

WORSHIP THE ENTHRONED CREATOR - Rv 4:8b-11

060621A

INTRODUCTION

1. A grief - mindless "worship". Our worship occurs in heaven - Rv 4 review.
 - i. v1-8a vision of symbols
 - ii. Last study - 4 living creatures depicted in Isa & Ezek: cherubim, representing the glory of God revealed in creation. Our Creator.

1st: God is Holy: Above His Creation - v8b

1. The essential dif/ tw/ paganism & biblical God - in rln to creation.
 - i. Paganism: "god" exists in same realm of being as creation
 - a. Imminent transcendence: w/i created being: realm of angelic PPs
 - b. How men are deceived by demons: a transcendence, but created
 - ii. God is not contained w/i throne-room; His being transcends heaven: ultimate transcendence - exalted above heaven & earth: unique *I am*.
2. God gives us His temple so that He can dwell w/ men
 - i. His transcendent temple is "heaven" - attended by heavenly beings
 - ii. His earthly temple = intersection tw/ heaven & earth given to men: Eden, Altars, Tabernacle, Temple - 1Kg 8:27; Isa 66:1-2
 - iii. Incarnate Son of G = temple. His resurrection guarantees that all creation will be res'd into glory & bec/ the temple of God
3. In worship, we are admitted into heavenly temple. We do not bec/ "one w/ God". We are creatures. We are admitted into heavenly throne-room as we worship along w/ the host of heaven.
4. An ancient liturgy - *Holy, Holy, Holy* = "trisagion" [thrice holy] - Isa 6:1-4. Cherubim & Seraphim. *whole earth is full of His glory*
5. Holiness: 1] moral purity; 2] metaphysical ontological otherness of being
6. Creation reveal the Creator - Rm 1:20; Ps 113:4; Ps 108:5]. Heaven is a created realm in wh/ God is revealed - Rv 4:2-3.
7. Rv 4:8b *Lord God Almighty* - OT: *Lord God of hosts* [warrior- Kg]; [Rv 1:4,8] Already - Rv 11:17 & not yet 1:8. Transcendent & Sov over history

2nd: God is Worshiped by His Creation - v9-10

1. The 4 creatures - animal, human, angelic = representative of entire creation.
2. v6b are identified w/ God's throne: *in center* [midst] & *around*: God is near to creation b/c God transcends creation.
3. *Him who sits on the throne; Him who lives forever & ever* - Dan 4:34-35
4. *glory, honor, thanks* to God as enthroned eternal Creator - Rm 1:20
5. Worship of 24 elders: 1] *fall down before*; 2] *cast crowns before throne* - humans exercising authority in submission to the throne
 - i. crown = reward [2T 4:8; Jms 1:12; 1Pt 5:4] - Rv 2:10; 3:11 a "not-yet" to encourage us to persevere

- ii. An "already" [1:6]. In worship, we exercise kingdom authority & demonstrate to Powers: *Jesus is Lord* - Eph 3:10; Ps 115:1; Rm 11:36
6. v9-10. Worship of creature informs worship of redeemed.

3rd: God is The Creator: Sovereign Over His Creation - 11

1. Nebuchadnezzar learned humility - Dan 4:17,25; 4:37
2. Jesus is *our Lord & our God* "dominus et deus noster". Caesar is not Lord. Thomas - Jn 20:28
3. The Most High gives authority to whomever He wishes - sons of Most High: administration of kingdom rule evident in NCov worship. Our identity & destiny.
4. Why? He created all things: *b/c of Your will they existed & were created*
 - i. Why is there smthg rather than nothg? *b/c of Your will*
 - ii. God is - He does not become. He is Creator - not become Creator but creation reveals Him to be the Creator.
5. Worship 4:11 <=> 5:12 worship the Lamb. Redeemer is not worshiped if He is not honored as Creator. Creation has redemptive purpose: *worthy*
 - i. But who is *worthy* 5:2- v4, v9, v12.
 - ii. Rv 4 - worthy is the Creator who is our *worthy Redeemer* [Rv 5].

Applic #1: The Indispensable Necessity of God-Centered Worship

1. Worship rehearses & celebrates the glory of God: Creator; Holy; Transcendent; Eternal; Almighty; Glorious. Ps 115:1; Rm 11:36

Applic #2: The Reality of Your Authority in Submission to the Enthroned Lord

1. The Most High bestows authority on whom He wishes, even the lowliest of men - you [1C 1:26-29; Lk 1:51-52].
2. You are alive in Christ & seated w/ Him in heavenly places [Eph 2:6]. As sons of God Most High, you are authorized to glorify the name of Christ before angels & men.