



THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

"I've Fallen and I Don't Want to Get Up!"

4:9-11

Revelation 4:9 Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,

Revelation 4:10 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

Revelation 4:11 "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."

- being changed to bring change -

We left-off in the middle of a worship service around God's throne in Heaven. Four cherubim lead the praise and are joined by the twenty-four elders.

Revelation 4:9 Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,

Whenever seems to indicate that occasionally the cherubim go beyond their regular never-rest praise ministry to engage the resurrected and raptured Church in a time of special praise.

We should occasionally "go beyond" our normal experience with the Lord. It's too easy to fall into habits, ruts, and build a personal comfort zone. It's too easy to fall back rather than forge forward.

The cherubim are said to **give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne**.

The word for **give** is used of sacrifices and means to *offer* or *present*. We might then call this a sacrifice of praise.

This praise has three components:

1. **Glory** is the Greek *dóxa* the noun form of *dokéō* which means *to think* or *to recognize*. It means to have a favorable opinion and, as a result, to offer superlative words or works to the One whom you hold in such high regard.
2. **Honor** is an expression of **glory** in actions.
3. **Thanks** is an expression of **glory** in attitudes.

Because God is perfect He deserves to be held in the highest possible regard. If we so hold Him we will constantly express it in words and works, in attitudes and actions.

God sits on His throne and **lives forever and ever**. Our God is eternal. He was not invented by us in some search for meaning in the universe. He revealed Himself to us. He did it in times past through creation and conscience, then through the written Word of God, then and most completely in the person and work of Jesus.

Revelation 4:10 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

The cherubim serve as worship leaders for the Church. During the times of special praise we will be cued to **fall down before** God. We will prostrate ourselves before God.

There is a lot of disagreement among believers this side of Heaven as to posture in worship. Posture can be put on a spectrum from charismaniac to ultra-conservative. Most of us are somewhere in-between closer to center.

Anytime folks are invited to gather together there are parameters. Whether it is a wedding or a funeral or dinner with friends, some

behaviors are encouraged and some behaviors are discouraged. Thus it falls to us to set the parameters for gatherings of the Church.

We like to consider the crowd and the Christ:

1. We consider the crowd. Who is present? On Sunday mornings we have people from all over the spectrum. We have a higher proportion of visitors and nonbelievers than at a mid-week service. Thus we feel a more conservative approach to posture will minister to the greater number of people.
2. At other services, like Wednesday night, we have greater freedom. We then consider the Christ. If my worship is towards Him then I won't want to distract from Him. I won't want to distract others. So while I may want to exercise my greater freedom in standing or kneeling I want to do it so as to not draw any undue attention to myself.

The twenty-four elders [worship Him](#). Dr. Lehman Strauss is an important Bible commentator from the last century. He said, "I have never found in Scripture any definition of worship." Then he quotes W.E. Vine who said,

Broadly [worship] may be regarded as the direct acknowledgement to God, of His nature, attributes, ways, and claims, whether by the outgoing of the heart in praise and thanksgiving or by deed done in such acknowledgement.

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That matches exactly what we said earlier about giving [glory](#), [honor](#), and [thanks](#).

One of the ways we will worship in Heaven will be to [cast our crowns](#) before God during those special moments of praise led by the cherubim.

The Bible speaks of five crowns available to you and me:

1. The crown of righteousness is given to those who love His appearing (Second Timothy 4:8). A person who lives in constant expectation of Jesus' return is going to live righteously because one of the most purifying truths in all of the Bible is the fact that Jesus could come back at any moment.

2. The crown of life is given to those who love Him (James 1:12). Doesn't every Christian love the Lord? The Lord once told the Church at Ephesus they had left their first love. They loved Him; they were saved. But it was not the first love of the engagement.
3. The crown of glory is given for servanthood (First Peter 5:4). That makes sense from what we learned about **glory**. Serving is glory expressed through attitude and action.
4. The soul-winners crown is given to those who share their faith (1Thessalonians 2:19).
5. The martyr's crown is for those who lay down their lives (Revelation 2:10).

This life is the only chance we have to get them. There is no other opportunity for the next thousand, ten thousand, one hundred million years. Therefore, what I'm doing now with my time, treasure, or talent will impact my worship for eternity.

We ought to desire these **crowns**. You don't want to be asking to borrow a crown. There won't be any rent-a-crown booths.

You might say that the folks on the lesser thrones were prepared for the worship service. Come as you are; come late if you must; leave early if you must; fall asleep if you must. We want you here!

- being changed to bring change -

But having said that, it will enhance your experience of the presence of Jesus Christ if you prepare for the gatherings of the Church.

Revelation 4:11 "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."

One writer commented that there will be no songs about evolution in Heaven! God will be acknowledged as the Creator of Heaven and earth and all that is in them. I don't want to get off on a tangent but the debate over creation versus evolution is critical to the health of human society.

God is **worthy**. The word means *having weight*. It would be used of a balance-scale where the weight was equal on each side. Used of

God it means He is both the standard of measure and that His words and works always measure perfectly – never too heavy or too light.

Instead of **glory**, **honor**, and **thanks** we read **glory**, **honor**, and **power**. **Thanks** is assumed by the opening words ascribing God worth. **Power** is added as a further acknowledgement.

In context, God's **power** is seen in the fact He **created all things**. We ought to marvel everyday at the intelligent design of the universe.

By your will [all things] **exist and were created**. In light of God's power in creating and purpose for creating I found it interesting that physicists think they are on the verge of a new breakthrough. At a giant nuclear research centre at the French-Swiss border near Geneva they are building a vast underground particle collider. They are looking for a subatomic speck of matter which, if it is ever found, could explain the mysterious code at the origin of the physical world.

Peter Higgs first proposed a theory of the particle officially known as the Higgs boson forty years ago. Nobel Prize winning physicist Leon Lederman wrote a book calling it "the God particle."

"The likelihood is that the particle will show up pretty quickly ... I'm more than 90 percent certain that it will," Higgs said after visiting the collider due to start working early next year.

To quote the Discovery Channel, "It could shed clues on the mystery of how the universe came to be."

The universe "came to be" by the **will** of God. It **exists** by the **will** of God. The universe was created and it continues to exist because of something else that God wills. Notice the mention of the will of God in this passage from the Book of Ephesians:

Ephesians 1:5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of **His will**,

Ephesians 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

Ephesians 1:8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,

Ephesians 1:9 having made known to us the mystery of **His will**, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

Ephesians 1:10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth - in Him.

Ephesians 1:11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of **His will**,

Ephesians 1:12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

Obviously there is a lot going on in that passage. The basic idea is this: It is God's will to save you and then to make you more-and-more like Jesus until He completes the work in Heaven.

You are His real workmanship! Creation is a mere stage, a backdrop, a scaffolding upon which God works upon you.

God created and creation exists only so He can reveal Himself to you and save you and complete His work in you. The goal is that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory (v12).

Isn't that precisely where we end up? Praising His glory before the throne in Revelation four?

We will be around that throne; we will lay prostrate; we will sing that song. - *being changed to bring change* -

It prompts the question, "How's my crown collection coming?"