

“Worship the Lamb”

Revelation 4:1-11; 5:6-14; 11:15-18

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Planning for 2022
- None know what a day might bring, much less a year.
 - James 4:13-16 -- *“Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit’; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.’ But now, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.”*
- We do know some of what we will be doing throughout eternity for God has revealed glimpses of activities in heaven.
- When the rapture of the church occurs, we will experience
 - Transformation of our bodies
 - 1 Corinthians 15: 50-53 -- *“Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”*
 - Judgment Seat of Christ for the purposes of...
 - Clarification: full disclosure of the facts
 - Commendation: rewards of praise, prizes, and promotions for work done here on earth
 - Conciliation—mending of broken relationships
 - Preparation for the Marriage of Christ and the Church
 - Ephesians 5:27--*“glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing but holy and without blemish.”*
- The difficulty in comprehending everything that God has planned for us in heaven.
 - We can experience a foretaste of heaven when we are living in the Spirit
 - Ephesians 1:14-- *“the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”*
 - But we cannot fully comprehend what God has for us in heaven
 - 1 Corinthians 2:9-- *“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”*
 - We learn through comparison and connections, but there is nothing in our experience that compares to heaven and so we struggle making connections in our knowledge

Worship the LAMB

A. Setting the Stage: Revelation 4:1-5

- Revelations 4:1-5-- *“After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, ‘Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.’ Immediately I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. And from the throne proceeded*

lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God."

1. **Who are the "Twenty-four Elders"?**

- a. ANGELS ?
 - 1) They are associated in Revelation with the four living creatures who are clearly angelic beings.
 - 2) Problems:
 - a) Angels are not crowned with the "victor's crowns" received as reward.
 - b) Judgment of angels does not occur until the end of the Millennial kingdom.
 - c) Angels are never represented as sitting on the thrones, but rather hovering in God's presence.
 - d) Angels are never robed in white as a result of purification and judgment
- b. Representatives of all redeemed men of all ages-- the twelve tribes of Israel and the twelve apostles ?
 - Problem: Isaiah 26:19-21 and Daniel 12:1-2 reveals that the resurrection of the Old Testament saints does not occur until after the tribulation period, at which time they will be judged and rewarded.
- c. Representative of the CHURCH, the body and bride of Christ?

2. **Why twenty-four elders and not millions or billions of elders?** Significance of 24 elders.

- a. In Scriptures, the elders represented the entire church.
 - Acts 20:17-- *"sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church"*
- b. The activities of the twenty-four elders are mainly priestly in nature.
 - 1) The Levitical priesthood was divided into 24 divisions. — 1 Chronicles 24
 - 2) Only the church, the body of Christ, is referred to as a "royal priesthood"
 - 1 Peter 2:9-- *"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."*
 - 3) We all are priests with one Mediator, our High Priest, Jesus Christ.
 - 1 Timothy 2:5-- *"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."*
 - Hebrews 4:16-- *"come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."*

B. Primary Activity of the Royal Priesthood will be WORSHIPPING GOD. We will worship God as our....

1. **Creator**

- Revelation 4:6-11-- *"Before the throne there as a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne and around the throne were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: 'Holy, Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come.' Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and casts their crowns before the throne, saying: 'You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; For you created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.'"*
- a. Contrast between angelic worship and human worship of God in the book of Revelation
 - 1) Angels worship God for WHO HE IS.
 - 2) The twenty-four elders, as our representatives, worship God for WHAT HE HAS DONE!
 - b. We will worship God as our Creator who we owe to Him our very existence and everything we have.
 - c. The theory of evolution robs God of the honor and glory due to Him.

- Romans 1:21-- *“although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”*
- d. We today live in the “shadowlands”, but one day we will be sitting before the very creator of everything, and in an act of worship we will cast at His feet our crowns

2. Redeemer

- Revelation 5:6-14-- *“And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. 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. 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 nation. And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.’ 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 thousands, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: ‘Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and glory and blessing!’ 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!’ Then the four living creatures said, ‘Amen!’ And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.”*
- a. Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, has redeemed us with His precious blood.
- b. Jesus Christ has assembled His body from every tribe, nation, and language group.
- c. Jesus Christ is the One who has made us a royal priesthood, a holy nation.
- d. He alone deserves all praise, honor, and glory.

3. Sovereign Lord

- Revelation 11:15-18-- *“Then the seventh angel sounded: And there was a loud voice in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’” And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: ‘We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was and who is to come, because You have taken Your great power and reigned. The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that you should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth.”*
- a. The scene takes place in the middle of the second half of the tribulation period.
- b. God is ready to unleash His wrath on mankind and begin to take control of the world scene.
- c. Jesus Christ’s time has come to reign, to assume his proper place as the King of kings and Lord of lords.
- d. As we see God’s plan come together, we will fall down and worship the One who is the Sovereign Lord!

C. Worshipping the Lamb NOW

1. God is seeking worshipers **NOW**
 - John 4:22-- *“the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.”*
2. Worship is an **ATTITUDE** of our hearts.
3. Worship is to be the Primary **ACTIVITY** of our lives.
 - 1 Corinthians 10:13-- *“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”*