

THE GREAT REVELATION HYMN SUNG BY THE ONLOOKING UNIVERSE
SEVEN STANZAS¹

(Translated by Jean Sheldon, 1989, 2001)

- 4:11 **You are worthy**, O Lord, our God,
 To receive glory and honor and power
 Because *You* created everything
 Because You wanted them to exist and be created.
- 5:9-10 **You are worthy to receive** the scroll
 And to open its seals
 Because You were slain and with Your blood you
 purchased some from every tribe and language and people and nation,
 And You made them a kingdom for our God and priests,
 and **they shall reign** upon the earth
- 11:17 We thank You, O Lord God, the Almighty One who is and was,
 Because **You** took up Your great power and **reigned**.
 And the nations became wrathful and Your wrath came
 and the time for the dead to be judged
 And to give the reward to Your servants and prophets,
 to saints and **those who reverence Your name**, the small and the great
 To destroy those who destroy the earth.
- 15:3-4 Great and wonderful are Your works, Lord God, the One Almighty
 Righteous and true are Your ways, **O king of the nations**.
 Who shall not reverence You, O Lord, **and give glory to Your name?**
 Because You alone are **holy**,
 Because all the nations will hear and worship before You,
 Because Your **righteous judgments** are demonstrated.
- 16:5-6 You are righteous, **who is and was**, the Holy One,
 because **You judged** everything.
 Because they poured out **the blood of saints and prophets**
 You have given them **blood to drink**.
 They are worthy!
- 19:1-3 **Alleluja!**
 The salvation and **glory** and power belong to our God,
 Because His **judgments** are true and righteous,
 Because He **judged** the great harlot who ruined the earth with her fornication
 And took vengeance from her hand **for the blood of His servants**.
 Alleluja!
 And her smoke ascends forever and ever.
- 19:6-7 **Alleluja!**
 Because the Lord our God, the Almighty One, reigned.
 Let us rejoice and celebrate, and **let us give Him glory**,
 Because the marriage of the Lamb came and the bride made herself ready.

THE GREAT REVELATION HYMN: A SUMMARY

The seven-stanza hymn was constructed according to well-defined criteria: 1) Praise to God; 2) consistent reasons given for praises (consistent use of the Greek ὄτι); 3) repetition of words, phrases and ideas. Though there are other lines of poetry in the book of Revelation (even hymn-like), none of them fit this criteria. By underlining all the "linking" words in the Greek, one discerns a progression of ideas. When these words are written out, the core or synopsis of the hymn may be readily discerned. The overriding theme is that God is worthy ultimately because His judgments are righteous.

Greek

a[xio" ei . . . labei'n thVn dovxan kaiV thVn timhVn
kaiV thVn duvnamin
a[xio" ei\ labei'n toV biblivon
kaiV ejpoivhsa" aujtouV" . . . basileivan kaiV iJerei"
kaiV basileuvsousin
ei[lhfa" thVn duvnamivn sou thVn megavlhn kaiV
ejbasivleusa"
kaiV toi" foboumevnoi" toV o[nomav sou
oJ basileuV" tw'n ejqnw'n
tiv" ouj mhV fobhqh'...kaiV doxavsei toV o[nomav sou
o{ti movno" o{cio"
o{ti taV dikaiwvmatav sou ejfanerwvqhsan
divkaio" ei\, oJ wjn kaiV oJ h\n, oJ o{cio"
o{ti tau'ta e[krina"
o{ti ailma aJgivwn kaiV profhtw'n ejxevcean
kaiV ailma aujtoi" (d)evdwka" piei'n a[xioiv ejsin
aJllhlouiv>av
hJ dovxh . . . tou' qeou' hJmw'n
divkaiai aiJ krivsei" aujtou'
o{ti e[krinen thVn povrnhn thVn megavlhn
kaiV ejxedivkhsen toV ailma tw'n douvlwn aujtou' ejk
ceiroV" aujth"
aJllhlouiv>av
aJllhlouiv>av
o{ti ejbasivleusen kuvrio" oJ qeoV" (hJmw'n)
kaiV dwvswmen thVn dovxan aujtw'

English

You are worthy . . . to receive glory and
honor and power.
You are worthy to receive the book
And You made them a kingdom and
priests and they reigned
You received your great power and
reigned
And to those who fear Your name
O King of nations
Who shall not fear . . . Your name?
For You alone are holy
Because Your righteous judgments have
been demonstrated
**You are righteous, who is and was, O
Holy One!**
Because You judged everything
Because the blood of the holy ones and
prophets they poured out.
And You have given them blood to
drink: they are worthy!
Alleluja!
The glory . . . of our God
His judgments are righteous
Because he judged the great harlot
And took vengeance from her for the
blood of his servants.
Alleluja!
Alleluja!
Because our Lord God reigns
And we shall give Him glory.

Thematic Progression in Chiastic Form

- A God the worthy Creator
- B God the worthy Redeemer
- C God the worthy Judge
- C¹ God vindicated in the death of the wicked
- B¹ God righteous in the destruction of the harlot
- A¹ God given supreme and eternal glory

¹ © L. Jean Sheldon, 1989, 1991, and 2001. All Rights Reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced without the express authorization of the copyright holder.