as **incense** before you, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!

**Luke 1:10** And the whole multitude of the people were **praying** outside at the hour of **incense**.

- While Zechariah & Elizabeth would receive a prophecy about John the Baptist's birth
- Prayer is a means of praise to God
- The golden bowls of incense represent all of our prayers that have been offered to God – not the selfish "I want this or that" prayers, but the "May Your will be done" prayers, the "I entrust my future to You, Oh God" prayers

**IV. The More We Realize Our Salvation, The More We Sing A New Song (9; cf. 2 Cor 5:17; Ps 33:3; 149:1; Isa 42:10; Rev 14:1-3)**

<sup>a</sup>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,

- "sang"

**Psalm 27:6** And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will **sing** praises to the Lord.

**Psalm 100:2** Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with **singing**.

- Ezra had 200 singing men & women
- David had 4000 choir and orchestra
- when temple built - Levites and a massive choir accompanied by 120 trumpets
- 144,000 in Rev 14:2-3 in heaven

**Psalm 28:7b** "Joy rises in my heart until I burst out in songs of praise to Him." (LB)

- Robert Schumann - "Music is the expression of the soul."
- "new" – not new in time, but new in quality – freshness, perspective
  - Psalms accentuate the "new song" concept (33:3; 96:1; 144:9; 149:1)
  - Isaiah 42:10 – "Sing to the Lord a new song"

- Revelation 14:3 – 144,000 sing a new song
- What does the song of our life say?
  - The “old song” sings about the old life – despair, sadness, dejection, rejection, break-up, make-up, love lost, love found, love lost again
  - The “new song” sees life anew because of salvation

**2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, **all things have become new.**

**Psalms 33:3** Sing to Him a **new song**; Play skillfully with a shout of joy.

**Psalms 149:1** Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a **new song**, And His praise in the assembly of saints.

**Isaiah 42:10** Sing to the Lord a **new song**, And His praise from the ends of the earth

**Revelation 14:1-3** Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father’s name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. They sang as it were a **new song** before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.

- **“Worthy”**

- **The Meaning Of Worship**

- English Origin - Anglo-Saxon word - "ascribing worth to someone or something" (Psalm 96:5-8), “Worship”
- Martin Luther: “Worshiping God is nothing else than glorifying God.” (*The Theology Of Martin Luther*)
- Assigning value
  - Ebay – how much is that worth?
  - Hiring at work – how much will this person add to our company?
  - Math – assign a value to x or y

- **Why is Christ worthy?**

- **He’s God with Divine Authority**
- **He’s the Perfect Man to represent mankind**
- **He’s the Creator of Man**
- **He’s the Savior of Man**
- **He’s the Judge of Man**

- Trump and Obama can’t solve our world’s problems
- U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley can’t solve our world’s problem
- NATO or the United Nations haven’t succeeded either
- Plans for the world in the hands of man are like the last month of the season for the Giants this year – very few wins! (The Giants had to fire their General Manager)

- **Plans for the world in the hands of Christ? Look out! Get ready to be saved or to be judged!**
  - **This new song is not just about focusing our worship on Christ, but also about the impact of His substitutionary atonement (He died for us) – the Gospel**
    - 1) Christ’s Ability** – to open the scroll to carry out the plan of world judgment and salvation
    - 2) Christ’s Atonement**
    - 3) Christ’s Authority**
  - **“By your blood you ransomed people for God”**
    - For God
    - Some think Jesus paid a ransom to Satan – but God owes Satan nothing but judgment
    - Jesus paid the price to God
  - Every **tribe** –
    - don’t think our salvation or Christianity is distinctively American
- John 1:29** The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!
- Every **language** –
    - From Wycliffe: <http://www.wycliffe.net/en/statistics>
    - 670 languages have a complete Bible
    - 1,521 have a NT, but waiting for an OT
    - 1,121 have portions of a Bible
    - 2,584 have an ongoing Bible translation program across 170 countries
    - 3,787 languages still do not have any portion of the Bible
    - 114 million people still do not have a portion of the Bible in their language
  - Old song – what I deserve
  - New song – what Christ deserves – He is worthy
  - Old song – about my past hurts, failures
  - New song – about the ultimate future of humanity in Christ
  - Old song – my hurt
  - New song – Christ’s death
  - Old song – about me
  - New song – about every tribe
  - Old song – what speaks to me
  - New song – what speaks to every one in every language
  - Old song – American patriotism
  - New song – every nation in Christ

**V. The More We Realize His Kingdom Purpose, The More Our Life Has Meaning (10; cf. 20:4-6)**

*“and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”*

- We will reign on earth with Christ when He comes to reign on earth

**Revelation 20:4-6** <sup>4</sup>Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. **They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.** <sup>5</sup>The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup>Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and **they will reign with him for a thousand years.**

- This also fulfills a promise made to Thyatira

**Revelation 2:26-27** <sup>26</sup>And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations— <sup>27</sup>He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels— as I also have received from My Father

- "The future tense of βασιλεύουσιν (basileusousin) in 5:10 shows this kingdom to be the goal toward which the program of God is advancing (cf 20:4, 6). The present kingdom serves only as a faint preview of the ultimate kingdom that is future insofar as the Apocalypse is concerned, with only one reference in the entire book pointing to it (1:6). **That believers will serve as reigning powers means that they will be the equivalent of kings in this forecast epoch.** Spelled out more particularly regarding the millennium in 20:4 and the new heavens and new earth in 22:5, this means their joining with Christ in His millennial and eternal reign following His second advent." (Thomas, p. 122)
- Why are we so worried about our education, our job title, our status at the work place?
- Do you not know that you will be co-rulers with Christ?

## Conclusion:

1. Find your **salvation** in Christ who died for our sins and rose to rule.
  - So many of us hope to find purpose, find a spouse, find a date, find a job, find good luck
  - Some just want to find their phone
  - Seek a Savior that defeated sin and death
2. Find your **song** in Christ who controls our present and future.
  - Pray before the service. Confess your sins and thank God for His provisions. Meditate on His Attributes.
  - Before singing the song, examine your motives so that you are not singing for yourself or others, but to the Lord.
  - Read song stories to gain a deeper appreciation for songs. (e.g. "I Can Only Imagine," "Amazing Grace")

- Surround yourself with good Christian music the rest of the week.
  - **Singing Instructions From John Wesley:** "*Sing Spiritually* - Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing Him more than yourself or any other creature. In order to do this attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be as the Lord will approve of here, and reward you when He cometh in the clouds of heaven."
3. Find your **significance** in Christ who will share His future reign with us.
- When our time on earth is done, it doesn't matter what job you had, what car you owned, what clothes you wear or what technology you designed
    - We will get to rule with Christ and there is nothing greater than that