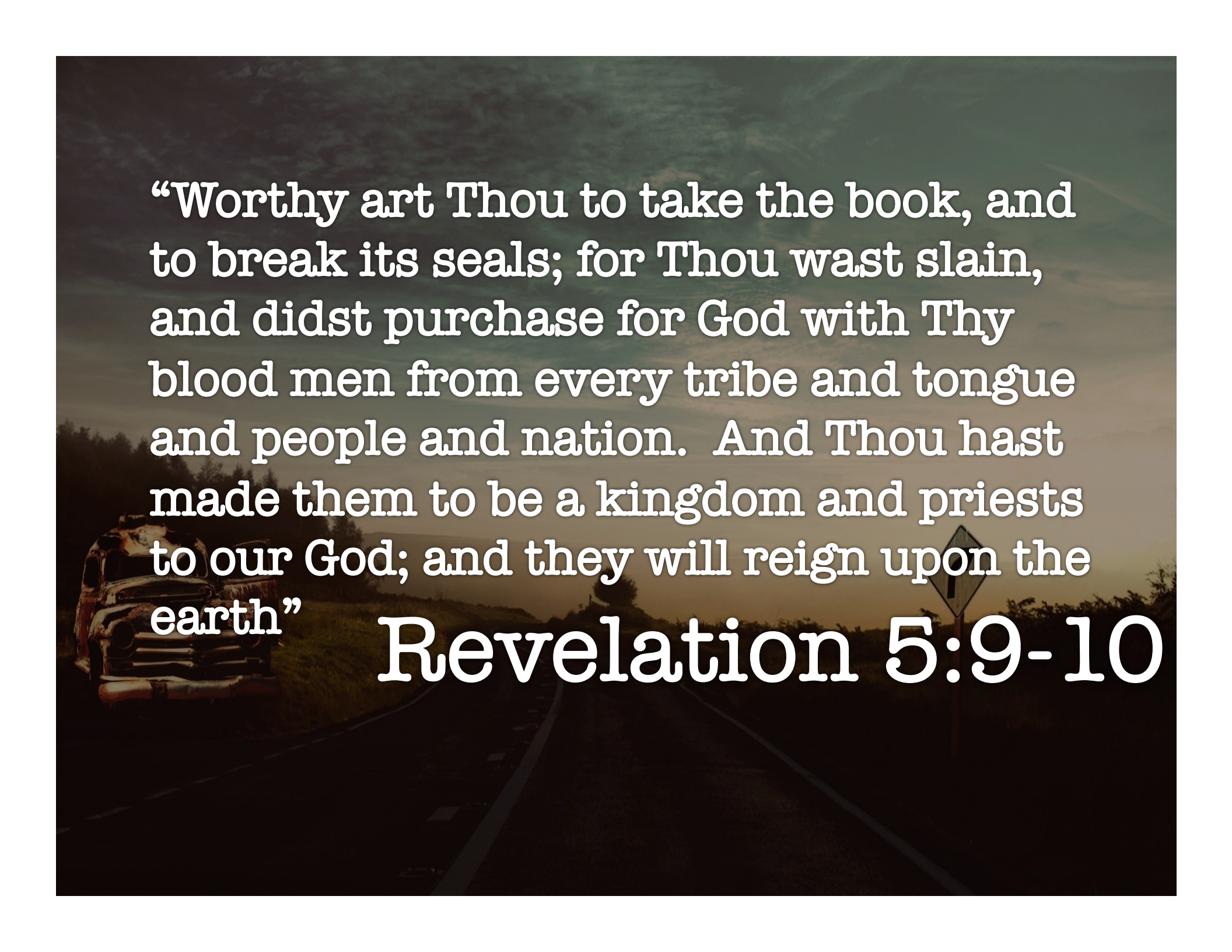


The Road To Irrelevance



“Bass reverberates through the auditorium floors as a heavily bearded worship leader pauses to invite the congregation, bathed in the light of two giant screens, to tweet using #JesusLives. The scent of freshly brewed coffee wafts in from the lobby, where you can order macchiatos and purchase mugs boasting a sleek church logo. The chairs are comfortable, and the music sounds like something from the top of the charts. At the end of the service, someone will win an iPad. This, in the view of many churches, is what Millennials like me want. And no wonder pastors think so...” (“Want Millennials Back In The Pews? Stop Trying To Make Church ‘Cool’”, Rachel Held Evans, The Washington Post, April 30, 2015).

“I suppose there is some merit to what she is saying if the sole purpose of the church is to fill seats on Sunday mornings. If the mission of the church is nothing more than a relentless ambition to “affirm” everyone from all walks of life, then her counsel is spot on. After all, speaking the exclusivity of Christ -- that whole “no man comes to the Father except by me” thing -- or preaching repentance is not going to make anyone feel affirmed. Everyone can see how painfully un-hip such a message is in contemporary American society. In fact, churches committed to that outdated way of thinking might be accused of acting like some prudish carpenter of antiquity whose obsessive devotion to unpopular notions of right and wrong, good and evil, consigned him to the outskirts of society rather than the mainstream, to preaching from hillsides rather than from behind gold-crusted lecterns” (“Is American Christianity Committing Suicide?”, Peter Heck, americanthinker.com).



“Worthy art Thou to take the book, and to break its seals; for Thou wast slain, and didst purchase for God with Thy blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. And Thou hast made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth”

Revelation 5:9-10

We Shall Reign?

- There are other scriptures that help us define what kind of “reign” Christians have. It is not of this world, first of all (John 18:36).
- It is not a feeling of relevance or sense of belonging (Colossians 3:1-2, Philippians 3:19-20).
- Appearances prove very little!

What Does This Mean?

- How we define Christ's kingdom helps determine how we understand our own place in the world. We must avoid the trap of reaching worldly people by worldly means!
- “Reigning” means more than just selling something. It means embracing a rather odd paradox in the example of Jesus Christ.



My example means something...



The road to

Irrelevance

leads outside the city

Hebrews 13:7-15