



WORSHIP IS THE ESSENCE OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

When we worship in Spirit and Truth, The Kingdom of God breaks in; at that moment we are truly living in the presence of the future.

John 4:23-24

23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

- ◆ In worship, we can enter the future "heavenly city", the New Jerusalem, now.

Hebrews 12:18-29

18 You have not come to a mountain that can be touched ...

22 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, 23 to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, 24 to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel...

*28 Therefore, since **we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,** 29 for our "God is a consuming fire."*

- ◆ John's glimpse into the worship in heaven. Revelation 4-5

- ◆ A throne room where worship of God never ends

Revelation 4:2-10

...there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. 3



By Him ... Through us ... For Him

And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian. A rainbow, resembling an emerald, encircled the throne. 4 Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. 5 From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder...

day and night they never stop saying:

"Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God Almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come."

9 Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne

◆ **The Lamb of God is revealed and myriads of angels join the worship**

Revelation 5:11-12

11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. 12 In a loud voice they sang:

"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!"

◆ **Finally John sees all creation joining in the worship**

Revelation 5:13-14

13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing:

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honor and glory and power,
for ever and ever!"

14 The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

◆ **Every time the elders behold God's glory, they fall to their faces in worship**

"The heart of biblical worship is surrender... The object of our worship is God Himself, nothing else."
--Don Williams

WORSHIP TRANSFORMS US

- ◆ Gazing on God's beauty and glory

Psalms 27:4

4 One thing I ask of the Lord,
this is what I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
and to seek him in his temple.

2 Corinthians 3:18 RSV

18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

- ◆ We become like what we worship

WORSHIP INVITES THE KINGDOM OF GOD TO BREAK IN WITH ALL ITS DYNAMIC POSSIBILITY

"Worship, in a very real sense of the word, opens a doorway to the power of His Presence, confounding dark powers and overthrowing sins destructive operations."
-- Jack Hayford, Manifest Presence

Isaiah 64:1-4 New Living Translation

4 1 Oh, that you would burst from the heavens and come down! How the mountains would quake in your presence!

2 As fire causes wood to burn and water to boil, your coming would make the nations tremble. Then your enemies would learn the reason for your fame!

3 When you came down long ago, you did awesome deeds beyond our highest expectations. And oh, how the mountains quaked!

4 For since the world began, no ear has heard, and no eye has seen a God like you, who works for those who wait for him!

"The living Church is God's means for advancing His redemptive purposes. Worship is at the core of that possibility." (ibid)

WE CAN ANTICIPATE THREE PROGRESSIONS IN OUR WORSHIP

- ◆ We worship, acknowledging the omnipresence of an awesome God
- ◆ We worship, welcoming the personal presence of an intimate God
- ◆ We worship, inviting the dynamic presence of the Kingdom of God