

The Worship Priority • Revelation 4:11

INTRO • Read vs. 9-11

The Nixon White House

1. A White House staffer who worked during the Nixon Administration relates how visitors to the President were treated **before** they entered the Oval Office.
 - a. Many of these politicians, diplomats & favor-seekers were **determined** to tell the President a thing or two. They had an **agenda** & were **confident** they could make the President listen.
 - b. So White House aides always gave these visitors a tour first, to **soften them up**.
 - c. They were shown the complex arrangement of offices & the dozens of staff working diligently on issues of global importance.
 - d. They were shown a part of the Secret Service's detail & introduced to a couple agents who looked them over with practiced eye.
 - e. Then, on the way to the Oval Office, they were led down a hall past the offices of well-known **advisors** to the President.
 - f. As each minute passed, the composure slipped.
 - g. By the time they arrived at the President's their confidence had nearly dissolved.
 - h. They were quickly briefed on the proper etiquette when greeting & talking to the President of the USA.
 - i. Then the door was opened, and they were ushered into the most powerful room on Planet Earth.
2. The White House staffer who related this said this routine nearly always reduced even the most arrogant & vocal visitor to a meek and quiet *spectator* who'd walk in, mumble a greeting, have their picture taken shaking hands with Nixon, then be ushered out, without ever even mentioning what it was they came to talk about.
3. I wonder how many of us have **longed** to have a chat with the President.
 - a. We think how good it would be for him to hear our counsel.
 - b. Why; we'd tell him a thing or two.
4. I suspect that if by some fluke we **did** end up in the Oval Office w/the President, we'd be so nervous we'd be tongue-tied & forget everything we wanted to say.
5. Because That's the President of the USA & that's the Oval Office, World's Power Center!

The Throne Room of Heaven

1. In Rev. 4, John visits the Oval Office of Heaven!
2. He's given a vision of the center of Heaven – God's Throne room.
3. We took a look at John's description of the throne & its surroundings last Wednesday.
 - a. John doesn't describe God's form; just the glory that radiates from Him.
 - b. He tells us about some lesser thrones that surround God's.
 - c. On these thrones sit representatives of God's people from all history.
 - d. John tells us briefly of the Cherubim who serve as a ceremonial honor guard to God.
4. In v8, he says
The 4 living creatures, each having 6 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!"
5. Their song sounds familiar. It's similar to what the prophet Isaiah heard.
Isa 6:1–3 • In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His *robe* [glory] filled the temple. ² Above it stood seraphim; each 1 had 6 wings: with 2 he covered his face, with 2 he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And 1 cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!"
6. We all know Scripture only has to say something **once** to make it important.
 - a. If it's **doubled**; it carried special emphasis – as when Jesus would begin a teaching by saying, Verily, Verily . . ."
 - b. So when something tripled, it elevated to a place of utmost primacy & urgency.
 - c. The thrice-uttered trumps all else.
7. The cherubim continually cry, "Holy, Holy, Holy; Lord God Almighty."
 - a. THIS is their acclamation **because**;
 - 1) Don't miss this.

2) Come in close & listen very carefully.

3) Of everything I say today; no – better; of everything ***you will hear*** today / this week ...

4) This is by far ***THE MOST IMPORTANT THING*** ***God is HOLY!***

b. We could end right here; call the worship team back & DO what we find here in Rev. = Worship.

8. God is holy; & the cherubim ***announce*** it because there was no greater thing they could do.

9. Returning to our earlier story, let's say you're invited to the White House for a visit.

a. You're going to ***wear*** your very best, and you're going to ***share*** you very best.

b. If there's some gift you have to give, you'll bring it.

c. If there's some special talent you have, you perform it.

d. Because this is the President – and that office deserve the highest respect & the best we have to offer.

10. This is precisely what the cherubim do.

a. They are doing the best thing they CAN do; as befits the One Who sits on the Throne.

b. They ***worship*** Him by ***declaring His holiness***; again & again.

11. Psalm 29:2 says –

Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name; Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

a. When we at last stand before God's throne & see it as John does here in ch4

b. We'll realize the most beautiful things we've encountered on Earth were just imperfect reflections of God's majestic beauty.

Vs9-11

⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory & honor & thanks to Him who sits on the throne, Who lives forever & ever, ¹⁰ the 24 elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne & worship Him Who lives forever & ever, & cast their crowns before the throne, saying: ¹¹ "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory & honor & power; For You created all things, & by Your will they exist & were created."

1. When the cherubim worship, the 24 elders who represent God's people of all ages, join them.

2. They fall on their faces, & toss the crowns they've received as rewards at God's feet as an act of adoration.

3. It's their song I want to focus on.

4. Chs4&5 are John's vision of heaven.

a. 5Xs in these 2 chs he sees heaven's host worshipping God. And each times the group gets bigger.

b. 1st – it's the 4 cherubim. Then the 24 elders join them.

c. Then it's 10,000 X 10,000 of the angels.

d. Last all creation is worshipping the Lord.

5. From ch6 thru 19, John describes the judgments God's wrath will drop on Earth during the Tribulation.

a. But every so often he gives us quick snapshots of what's going on in heaven.

b. Almost every one of these vignettes show heaven worshipping God.

6. It's clear the ***primary occupation*** of those in heaven is ***WORSHIP***.

7. Please don't think of ***that*** worship like what we so often do here.

a. We meet at 8/9:30/11:15; the band comes out & lead a few songs.

b. If we know them, we sing along; if not, we listen & try to pick it up.

c. And some don't sing at all.

1) For whatever reason they never open their mouths; they don't even hum.

2) They just stand or sit; but never participate.

3) Maybe they're unsure of their voice & think it too poor to sing out.

4) God isn't concerned with whether or not you can carry a tune; He looks on the heart.

5) You might say, "Maybe God doesn't care, but what about the people around me?"

6) Years ago, I took a co-worker to CCCM to the Monday night Study with Greg Laurie.

a) She didn't know the songs, so as we worshipped, she remained silent.

b) But she loved the study and started going on her own.

c) After about a month, I saw her and we sat together.

d) Now she knew the songs and belted 'em out.

e) She could carry a tune in a bucket! She wasn't just tone deaf, she sounded like a frog.

f) But she loved God & sang with closed eyes and the sweetest smile.

- g) People around us turned around w/an expression of “What in the world?!”
 - h) But I look at her & **their** countenance changed to I of joy.
 - i) God was well-please w/her worship; even if it didn’t **sound** well-pleasing on Earth.
- 7) Seeing & hearing her worship w/such abandon encouraged the rest of us to sing louder & worship w/greater intensity.

6. Our worship in will be different from what we do here.

- a. It won’t just be on Sunday mornings for 1 half hour.
- b. Gabriel won’t strum a harp & lead us in a hymn.
- c. When we see God, an irresistible urge to worship will rise in us.
- d. It’ll come out in the most eloquent & beautiful sound.
- e. The tone deaf will sing like Andrea Bocelli & Sarah Brightman.
- f. We won’t need a projector for the words ; they’ll come from our hearts!
- e. And as they leave our lips we’ll realize we’ve joined a mighty choir.
- f. Handel’s *Messiah* is a nursery rhyme compared to what we’ll sing.

7. Look at the song of the elders ...

You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory & honor & power;

- a. The emphasis is on the first word “**YOU**” // “**You** are worthy O Lord!”
 - b. For centuries, rebel man has heaped praise one another.
 - c. He’s built stadiums, arenas, & theaters to honor & applaud actors or athletes.
 - d. While the One who truly deserves honor has been ignored & denied His due.
 - e. So the elders cry out “You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory & honor & power.”
- 1) “Here we are to worship. Here we are to bow down. Here we are to say that You’re our God.”
- 2) “You’re altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me!”

8. Look at the **reason** they worship ...

FOR You created all things, & by Your will they exist & were created.

9. As Creator, God has the **right** to the worship of His creation.

10. 1 of the most important questions of Philosophy is: Why is there **something** rather than **nothing**?

- a. We don’t have time to go into all the subtleties of this, but let me summarize.
- b. Why is there something rather than nothing?
- c. If there was nothing, there’d be no one to wonder **why** there is nothing.
- d. That there’s someone around to even pose the question means there’s something.
- e. This was Descartes’s starting point; “I think; therefore I am.”
- f. So – **Why** is there a something; a creation?
- g. V11 tells us WHY; It was all part of God’s will. He wanted it!
- h. He both created it & sustains it.

11. In Col 1:16 the Apostle Paul says of Christ...

All things were created thru/by Him & **FOR** Him.

12. As you’re well aware, there’s a running debate between Evolutionists & Creationists.

- a. They argue loudly over the origin of life.
- b. The problem w/the debate, & it’s something many are finally realizing, is that if we’re talking about origins, we have to go back all the way to the beginning.
- c. The materialist says the universe came into existence via the Big Bang.
- d. Sorry – that’s not the starting point. If there was a Big Bang, there had to be something to bang big. Where’d **THAT** come from.

13. Logic & reason demand the existence of Something that **has always been**; something that owns its own existence & so is eternal.

- a. AH! Look at v8 = How do the cherubim describe God? “**Who was & is & is to come.**”
- b. He is the “**Lord God Almighty**” The 1 powerful enough to bring everything else into existence.
- c. But He must also exist in a realm above that which He creates.

And that is why he is “**Holy, holy, holy**”

14. When the Cherubim lift their praise, the elders join them

You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory & honor & power; For You created all things, & by Your will they exist & were created.

15. Heaven is filled w/worship.

- a. When we worship God here on Earth, we make it an outpost, an alcove of heaven.
- b. Do you want your home to be more heavenly? Worship there.
- c. If you lament the worldliness of your workplace, worship at work.
- d. Regret the godlessness of your school?
 - 1) School boards pass rules banning prayer & mention of God.
 - 2) But God's glory cannot be regulated by ordinances & no 1 can stop you from worshipping Jesus.

Conclusion • You Are Here For Him

1. Let's personalize v11.
2. You are worthy O Lord, to receive **MY** glory & honor & power, because You created **ME**.
Your will brought me into being & continues my existence.
3. In fact, all these other people, this whole wide world, exists for YOU! For YOUR glory!
4. Am I **living** that way, for Your glory; or am I living for mine?
5. Do I treat others & use things with the awareness it's all *about & for* You?