

WORSHIP

ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

Revelation 4:8-11; 5:9-14; 7:10-12; 15:3-4; 19:1-8

May 5, 2024

BELONG

Get to Know One Another

Due to time, spend less than 5 minutes on this question

What is your all-time favorite Christian hymn or song? Why?

BELIEVE

Read this Week's Scripture

This week, Pastor Jacob preached a topical sermon in our on-going series, "**Why We Believe...**". The sermon is focused on worship titled: "**We should worship on earth as it is in heaven.**" To cover this topic Pastor Jacob read Scripture from **Revelation 4:8-11; 5:9-14; 7:10-12; 15:3-4; and, 19:1-8**. This is a ton of Scripture to cover in a short period, but all of it biblically illustrates the emphasis that Scripture universally places on worship of God. Worship in heaven will be passionate [**Revelation 4; Isaiah 6; Revelation 5, 15 & 19**] whole-hearted, and multi-ethnic [**Revelation 7**]. This is just a small way Scripture describes worship of God in heaven. Based on what Scripture teaches us about worship in heaven, no one should disagree when we are encouraged to worship God like it describes.

But, here's the issue with worshiping on earth as it is in heaven - we are not quite **THERE** yet. We are still on earth - called by God to worship Him in ways we can only read about in Scripture. So, how do we **define worship** and what does this look like while we are still here?

- Carl "Chip" Stam passed away about 14 years ago. He was the professor of church music and worship at Southern Seminary, the founding director of Southern Seminary's Institute for Christian Worship. Chip defined worship as this: **Responding to God and honoring God by giving Him the glory of God through Christ – receiving all of our attention.**
- David Peterson, in his book *Engaging with God: A Biblical Theology of Worship*, defined worship as: **An engagement with God on the terms that He proposes and in a way that He alone makes possible.**

Basically, worshipping God is an **act made possible only by God**. We are engaging with God as His regenerate creation - **on his terms** - by giving glory to Him, honoring Him and focusing all of our attention toward Him. Today, our lesson will explore the images & words of worship in heaven as presented in the book of Revelation, and determine if these images & words are reflective in our own worship here on earth.

BUILD

Engage and Apply the Scripture

Have someone in your group read **Revelation 4:2-11**

Question 1: How does John describe heaven in **verses 2-7**? What images and pictures do you imagine?

Question 2: In **verses 10-11**, the elders cast their crowns - which the Lord gave them - before the throne of God. Why do you think they did this?

- What has God given to you that you use to worship Him?

Have someone in your group read [Revelation 5:6-14](#)

Question 3: The people around the throne are from *“every tribe and language and people and nation.”* What does this tell us about the nature of the church?

Question 4: What is the overwhelming response in [verses 11-14](#) to what the Lamb has done?

Have someone in your group read [Revelation 7:9-12](#)

Question 5: [Revelation 7:9-10](#) is a vision of the kingdom that includes all races, languages, ethnicities, and nations. Have you ever been a part of a worship setting that looked like this?

- What personal worship preferences do we have that can prevent us from experiencing worship like this here on earth?

Have someone in your group read [Revelation 15:2-4](#)

Question 6: What is God being praised for in [Revelation 15:3-4](#)?

- How do these verses give hope and encouragement to the Church? To you?
- Why do you think that God’s glory and judgment are so often seen together?
- How do these two attributes of His character relate to one another?

Have someone in your group read [Revelation 19:1-8](#)

Question 7: In [verse 1](#), the great multitude lift up the attributes of God [*salvation, glory, power & judgment*] What specific attributes of God lead you to worship Him?

- Is it right to praise God for His judgment?

Question 8: In [chapter 19](#), we see a great multitude *“crying out - Hallelujah!”* In [verses 1, 3, 4 and 6](#), the Greek word *hallélouia* [Hallelujah] is used and means an *adoring exclamation or praise the Lord*. You might be surprised, but this word does not appear anywhere else in the New Testament.

- How should this “cry out” of praise shape our attitudes during our time of corporate worship?
- How should this “cry out” of praise shape our private times of worship?

BEGIN

Response and Prayer

At the end of the conversation, spend some time praying as a group.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Blue Letter Bible: [Revelation 4, 5, 7, 15 & 19:](#)

Check out the QR codes to learn more.



Precept Austin: [Revelation 4, 5, 7, 15 & 19:](#)

Check out the QR codes to learn more.



QUOTE

Why do Christians sing when they are together? The reason is, quite simply, because in singing together it is possible for them to speak and pray the same Word at the same time; in other words, because here they can unite in the Word. There should be singing, not only at devotions, but at regular times of the day or week.

The more we sing, the more joy will we derive from it, but, above all, the more devotion and discipline and joy we put into our singing, the richer will be the blessing that will come to the whole life of the fellowship from singing together.

It is the voice of the Church that is heard in singing together. It is not you that sings, it is the Church that is singing, and you, as a member of the Church, may share in its song. Thus all singing together that is right must serve to widen our spiritual horizon, make us see our little company as a member of the great Christian Church on earth, and help us willingly and gladly to join our singing, be it feeble or good, to the song of the Church.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer - Life Together