

Prayer:

The book of Revelation takes all the prophecies given since the beginning of time and brings them all to a grand consummation. The centerpiece is the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence, the book of Revelation begins with the words, “***The Revelation of Jesus Christ***.” This is ultimately a book ABOUT Jesus and FROM Jesus, and it is a book about prophecy – the fulfillment of prophecy of which Jesus is the centerpiece.

Slide # 1

Revelation 19:10 (NKJV)

10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! **For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**”

The book of Revelation, in terms of the segments, is spelled out chronologically related to the Past, Present, and Future. This is seen in the inspired outline of Revelation 1:19.

Slide # 2

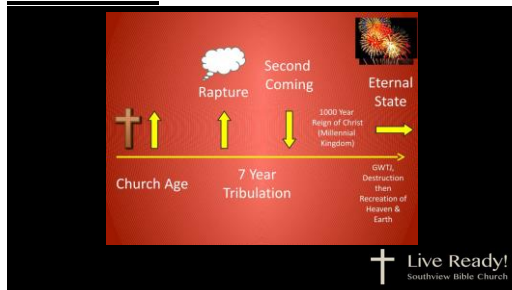
Revelation 1:19 – Inspired Outline

Revelation 1:19 (NKJV)

19 “Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

- “have seen” – Past (Vision of Christ) – **Ch. 1**
- “which are” – Present (Church Age) – Ch. 2-3
- **“after this” – Future (Post-Church Age)** – Ch. 4-22
 - - Scene in heaven – Ch. 4-5
 - - Tribulation – Ch. 6-18
 - - Second Coming – Ch. 19
 - - Kingdom – Ch. 20
 - - Eternal State – Ch. 21-22

Prophetically, in terms of prophecy proper, the book focuses on that which will take place “***after this***” – that is, after the Church Age. The Church began suddenly and signlessly on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2, and it will conclude suddenly and signlessly in an event called the Rapture (1 Th. 4).

Slide # 3

After dealing with the Church Age extensively in chapters 2-3 the Church is then raptured to heaven. By deduction, it happens in the “white space” between chapter 3 and chapter 4. In chapters 4 and 5 the scene is in heaven where the Church is represented by 24 elders. The scene there is the THRONE – the command center of the universe. What happens in heaven determines what happens on earth. That is a MAIN point in chapters 4 and 5.

All of heaven is seen to worship God for being the Creator. That is the emphasis of chapter 4. But chapter four is introductory to the main scene, which happens in chapter 5.

Here in chapter 5, the focal point is the scroll, which is in the right hand of God the Father, who sits on the throne. Taking the scroll represents taking the title deed of the earth and the worthiness to take it back through the judgments represented therein.

In all of heaven and earth and under the earth, no one is found worthy to take the scroll and unloose its seals. Consequently, John wept profusely.

Suddenly, one of the elders told John to stop weeping because the Messiah who is the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David has prevailed to open the scroll and loose its seals. These are Messianic terms as seen in the OT. John looks, and in the midst of the throne, he sees this Messiah figure standing as a Lamb. He is standing as a Lamb but as though He had been slain – still bearing the marks of His death, but standing in glorified resurrection. He is figuratively identified with the characteristics of omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence.

Then this Messianic **Lion/Lamb** approached the throne and took the scroll (the title deed of the earth) out of the right hand God the Father on the throne. This is a climactic moment!

Everything in the rest of the book is predicated on this action. It represents Jesus having the right to take the earth back for mankind through the judgments contained therein, which will be followed by the setting up of His kingdom.

“ Dr. Donald Gray Barnhouse once observed that there are four things out of place in the universe: the church, which should be in heaven; Israel, which should be living in peace occupying all the land promised to her; Satan who belongs in the lake of fire; and Christ who should be seated on His throne, reigning.” – **Dr. John MacArthur**

By the time the seals of the scroll are all broken and the contents of the scroll are fulfilled, all of these anomalies will have been set right. This is what is signified in Christ taking the scroll out of the Father’s right hand.

The response of heaven is all-out enthusiastic worship! And this is where we pick up our study today at Revelation 5:8.

Revelation 5:8–14 (NKJV)

8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

The response of heaven is immediate. The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders, introduced in chapter 4, assume the position of worship in falling down before the Lamb.

The Greek term *proskuneo* (pronounced pross-coo-NAY-oh) is the most common term translated as worship in the LXX. It is also the term most commonly translated as “worship” in the English NT— (cf. Mt. 2:2; 4:9-10; 9:18; 14:33; 18:26; 20:20; 28:9, 17; Acts 10:25; 24:11; throughout the book of Revelation). It usually refers to bowing down before or prostrating oneself before a supreme Being or a Higher power – which is to say God! This was an act of worship!

As noted back in chapter 4, the description of “the four living creatures” corresponds to those described as cherubim (Ezek. 1:5-25; 10:20-22) and also seraphim (Isa. 6:1-7). These represent the highest order of angels who guard the holy throne of God and who act as KEY worship leaders in heaven.

As I explained in chapter 4, my view is that the 24 elders are representative of the church now in heaven.

Grammatically, when it says “**each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense**,” this refers only to the twenty-four elders. The “living creatures” are plural neuter, while the “twenty-four elders” corresponding to “each having” are both plural masculine.

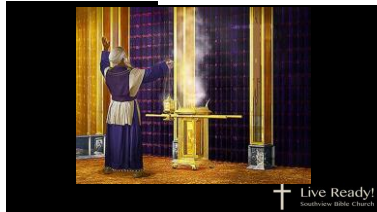
The gender of the participle “holding” shows that the harps and bowls are used only by the elders and not the living ones. – **Charles Ryrie**

The most common instrument used in the OT in relation to the worship of God was the harp. It is consistently associated with a worshipful celebration involving great joy and gladness (cf. 2 Sam. 6:5; 1 Chron. 15:16, 20, 28; 16:5; 25:1, 6; 2 Chron. 5:12; 29:25, 29-30; Ps. 33:2; 71:22; 92:1-4; 98:5; 141:2; 144:9; 149:3; 150:3; cf. Rev. 14:2; 15:2).

The golden bowls full of incense are said to be the prayers of the saints.

In the OT, the altar of incense stood right in front of the Holy of Holies in the temple. As incense was offered upon the altar, it ascended to God, being symbolic of the prayers of God’s people (cf. Ps. 141:2; Lk. 1:10). This is what is pictured here as well (cf. Rev. 8:3-5).

Slide # 4



This suggests that the prayers of God’s people through the centuries for vindication and for the Messiah to bring judgment and rule are now being answered (cf. Rev. 6:10). Those prayers are not forgotten but are now pictured as being presented and answered.

Slide # 5

Luke 18:7–8 (NKJV)

7 And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?

8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”

Part of the reason for these end-time judgments that come with the loosing of the seal judgments is to avenge what the world has done to God's people through the ages (cf. 6:10). But all this is in answer to PRAYER!

Sometimes prayers are answered immediately, and sometimes they are saved to be offered up later as incense, as we find here in Revelation 5 and also in Revelation 8.

Taken together, the harps and bowls indicate that all the prophets ever prophesied and all that God's children ever prayed for is finally to be fulfilled. – **John MacArthur**

The prayers are offered up in “**golden bowls**,” which suggests that before God, they are of great value. And they are the prayers of the “**saints**”. Saint literally means “set apart one”. All believers in the NT are called saints (cf. Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2; 2 Cor. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; Rev. 11:18; 13:7, 9; 19:8; 22:21; etc.). In Christ, we are set apart to God. In Christ, we are holy. This is the position of all believers.

You are either a saint or you are an aint. There is no in between. And if you have to wait to become a saint until you die, you will never be one. At the moment of death, you are what you are for all eternity.

Only the saints have a prayer before God. There are players and there are prayers. Only the saints have access to God because the only means of access is Jesus! He alone is the One Mediator (1 Tim. 2:4-5). He alone is our great High Priest (Hebrews 2). The first prayer that God ever honors is the one who calls on the Name of the Lord in faith for salvation. Without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6), but whoever calls on the Name of the Lord in faith will be saved (Rom. 10:13).

But once you are saved and in the position of being a saint (positionally), you have the great privilege to pray, yea, the great responsibility to pray. God works through prayer!

And many of our prayers, such as “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Mt. 6:10), or “Even so, come, Lord Jesus!” (Rev. 22:20), will be answered in due time. They are preserved, as it were, and saved to be offered up at the appropriate time, as seen here in Revelation 5. There are no wasted prayers that are offered up in Jesus' Name in accordance with the will of God (cf. Jn. 14:13-14; 1 Jn. 5:14-15). All will be answered in due time!

9 And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

The closest antecedent here refers to the 24 elders. They, as the representatives of the church, are the ones pictured as joyfully offering up the prayers of God’s people in verse 8.

The living creatures are thought to be the highest order of angels. In the Bible, angels don’t sing, other than perhaps in relation to creation, as seen in Job 38:7. So this New Song is sung by the redeemed. Angels are not redeemed, so they can’t sing it in the same way that those redeemed can.

This is now the third of 14 songs mentioned in the book of Revelation. There is a lot of song and celebration going on. We have a signing faith!

Slide # 6

1. The Anthem of the Triune God – 4:8
2. The hymn of creation – 4:11
3. The new song of redemption – 5:9-10
4. The angels' Chorale – Rev. 5:12
5. The Crescendo of the universe – Rev. 5:13-14
6. The Martyr's Canticle – 6:10
7. The song of salvation – 7:10
8. The antiphonal amen – 7:12
9. The kingdom carol – 11:15
10. The Psalm of judgment – 11:17-18
11. The Shout of overcomers – 12:10-12
12. The song of Moses and the Lamb 15:3-4
13. The Hallelujah chorus – 19:1-4
14. The Symphony of the Marriage Feast – 19:6-7



Now they sing a NEW song (cf. Ps. 33:3; 40:3; 96:1; 98:1; 144:9; 149:1). The word new refers to new in the sense of something of a brand new nature, not previously known. It is noteworthy that the first word of the song is “WORTHY”. And it is further noteworthy that Christ is addressed in exactly the same terms (“worthy”) as is God the Father in Revelation 4:11.

They sing to the Lamb that He is worthy to take the scroll and open its seals. He is worthy to take the scroll and implement its contents. He is worthy to take the “title deed” of the earth back for mankind. He is worthy means He is deserving!

And the reason He is worthy is because He was slain and redeemed for God with His blood humanity out of every tribe, tongue, people, and nation.

It does not attribute the same universal scope to the redemptive power of Christ's death as 1 John 2:2 does. The expression is partitive, i.e., only part of the total number actually enjoy the benefits of that death. The benefits of Christ's redemptive work must be appropriated by placing faith in Him. – **Robert Thomas**

Here, the emphasis of His being worthy is on what He has accomplished in His death in relation to those throughout the world who actually appropriate it by faith. But note there is a representation of those who actually enter into the good of redemption throughout the entire world involving those from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation (cf. Rev. 7:9; 11:9; 13:7; 14:6 – see also Dan. 3:4, 7, 29; 5:19; 6:25; 7:14). The Great Commission has been successful in reaching out to the whole world (cf. Mt. 28:19-20; Acts 1:8).

The emphasis here is on His humanity and what He has accomplished through His death for humanity. And yet note the language “**to God**” or “**for God**”. Yes, this redemption was for the benefit of the redeemed, but it was ultimately for God. We have been redeemed to the eternal glory of God!

The idea of “redemption” is “**to set free by paying a price.**” The deliverance price was the blood of the Lamb! There are various aspects to redemption.

As believers, we have been delivered once and for all from the penalty of sin (Eph. 1:7). We are being delivered from the power of sin. And one day we will be delivered from all the effects of sin (Eph. 1:14). The final aspect of deliverance looks forward to the believer receiving a glorified body and entering into kingdom life. Then our redemption will be complete! It is this 3rd aspect of redemption that this NEW song is about!

Slide # 7

SALVATION THE 3 TENSES		
PAST TENSE Saved from the PENALTY of sin	PRESENT TENSE Saved from the POWER of sin	FUTURE TENSE Saved from the PRESENCE of sin
		
Titus 2:6 Ephesians 2:8-9 By Faith in Christ Alone	2 Corinthians 7:1 Philippians 2:12-13 Walking by the Spirit	Romans 8:30 1 Corinthians 15:51-53 When Christ Returns
One Salvation. Three Tenses. One Glorious Gospel.		

As believers, we eagerly look forward to this final aspect of deliverance, when we will be delivered from all the effects of sin in our glorified bodies in the kingdom. According to Romans 8 the whole of creation longs for the time in the kingdom when it will share in the “glorious liberty of the children of God” (Rom. 8:19-23).

Slide # 8**Ephesians 4:30 (NKJV)**

30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the **day of redemption**.

In Revelation 5 the church in heaven is celebrating! On the basis of the shed blood of Christ, they are about to enter into the final phase of redemption, where they will reign with Christ in the kingdom. This is a NEW development that calls for a NEW song! And they in worship are ascribing all worthiness to Jesus to do it!

Isaiah 42 begins what is the first of four SERVANT passages in Isaiah which prophetically portray the coming Messiah. In that context, speaking of the Messiah to come God in Isaiah 42:9 says His glory is to declare new things before they come to pass. And then in verse 10 He says, “**Sing to the LORD a new song**” which then immediately goes on to speak of kingdom realities which are to be celebrated with a NEW SONG!

And in this new song they note the extent of this redemption applies to those from every tribe [ethnic group], tongue [language], people, and nation. The people of God are represented as being from all over the world.

Note Jesus is worthy because it is He who redeemed us by His blood. We are not worthy! We did not redeem ourselves! Jesus ALONE did this! He alone is WORTHY! All the glory for our salvation goes to Him and Him alone! All of heaven is singing “**Worthy is the Lamb Who redeemed us to God by His blood!**” Heaven is unanimous on this!

Saving faith is putting your faith in Jesus ALONE as Savior! Everyone in heaven realizes this! They are all there because of His shed blood! When Jesus died on the cross for our sins, no one was there with Him! He was all alone. He did it by Himself! That is why it is so serious to add anything we do to the finished works of Christ on the cross! That nullifies Christ as only Savior! That is why Paul twice in Galatians 1:8-9 says if anyone preaches another gospel let him be accursed. This is damnable!

Those who add sacraments to the blood of Jesus, those who add baptism to the blood of Jesus, those who add good works to the blood of Jesus. They are all under the condemnation of “**accursed**” as so stated by Paul in Galatians 1:8-9. All of heaven knows the truth that redemption (set free from sin) is totally Jesus doing and His alone. And so they sing He is WORTHY! “**Jesus paid it all – all to Him we owe!**”

Slide # 9**1 Peter 1:18–19 (NKJV)**

18 knowing that you were **not redeemed** with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,

19 but with the **precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.”

Some manuscripts read, “You made them to be a kingdom and priests...” versus “have made us kings and priests...”. Either way the subject carries over from verse 9 in relation to the twenty-four elders who are representative of the Church as a whole.

The Church family is part of Christ’s coming kingdom on earth. In fact, they will have a very special role as “priests”. This denotes special intimate access and service in relation to God (cf. 1 Pet. 2:5, 9).

And then the text very specifically says, “And we shall reign on the earth.”

The NT very clearly says the Church will have a reigning role in the kingdom (cf. 2 Tim. 2:12). Christ very specifically promised overcomers in the Church that they will rule the nations in Rev. 2:26-27 (cf. 3:21).

Note the book of Revelation is very specifically addressed to the Church. It starts out in 1:4 saying, “John, to the seven churches...”. It concludes in 22:16 with Jesus saying, “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches.” This promise to be made a kingdom and priests is specifically promised to those in the churches in Rev. 1:6 (cf. Rev. 5:10, 20:6).

Note this is a FUTURE reign. It says, “we shall (future) reign. Paul sarcastically chastised the Corinthians for acting like they were already in the kingdom in 1 Corinthians 4:8 (cf. 1 Cor. 6:3). Also note this future reign is “on the earth”. This reign is not in the hearts of people or in heaven, but rather “on the earth.” There is a very close connection between Rev. 5:10 and Rev. 20:4.

Slide # 10

Revelation 5:10 (NKJV)

10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And **we shall reign on the earth.**

Revelation 20:4 (NKJV)

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And **they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**

The emphasis in 5:10 relates to the Church in particular, while the emphasis in 20:4 relates to the Tribulation saints. But both will reign in the kingdom under Christ.

11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,

The circle of worship is growing! Add to the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders (vv. 8-10) the voice of many angels gathered around the throne.

When you have a whole host of people all talking at once, it causes quite a commotion. There is excitement in heaven at this point! But as we will note this is the voice of worship!

The whole of heaven is very interested in God's plan of salvation. In Ephesians 3:10 it says that what God is doing in relation to the church is to the end that "the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places." In 1 Peter 1:12 it says the angels desire to further look into God's plan of salvation.

And so as this development is now unfolding the host of heavenly angels join in the praise band with the living creatures and the elders and the number of them was "ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands."

Ten thousand is thought to have been the highest number for which the Greeks had a word. The idea here is a vast, innumerable number. In our common lingo, we might say, "billions upon billions". Hebrews 12:22 speaks of an "innumerable company of angels."

We know from Revelation 12:3-4 that there are at least twice as many holy angels as there are fallen angels. There we find that 1/3 of them followed Satan in his rebellion.

The scene here is thought to correspond to that in Daniel 7:10.

Slide # 11

Daniel 7:10 (NKJV)

10 A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. **A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him.** The court was seated, And the books were opened.

Footnote: The angels here are clearly distinct from the elders, but all are co-mingled here in worship and celebration of God's great salvation he has provided for redeemed humanity.

12 saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

They are not quiet but rather LOUD in their praise and worship at this point. This is exuberant worship! They can't contain themselves as they burst out in praise to the Lamb! The whole of history has been building to this point!

Once again, they exclaim that the Lamb who was slain is WORTHY. He is worthy by virtue of WHAT He has accomplished in His death. In verse 9 He is said to be worthy by virtue of redeeming people by His blood out of every tribe, tongue, people, and nation, and making them kings and priests who shall reign in the earth. In verse 12 He is said to be worthy by virtue of being the Lamb Who was slain. There is a tremendous emphasis on being the slain Lamb and what He has accomplished in His death.

"In the Revelation, THE LAMB is the center around which all else is clustered, the foundation on which everything lasting is built, the nail on which all hangs, the object to which all points, and the spring from which all blessings proceed. THE LAMB is the light, the glory, the life, the Lord of Heaven and earth, from whose face all defilement must flee away, and in whose presence fullness of joy is known. Hence, we cannot go far in the study of Revelation, without seeing THE LAMB, like direction-posts along the road, to remind us that He who did by Himself purge our sins is now highly exalted, and that to Him every knee must bow, and every tongue confess." – **H.H. Snell**

This innumerable crowd in heaven proclaims the Lamb worthy to receive seven things. Each one of the succeeding things has the conjunction “and” (Gk. kai) in front of it as if to make a specific emphasis on each and every one. He is worthy to have each one of these attributed to Him.

Slide # 12

power – omnipotence

and riches – unconditional wealth

and wisdom, - unsurpassed application of intelligence

and strength – supreme power

and honor – respect, esteem of character

and glory – credit, exaltation, magnificent splendor

and blessing – praise, thanksgiving

It is not that God has given these qualities to Christ, but rather that He is worthy of adornment for these qualities, as shown in His fulfillment of God's plan of salvation. The sense is that He is worthy to receive recognition with regard to each of these. They properly belong to Him!

The expression “worthy is the Lamb” places the worship of Christ equal with that of God the Father. God is worshiped as Creator in chapter 4, and Christ is worshiped as Redeemer in chapter 5. The combined impact of these two chapters leaves no doubt as to the deity and divine nature of Christ. – ***Ed Hindson***

And then note the combination of Creator (chapter 4) and Redeemer in chapter 5. Many modern scholars think we can fudge on the issue of creation but say the really important thing is that of proper belief in relation to redemption. The problem with that is Revelation 4 and 5 combines them.

Slide # 13

Modern believers should understand that the doctrines of creation and salvation are inseparably connected. It is theologically inconsistent to embrace the latter while failing to fully embrace the

biblical teaching on the former as well. The God who created all things in a perfect and mature state (Gn. 1:25, 31) is the same One who provides for the redemption of that creation after the fall (Rm. 5:12-21; 1 Cor. 15:45-49). – ***The Moody Bible Commentary***

The chapter in the Bible that most clearly illustrates the nature of a true saving faith is found in Hebrews 11.

It says there that without faith it is impossible to please God and where the writer starts is with creation saying, “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God...”. That is where the great chapter on faith begins. If faith doesn’t start there is there really any God pleasing faith at all?

The chapter began with the question: “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?” (v. 2). In effect the rest of the chapter answers that question by saying the MESSIANIC LAMB! In verse 5 one of the elders answered that the Lion of the Tribe of Judah has prevailed to open the scroll and behold John saw in the midst of the throne a Lamb (v. 6).

As the Lamb takes the scroll the whole of heaven begins to sing a new song saying, “You are worthy to take the scroll, and open its seals (v. 8-9). Then in an ever widening circle, innumerable angels, the living creatures, and the elders in union cry out “***Worthy is the Lamb!***” (v. 11-12).

Who is worthy? THE LAMB! Only the Lamb! This is the message of the whole of heaven!

13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: “Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!”

What is presented is an ever-widening circle of praise and worship. Added to the realms of heaven, earth, and under the earth, is now “in the sea”. This refers to intelligent life that is able to worship in all the realms of the dead and the living. The emphasis is no longer merely representative, but now exhaustive when the whole of creation will bow before the truth of Jesus as Lord and Savior!

Slide # 14

Father on the Throne (Rev. 4:10-11).

The Lion/Lamb in the midst of the throne (Rev. 5:6)

Living Creatures in the midst and around the Throne (Rev. 4:6).

Twenty-four elders on 24 thrones around the throne (Rev. 4:4).

Redeemed of every tribe, tongue, people, and nation (Rev. 5:9).

Many angels around the throne (Rev. 5:11).

Every creature in heaven, on earth, under the earth, and in the sea (5:13).

As is the case with other heavenly songs of this book, this one is anticipatory of the great future day when no one will withhold from God His due. – ***Robert Thomas***

Evidently, what is in view is a future time when the praises that start with the inner circle of worship around the throne immediately after the rapture will extend outwards until they fill the universe. As such, it anticipates the fulfillment of Phil. 2:8-11.

Slide # 15

Philippians 2:8–11 (NKJV)

8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus **every knee should bow**, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

11 and that **every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.

This is ultimately a “Lordship” issue to the glory of God the Father! This is the great issue in the Day of the Lord. It’s all about Christ as Savior and Lord. Those in heaven are celebrating Him being Savior/Redeemer, those on earth are about to learn the hard way about His Lordship. One way or another in the end every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord!

This scene climaxes the description in the throne room of heaven after the rapture of the church and before the judgments from Christ begin to fall on the earth.

The whole of creation is pictured as unable to contain its joy over the imminent redemption that the Lion/Lamb is about to bring into place.

And it unison the cry of this great throng is, “Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!”

These are expressions of worship – eternal worship! Endless blessing, endless honor, endless glory, and endless power belong to both God the Father who sits on the throne to the Lord Jesus Christ who is the Lamb! The whole creation at this point is lost in wonder, love, and praise!

The praise in Revelation 4 is given to the Father on the throne, while in Revelation 5 it is directed to the Son (the Lamb) before the throne. The closing hymn (Rev. 5:13) is expressed to both, another proof of the deity of Jesus Christ. – **Warren Wiersbe**

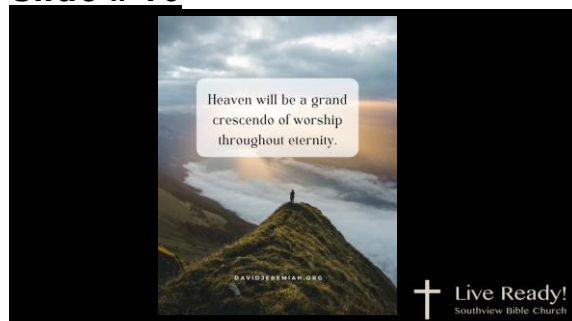
What will we do forever? Worship God!

We were created to worship God! (Chapter 4)

We were redeemed to worship God! (Chapter 5)

Worship is the major activity of heaven and we will do this forever and ever!

Slide # 16



One day in an evangelistic context, Jesus told a Samaritan woman (who wanted to talk religion) that God is seeking true worshipers. To become a true believer is to become a true worshiper. The first act of worship is to in faith bow before the truth of Christ as Lord and Savior!

Every glimpse that is given us of heaven and of God's created beings is always a glimpse of worship and rejoicing and praise, because God is who He is. ... any man or woman on this earth who is bored and turned off by worship is not ready for heaven. – **A.W. Tozer**

It is true worshipers who will make up the throng in heaven who sing the praises of the Lamb!

14 Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

Then the KEY heavenly worship leaders of heaven said “Amen!” Amen is a resounding affirmation – “Let it be so!” They are amening that worship is to forever be attributed to the Father and the Son!

And then the KEY redeemed worship leaders of heaven (the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever! The highest angels affirm it and the redeemed worship! I think the most intense worship in heaven will be by the redeemed. As Jesus said, those who are forgiven much love much (Lk. 7:47-48).

How can we as filthy rotten sinners saved by the grace of God ever express our appreciation enough? We can't! That is why it says they attribute worship to the Lord forever and ever (v. 13). We will never get over it! We will forever be expressing our gratitude in worship!

With the heavenly vision of chapters 4-5, the stage was set for the dramatic events to follow, the opening of the seven seals.

– ***The Bible Knowledge Commentary***

This worshipful scene in heaven reminds me of a Bible story in the OT. Jehoshaphat was a godly king who faced a HUGE army coming against him. He set himself to seek the Lord and called for prayer and led the people in worship. As they went out to battle, he appointed singers to go before them singing, “Praise the LORD, for His mercy endures forever.” (2 Chron. 20:21).

Way back in the 80s of the last century, there was a man by the name of Don Fransico who wrote a song about it simply called “Jehosaphat”. An excerpt goes like this!

Jehoshaphat studied the Word of the Lord and did everything He said
But out the east came an army one day after Jehoshaphat's gold
And they were marching right straight to Jerusalem and Jehoshaphat
soon was told So he called all the people together and everybody
fasted and prayed The Lord God answered the people and said,
"There's no need for you to be afraid.

"Because the battle is mine tomorrow-- it's not yours and it's not the king's

And all you gotta do is just stand and watch to see the salvation I
bring Just believe that what I told you is exactly what I'm gonna do
And go out tomorrow against them because the Lord's gonna fight for
you - Great jumpin' Jehoshaphat!

The army rose early next mornin', and they marched on out with the
king - Jehoshaphat chose some singers, and he told those singers to
sing - They praised the beauty of holiness, 'instead of shoutin' out a
battle cry -And all the way down to the enemy's camp they sang to
the Lord on high

They were singin'-- Praise ye the Lord for His mercy endures forever
and ever

The Lord God set up an ambush-- He got the enemy all turned
around And they started in killin' each other, you know, 'til they all lay
dead on the ground And the riches and the jewels that they left
behind it took 'em three whole days to haul The children of Judah all
praised the Lord 'cause He saved them one and all

They were singin' -Praise ye the Lord for His mercy endures forever
and ever

The reason I thought of this story is because WORSHIP comes before
victory because victory is assured by the One worshiped! This is the
principle: Worship comes before victory because victory is assured by the
One worshiped. That is the principle seen with Jehosaphat and it is the
pattern seen here in heaven. All of heaven recognizes that the Lamb is
worthy to bring the victory and so they worship. And that worship scene in
heaven sets the table for what is about to happen on earth!

This is the scene in heaven! Prayers of worship through the ages are
presented! They sing a new song celebrating the consummation of
redemption! All of heaven worships!

And out of that worship comes the victory of Christ as He takes back the
earth for mankind to the glory of God! And the process of this is spelled out
in the rest of the book!

Have you seen the truth of worthy is the Lamb?
Are you a true believer?
Are you a true worshiper?

John Newton who wrote Amazing Grace towards the end of his life said:

“Although my memory's fading, I remember two things very clearly: I am a great sinner and Christ is a great Savior.”

Do you know Christ as a great Savior? Come to Him! In faith call upon Him to save you and He will!

Romans 10:13 (NKJV)

13 For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

The last invitation in the Bible comes in the very last chapter!

Revelation 22:17 (NKJV)

17 And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

It's free – but you have to COME! You have to come to Jesus! You have to, in faith, receive Him as your personal Savior and Lord!

Worthy is the Lamb!

Come!