



CAYA SERIES: “WORSHIP: A LIFESTYLE EXPERIENCE”

WEEK 6, LESSON 5 - “HEAVEN’S PATTERN OF WORSHIP”

LEARNING OUTCOMES (OBJECTIVES):

The student will be able to. . .

- Describe why the heavenly worship is an example of true worship
- Interpret the symbolic imagery of God enthroned with the expected response of awe and wonder
- Correlate the character of the living creatures with the character of God
- Demonstrate how God should be extolled in our life when we worship

INTRODUCTION YOUTUBE VIDEO:

“What is Worship According to the Bible” (3:48), Tehillah Worship, 6/20/2012

“Revelation 4 Explained Dramatic Movie Chapter 4” (2:45), Gideon Films, 11/16/2017

OUTLINE NOTES CONDENSED

I. INTRODUCTION

Revelation Chapter 4 paints for us a beautiful scene. It tells us what was going on in Heaven prior to Jesus’ arrival from Earth. God’s created beings were bursting in praise and worship.

II. REVELATION 4:1-5

A. GOD ENTHRONED

1. The throne

It is important to note that John places the throne of God at the center of his heavenly vision. The key word in this chapter is throne; it is used fourteen times. In fact, this is a key word in the entire book, appearing forty-six times. The throne is a place of submission. Everything and everyone submit to the throne. God sits on the throne. The rainbow is around the throne. The

24 elders are before the throne. The thunder, lightning comes out from the throne. The throne is the centerpiece of the worship in Heaven.

We see God in a resplendent blaze of unapproachable light, the jewels refracting the glory and majesty of his luminous beauty. Here is where all worship begins: in the throne room of heaven where God reigns supreme!

2. The One

The One who sits on the throne is the center of attention. The One is our audience. The One is God the Father. He rules and reigns from Heaven.

3. The Rainbow

The rainbow is God's glory, which is what we behold. Judgment is about to fall, but the rainbow reminds us that God is merciful, even when He judges (Hab. 3:2).

B. GOD ENCIRCLED

1. 24 Elders

The twenty-four elders around the throne (4:4), like other worshipers in heaven (4:7-9; 5:11-14), illustrate the appropriate response to God's glory: worship (4:10-11; 5:8-10, 14).

The central throne was encompassed by twenty-four lesser thrones. Four and twenty elders sitting. These ancients were (1) twenty-four in number; (2) they were clothed in white, the color of victory and purity; (3) on their heads were golden crowns, not the diadem which means a kingly crown, but the golden crown of honor.

2. Thunderings and Lightnings

The lightning and thunder are symbolic of God's awesome power and infinite might and remind us of the revelation of God at Mt. Sinai.

3. Spirits of God

The seven torches of burning fire are a symbol of the Holy Spirit in all of His fulness and completeness.

III. REVELATION 4:6-8 – “LIVING CREATURES”

A. QUALITIES

The four living creatures remind us of our need to worship and praise God.

1. Position

They are the closest beings to God.

2. Description

All have six wings; they are full of eyes, and they all unite in a ceaseless cry of praise to God. The eyes, sleepless, possibly symbolize never resting, wakeful activity.

⇒ One being was like a lion: this symbolizes supremacy

⇒ One being was like an ox (calf): this symbolizes strength.

- ⇒ *One being was like a man: this symbolizes intelligence.*
- ⇒ *One being was like an eagle: this symbolizes swiftness.*

3. Function

Note their function: to glorify and honor God day and night.

B. TEACH ABOUT GOD

First, they show us the supremacy, strength, intelligence, and swiftness of God. They stand for all that God is.

Second, they show us that all of nature owes its worship to God, both animals and man. They picture all the beings of nature standing before God and praising Him.

1. Holiness

The four living creatures sing about God's holiness. The repetition three times of the word "holy" means ultimate holiness.

2. Sovereignty

"Lord God Almighty" pictures the ultimate, divine Warrior.

3. Eternality

The phrase "who was, and is, and is to come" describes God's transcendence over time—he is eternal.

IV. REVELATION 4:9-11 – 24 ELDERS

A. GOD EXTOLLED

1. Two Stages of Single Act

This is the first occurrence in Revelation of the paired verbs "to fall down" (pipto) and "to worship" (proskuneo) which are used to describe two stages of a single act of adoration and thus appear to be synonymous.

2. Elements in Worship

There are four elements in this worship: (1) They fall down; (2) they adore; (3) they cast their crowns before the throne, an act of homage which gives Him who sitteth there all the glory of their crowns; (4) they offer ascriptions of praise.

3. Attitude

The actions of these living beings picture complete worship and submission to God. They yield all they are and have to Him.

B. TEACHES US

How we must learn how great God is—that He dwells in such glory and majesty, dominion, and power that we owe Him our lives and our all.

1. Surrendering

We must lay our rights at Christ's feet, surrendering ourselves to his purpose and will.

2. Recognition

God expects His children to worship Him in truth, in understanding, with reverence, with gratitude, and with awe (John 4:24; Hebrews 12:28).

[Small Group Activity]

BREAKOUT QUESTIONS

1. What insight/revelation/understanding did you receive from memorizing 1 Peter 2:5? What version did you memorize the verse from?
2. What are your reactions to the videos?
3. What is the main idea behind the purpose of heavenly worship?
4. Defend your position of expressing amazement of God's glory by considering His throne room.
5. Compare your understanding of the function of the living creatures with it expressing God's attributes.
6. From the information given about the 24 elders, what factors would you use to judge your worship?

[Follow-up Home Assignment]

DIRECTIONS:

Read Revelation 5:8-14.

This passage describes the twenty-four elders coming to the Lamb and praising Him. Their song praises Christ for His work and lists five aspects of it: Jesus (1) was slain, (2) purchased them with His blood, (3) gathered them into God's kingdom, (4) made them priests, and (5) appointed them to reign on the earth. Jesus has already paid the penalty for sin. He is now gathering us into His kingdom and making us priests. In the future, we will reign with Him. Worship Christ for what He has done, what He is doing, and what He will do for all who trust in Him.

What does it mean to give God glory? What can you do this week to show your reverence and humility before God's greatness?

REVIEW: Psalm 100; Hebrews 13:15, Colossians 3:1, 2, John 4:23, 24, and 1 Peter 2:5

MEMORY VERSE – REVELATION 4:11

Write out the verse on the index card in any version. Write on the back of the card, any revelation or insight God gives you as you meditate on this verse for the week.