

Worship Before the Throne
Revelation 4:6-11

True worship is that which is in spirit and truth. The Son has come to open the way for this worship in spirit and in truth, and to teach it to us... Worship in the spirit must come from God Himself. It was for this He sent His Son—to fit us for such spiritual worship by giving us the Holy Spirit. It is of His own work that Jesus speaks when He says, “The hour is coming,” and then adds, “and now is.” The worship of the Father is only possible to those to whom the Spirit of the Son has been given. Worship in spirit is only possible to those to whom the Son has revealed the Father and who have received the spirit of Sonship. It is only Christ who opens the way and teaches the worship in spirit.

And in truth. That does not only mean “in sincerity,” nor does it only signify “in accordance with the truth of God’s Word.” The expression is one of deep and divine meaning. Jesus is “the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). In Him the blessings and powers of the eternal life are our actual possession and experience. Jesus is full of grace and truth; the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth; through Him the grace that is in Jesus is ours in deed and truth, a positive communication out of the divine life. And so, worship in spirit is worship in truth—actual, living fellowship with God, a real correspondence and harmony between the Father, who is Spirit, and the child praying in the spirit. Andrew Murray

- I. The four living creatures and 24 elders worshipping God before His throne give us a glimpse of the kind of worship that takes place in heaven. Worship will be an important part of our eternal existence. It will be a pure, natural, spontaneous, expression of a heart of thanksgiving, praise, and reverence toward the Lord our God for who He is and for what He has done for us through His Son, Jesus Christ. Meanwhile, here on earth, we have been called to worship Him in Spirit and in truth in a God-centered not man-centered way. Music is an important part of that, but it is to be music that glorifies God as we sing and make music in our hearts to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. 4:6-8
Ps. 95:6-7
Eph. 5:19-20
Ps. 95:1-7
Ps. 100
Jn. 4:4

“It is the process of being worshipped that God communicates His presence to men... the command to praise is not just so that God can receive something, but it is bound up in the very giving of God Himself... Fully to enjoy is to glorify Him, God is inviting us to enjoy Him.” C.S. Lewis

- II. The four living creatures who are worshipping God before His throne play a significant role in the events that unfold during Jacob's trouble (Isa. 30:7), i.e., the terrible tribulation of God's wrath that will come upon Israel and the world. They represent the heavenly forces God will use to unleash His wrath against all godlessness. Each one represents different aspects of God's character. They are covered with eyes front and back signifying God's all seeing, all knowing, omnipresent existence. The one that looks like a lion depicts God's majesty and omnipotence. The one that looks like an ox depicts God's service and continuous labor toward fulfilling His will. The one that has a face like a man represents God's intelligence and reason. And the one who looks like an eagle represents His sovereignty and supremacy.

Rev. 4:6b-8

Ezek. 1:4-25

Ezek. 10

Gen. 3:4

2 Chron. 16:9 *9 Certainly the Lord watches the whole earth carefully and is ready to strengthen those who are devoted to him.*

- III. The worship of the four cherubim and the 24 elders before God signifies to mankind, and to all spiritual forces good or bad, that God alone is supreme ruler, judge, and master of all. One of the major emphases of Revelation Chapter 4 is the preparation of divine judgment via worship. The destruction of evil by God is necessary before a new heaven and earth can be created. His holiness dictates that he will seek revenge against his enemies and repay their wickedness with eternal banishment to the lake of fire. He is just; therefore, we worship Him for making sure our eternal home will be safe from the evil that prevails today.

Rev. 4:8-11

Dan. 4:17-18

Rom. 12:19

Romans 12:19

2 Thess. 1:6-8 *6 God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you 7 and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. 8 He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.*