

INTRODUCTION

1. "A distinction w/o a difference." Rv 11:15-17 Two distinct praise scenes in v15 & v16-18. W/o a difference: The Creator-Redeemer is praised.
2. Ultimately, God is eternally glorified as Creator-Redeemer.

1st: The 24 Elders Worship God the Almighty - v16-17

1. 24 elders represent saints in heaven: near throne & speak to John on occasion
 - i. Rv 4:9-11 praise Creator
 - ii. Rv 5:11-14 praise Lamb
 - iii. Rv 7:10-12 enthroned God & Lamb. v13 1 elder engages John
 - iv. *Elders* - Rv 14:3 heaven's worship; 19:4 celebrate victory
2. Rv 11:16 - elders fall prostrate: the reigning redeemed signal God's praise

2nd: We Worship God the Almighty

1. Elders represent us & our worship is included in heaven's worship [Rv 5:8]
2. *we give thanks* - we = 24 elders & church: "Eucharist"
3. Rv 1:8 describes Father & Jesus Christ: *Almighty* - Ruler of heaven & earth
4. previously *who was* & *who is* & *who is to come* [1:4; 1:8; 4:8] - here w/o & *who is to come*. At this point, Judgment as come - see Rv 16:5
5. God's *reign*: rule as King = *great power*. *God has taken* [in the past] & [*begun*] *to reign*
 - i. *begun to reign* - NASB, ESV, NIV => future reign
 - ii. *reigned* - NKJ, ASV, KJV => God reigns & has ever reigned
 - iii. Already/not-yet - Divine reign began w/ Christ's enthronement & will advance to [eschatological, ultimate] fulfillment at the 2nd coming.
 - iv. At Final Judgment, God in Christ, will judge according to the judgment executed on the cross.

Applic #1: If God is Not Our Creator, Neither is He Our Redeemer

1. Some tell us that Christians need not be concerned about Creation.
2. What would an *elder* say about that? Rm 4:17. The power to raise the dead is evident in calling all things into being - Hb 11:3
3. Beware of Sadducees - Mk 12:24
4. 1T4:1-5 - Satan's strategy: attack man as image of God & God as Creator.
5. The God who did not create cannot save.

Applic #2: John Shows Us Things That Already Are & Which Are Yet To Be

1. We're handling heavy, large truths. We are challenged by our creaturely finitude: bound by space & time.
 - i. space - activities occurring a created place of transcendence: God's temple/throne-room. Beyond our 5 senses. Revealed in Scripture.
 - ii. time - the eternal God whose reign was, is, is yet to begin?
2. There has never been a time when God was not *Lord God Almighty*. Fallen angels & fallen men do not change that theological reality.
3. Isn't Rv11:15ff revealing the future? Yes, as a continuation & consummation that transitions into the resurrected eternal glory of eternal Sabbath blessing.
4. Revelation presses us up against eternity.
5. Yet these transcendent realms interconnect w/ us in this age as we fight this good fight, overcoming with the weapons of gospel love.
6. So what is the application? Rv11:16-17