

## 12. The Message About the One on the Throne

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain the things that are found in this chapter of the Word of God. This is very important throughout the Bible, especially in the book of Revelation, because many people give their own opinions instead of letting the Word of God interpret itself. In this topic, we will see that the saints worship the Lord who sits on the throne.

Revelation 4:6-7 says, “Before the throne *there was* a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, *were* four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. The first living creature *was* like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature *was* like a flying eagle.” In heaven, the street of the city is pure gold. Revelation 21:21 says, “The twelve gates *were* twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city *was* pure gold, like transparent glass.” However, the area in front of the throne is like a huge piece of crystal instead of gold.

The only other place this word is used is in Revelation 22:1, where we read: “And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.” Here, we see that the crystal speaks of the fact that the river is a pure river of water of life. Everything that comes from Christ is pure and that is what makes it eternal. Christ explained this living water to the woman at the well. John 4:13-14 says, “Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.’” We see that we will enjoy that pure water forever because it gives eternal life.

We have the phrase “in the midst of the throne”. This phrase is also used in Revelation 5:6, where we read: “And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.” In Acts 7:56, we read, “and said, ‘Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!’” This verse shows us that the Father is on the throne and the Son is in the midst of the throne.

John also saw four living creatures around the throne. We see that each of these creatures was full of eyes. This meant that nothing escaped their notice. Ezekiel saw similar creatures in a vision given to him from God, while he was by the River Chebar. Ezekiel 1:10 says, “As for the likeness of their faces, *each* had the face of a man; each of the four had the face of a lion on the right side, each of the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and each of the four had the face of an eagle.” Here, we see the same four faces but in a somewhat different order. These living creatures worship with the saints that are gathered around the throne.

In the Old Testament, when Israel was in the wilderness, there were three tribes on each side of the tabernacle. Judah was the leader of the three tribes on the east and their symbol was the lion. Ephraim was the leader on the west and their symbol was the ox. Reuben was the leader on the

south and their symbol was a man. Dan was the leader on the north and their symbol was the eagle. In the New Testament, Christ is presented in four different ways that go along with these four animals. Christ is called the Lion of the tribe of Judah, and Matthew presented Him as the King. An ox (or calf) was their animal that carried heavy loads, and Mark presented Christ as the Servant. Luke presented Christ as the Son of Man. John presented Christ as the Son of God. Exodus 19:4 says, “You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself.” Then, Isaiah 40:31 adds, “But those who wait on the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” As the Son of God, Christ brought us to the Father and gave us life when we repented of our sin of unbelief and believed on Him.

Revelation 4:8 goes on to say, “*The* four living creatures, each having six 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!’” In Ezekiel 10, the creatures mentioned, in Ezekiel 1:10 above, are called cherubim. Ezekiel 10:15 says, “And the cherubim were lifted up. This *was* the living creature I saw by the River Chebar.” Then, Isaiah 6:1-2 says, “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* filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.” As a result, these living creatures around the throne are either cherubim or seraphim and both groups are angels.

We see that these living creatures (angels) do not rest but continually speak about the holiness of the Lord. Isaiah 6:3 goes on to tell us what the cherubim said in the vision given to Isaiah. That verse says, “And one cried to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy *is* the LORD of hosts; the whole earth *is* full of His glory!’” In the Old Testament, one of the names of Christ is the Lord of hosts. In fact, that name is used two hundred and forty-five times in the Old Testament with twenty-four of those uses in the book of Malachi. Malachi 3:1 says, “‘Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,’ says the LORD of hosts.” Christ makes it clear that this is talking about Him when He said to John, in Revelation 1:8, “‘I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End,’ says the Lord, ‘who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.’” Christ is the Lord God Almighty who was and is and is to come. That is why we see that the living creatures worship Him continually.

The statement “Who was and is and is to come” speaks of the eternal existence of Christ. John emphasized that same thought repeatedly as he wrote the Gospel of John. John 1:1-3 and 1:14 say, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” Instead, we see that Christ spoke all creation into existence. Each of the “I AMs” in the book of John speak of the eternal existence of Christ. John 8:58 says, “Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.’ Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.” The reason the Jews took

up stones to stone Him was due to the fact that they knew Christ was claiming His eternal existence, but they refused to believe in Him.

We also see that the saints will join with the living creatures by worshiping the Lord. Revelation 4:9-11 says, “Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 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: “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.” First, we see that the worship of the living creatures includes giving glory, honor and thanks to the Father as He sits on the throne. The verse quoted earlier from Revelation 5:6 shows that the Son is also in the midst of the throne. In addition, that verse says He has the seven Spirits of God.

Thus, the whole Trinity is present and receives the worship of the living creatures and the saints. Philippians 2:9-11 says, “Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Instead, we see that it will bring glory to the Father when every tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord. We see that the saints will cast their crowns before the throne as they speak of the fact that the Lord is worthy to receive glory, honor and power.

We also see that the whole Trinity has always worked in perfect unity. In the creation, in Genesis 1:1-3, we read, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.” Verse one tells us that God the Father willed the whole creation. Verse two tells us that God the Holy Spirit was hovering over the face of the waters. Verse three together with John 1:1-3 tell us that Christ is the One who actually spoke and created all things and caused them to come into existence. John 1:1-3 says, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.” That is why the worship given in these verses, in Revelation, will include the fact that the Lord is the Creator of all things and that it is by the will of the Lord that all things exist and were created.

We want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain why the Lord is the One who deserves all worship. Truly, the Lord is worthy to receive all glory, honor and power because of the fact that He created all things and it by His will that all things exist and were created. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to understand and explain these things.