

Worship Around the Throne (Message #15)

Revelation 5: 8-14

Our text tonight remains around the throne of God. Jesus, our precious Lord, the worthy Lamb, has just taken the book from the right hand of God. As He takes the book, the host of heaven erupts into magnificent praise of the Lord. The judgment of God will shortly be poured out, but there is a pause in the judgment process for praise unto the Lamb.

This is a worship service unlike any we've ever seen. Through these verses, we get an up-close view of the praise that will be offered as the redeemed gather around the throne. There are times that we offer worship, but it is often hindered by physical limitations, unconfessed sin, and the influence of Satan. In heaven we will worship without any hindrance or limitation whatsoever. Let's take a few moments to consider this time of: [Worship around the Throne](#).

I. The Picture of Worship (8) – [And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.](#) Allow me to remind you that we are there at this point in time. As we've moved through this book, my focus has certainly changed. I no longer view these as just future events. I have learned to try and place myself among these happenings.

- These events involve the redeemed; we are there! They are personal to every born again child of God. With that in mind, try to picture these events from a personal perspective. Allow the Spirit to take your heart and mind into a worship service that you are a part of.

A. Our Posture – [And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb.](#) The host of heaven, including you and me, fell down before the Lamb. We have prostrated ourselves at the feet of Jesus. We have entered the presence of our Savior and King, and have humbled ourselves before Him.

- There won't be any thoughts of our deeds or goodness, only heart felt worship unto the Lord. This won't be a forced position as with the captives before Nebuchadnezzar's image of gold. The very presence of Jesus will compel us to fall before Him in worship. I've enjoyed some good worship services, but nothing like this.

B. Our Praise – [having every one of them harps.](#) The host of heaven is seen, every one, with a harp in their possession. Often harps were used to accompany the singing of psalms among God's people. They were also played in association with divine prophecy.

- Clearly this is a picture of the redeemed in heaven offering praise unto the Lord. He is praised for who He is, what He has done, and what He is about to perform as His promises are completely fulfilled. All prophecy that is yet unfulfilled will very soon come to pass.
- Think of this, I'm kind of like the fellow who said he couldn't even play a radio without static, but one day I'll play a harp in that heavenly choir offering praise unto the Lamb of God for all eternity!

C. Our Prayers – Not only does the host possess harps, but [golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of the saints](#). The prayers of the redeemed of all ages are brought before the Lord as a sweet smelling aroma to Him.

- Consider the countless prayers that have been offered throughout the ages of time. Many suffering persecution have prayed for the Lord's return. Many have prayed for the suffering of God's people to end, for Satan to be defeated, and sin fully and finally removed.
- Jesus taught us to pray that prayer. [Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven](#). Every prayer the saints have prayed has entered the presence of God. He hasn't forgotten or ignored a one of them. [I Jn.5:14 – And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us](#). The prayers for deliverance from evil will soon be answered in mighty power!

I. The Picture of Worship (8)

II. The Purpose of Worship (9-10, 12) – [And they sung a new song, V.9a](#). We find the host of heaven singing a new song. It is a new song in the sense that the heavenly choir has just assembled and begun to sing, but it is a song as old as time. It is the song of the old, old story that never loses its splendor. It is a song of praise lifted to magnify the Lamb who is worthy! This song comes from the hearts of those whose faith has ended in sight. So' let's see what the Bible reveals about our motivation to sing.

A. Our Redemption (9b) – [And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation](#); It is there that we'll fully realize our eternal redemption. We will understand, as never before, what the sacrifice on Calvary did for us. We will be completely aware that His blood made all the difference and redeemed us from sin.

- We won't sing because of our deeds, but of the Lamb that was slain. That's how all who are there have made it; they've come through the blood. There is no other way of redemption than through bloody Calvary.
- I have known some great soldiers of the cross, those who lived a godly life. They loved the Lord and weren't ashamed to tell it. They have challenged and encouraged my walk with the Lord. But, the fact remains, they were just sinners saved by grace. If you could've taken away the blood, their lives would've been empty and meaningless.
- The redeemed will sing the song of redemption. Praise God for His unspeakable gift!

B. Our Relationship (10) – [And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.](#) We'll also praise the Lord for our relationship with Him. We won't be viewed as outcast or second rate citizens. We will be the bride of Christ.

- A great price was paid that we might be found in heaven. We won't be exalted, but we will be loved and accepted of God. Have you ever thought about that, a lowly sinner such as we, accepted by a holy and righteous God? Our relationship is twofold. It involves:

1. Our Position – We have been [made kings and priests](#). As kings we'll have power with Christ throughout the ages. The redeemed have overcome through the blood of Christ. As priests we'll offer service acceptable unto God as we worship Him in heaven.

- But, we can claim that promise right now! [1 Pet. 2:9 – But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:](#)

2. Our Promise – There is a promise that [we shall reign on earth](#). This doesn't speak of an elevated position within ourselves, but the gift of God. When sin and Satan are defeated all of creation will be as God intended. Creation will be free of sin.

- Christians will no longer be suppressed, in a minority due to sin. We shall be part of the glorious kingdom of God, reigning victorious upon the earth, [Rev.20:6 – Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.](#)

C. Our Redeemer (12) – [Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.](#) We shall praise our Redeemer in heaven. He will be the focus of all praise. The host of heaven will cry, Worthy is the Lamb!

- He was slain for you and me. He is the source of our salvation. We were redeemed by the finished work at Calvary. It is there that Jesus became our substitute. He willingly took the sin of all men upon Himself and endured the judgment of God for our sin.
- We are free in Him. He fully atoned for sin as He died and rose again. The ultimate sacrifice was made never to need blood shed again. The saved are bound for heaven; this was secured at Calvary.
- Rejoice tonight because of your Redeemer. We could never stand within ourselves accountable for sin. Thank God we don't have to! Jesus took care of the debt I owed and my account is marked paid in full!

I. The Picture of Worship (8)

II. The Purpose of Worship (9-10, 12)

III. The Participants of Worship (11, 13) – Finally we've come to find those who will be worshipping the Lamb. It isn't limited to the redeemed.

A. The Celestial Beings will Worship (11) – And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; John saw and heard the angels praising the Lamb.

- They can't sing the song of redemption. They know nothing of sin or the struggles of life. They are however, praising their Creator. They are worshipping the God of heaven. They have never been washed in the blood, but they recognize the Lamb is worthy!

B. The Converted Beings will Worship (11) – With the angels were the elders. I can't discern specific numbers or distinctions between, but a great multitude worshipped Christ, v.11b, the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands.

- Each and every child of God will be there praising the worthy Lamb. The OT saints, Mary, Martha, Lazarus, Zacchaeus, the thief, the Philippian jailor, the martyrs, those loved ones who've already gone, you and I, will all be praising the Lamb for our salvation.
- Each life will have been different, each salvation experience unique, but we'll all sing the same song of redemption!

C. The Created Beings will Worship (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, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. This praise won't be offered just by the angels and saints in heaven. This praise will extend to all creation as all creatures, great and small, even those tormented in hell, praise the Lamb of God, [Phil.2:9-11](#) – Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- Many today refuse to accept Christ. He is still despised and rejected. One day every knee will bow and every tongue confess. Jesus will be exalted by all who ever lived. I had much rather praise Him in His presence than have to praise Him in His absence!

Heaven will be a place of worship unto the Lamb. It is my prayer that each of you will be present to offer praise in heaven. A glorious time awaits the children of God. Will you be in that number?