

# Better Way Apostolic Church- Bible Class

## Subject: True Worshippers: Revelations 5:9-14

The only way to prepare the soil of the heart for the seed is to plow it up with conviction. That was why Jesus told her to go get her husband: He forced her to admit her sin. There can be no conversion without conviction. There must first be conviction and repentance, and then there can be saving faith. Jesus had aroused her mind and stirred her emotions, but He also had to touch her conscience, and that meant dealing with her sin. John 4: 24

Now we are able to enter into the worship experience described in the remainder of Revelation 5. And we will discover four compelling reasons why we worship Jesus Christ.

1. Revelation 4:2-3 **Because of who He is** (vv. 5-7). Three unique titles are given to our Lord to describe who He is. First, He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah. The reference here is to Genesis 49:8-10, where Jacob prophetically gave the scepter to Judah and made it the tribe of the kings.
2. Revelation 4:2-3 **Because of where He is** (v. 6). To begin with, Jesus is in heaven. He is not in the manger, in Jerusalem, on the cross, or in the tomb. He is ascended and exalted in heaven. What an encouragement this is to suffering Christians, to know that their Saviour has defeated every enemy and is now controlling events from glory! He too suffered, but God turned His suffering into glory.
3. Revelation 4:2-3 **Because of what He does** (vv. 8-10). When the Lamb came and took the scroll (see Daniel 7:13-14), the weeping ended and the praising began. God's people and the representatives of God's creation joined their voices in a new song of praise. Note that praise and Prayer were united, for incense is a picture of prayer rising to the throne of God (Psalms 141:2; Luke 1:10). We shall meet the "incense prayers" of the saints again (Revelation 6:9-11; 8:1-6).
4. Revelation 4:2-3 **Because of what He has** (vv. 11-14). In this closing burst of praise, all the angels and every creature in the universe joined together to worship the Redeemer. What a cascade of harmony John heard! In this hymn, they stated those things that Jesus Christ deserved to receive because of His sacrificial death on the cross. When He was on earth, people did not ascribe these things to Him; for many of these things He deliberately laid aside in His humiliation.

**He was born in weakness and He died in weakness;** but He is the recipient of all power. He became the poorest of the poor (2 Corinthians 8:9), and yet He owns all the riches of heaven and earth. Men laughed at Him and called Him a fool; yet He is the very wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:24; Colossians 2:3).

**He shared in the sinless weaknesses of humanity as He hungered, thirsted, and became weary.** Today in glory, He possesses all strength. On earth, He experienced humiliation and shame as sinners ridiculed and reviled Him. They laughed at His kingship and attired Him in a

mock robe, crown, and scepter. But all of that is changed now! He has received all honor and glory!

**And blessing! He became a curse for us on the cross** (Galatians 3:13), so that we can never be under the curse of the broken Law. (Some translations read "praise" instead of "blessing," but the Greek word carries both meanings.) He is worthy of all praise!

The worship service climaxed with all of the universe praising the Lamb of God and the Father seated on the throne!

And there was even a loud "Amen!" from the four living creatures! In heaven, we are permitted to say "Amen!"

### **Praise Him as Creator or Praise Him as Redeemer**

**Keep in mind that all of this praise centered on the Lord Jesus Christ, the Redeemer.** It is not Christ the Teacher, but Christ the Saviour, who is the theme of their worship. While an unconverted person could praise the Creator, he certainly could not sincerely praise the Redeemer.

All of heaven's praise came because the Lamb took the scroll from the Father's hand. God's great eternal plan would now be fulfilled and creation would be set free from the bondage of sin and death. One day the Lamb will break the seals and put in motion events that will eventually lead to His coming to earth and the establishment of His kingdom.

#### **Daniel 7:13-14**

13 "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence.

14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. NIV

As you share in these heavenly worship services, do you find your own heart saying "Amen!" to what they have sung.? You may believe in Christ as the Creator, but have you trusted Him as your Redeemer?

If not, will you do so right now?

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me" (Revelation 3:20).

Royal homage: --

I. THE SAINTS IN HEAVEN ARE ALL CROWNED. How is this?

1. They are all kings, Dei gratia. There is not a king in heaven that has his crown on any other terms than this, "by the sovereign grace of God."

2. But, though it may seem astonishing, they are all kings by hereditary descent. They have been born again, **and it is in their new nature that they are before the throne of God.**

3. They are also kings by marriage alliance. There is many a crowned head that would not have been so by descent, but has come to be so by being given in wedlock to a royal consort.

4. They are kings by right of conquest and of victory. A crown should signify, and did signify in the olden times, battling and contending. They are kings, then, because they have fought with sin and with temptation. Yea, the brightest of them have had to bear the brunt of fiercest persecutions.

5. Then the crowned heads in heaven have their crowns, and their crowns befit them well, because of the nobility of their character. They are sanctified, delivered from every taint of corruption, and now they are like their Lord Himself in holiness of character. Well should they be crowned whose character has thus been made glorious by the work of the Spirit of God within them!

**This is where commitment starts:**

6. And, once more, they have another right to their crowns, because those crowns represent real possessions. All things are theirs -- the gift of God -- and God is theirs and Christ is theirs. They are clothed with honour and majesty -- **not outwardly only but inwardly** -- and they have all the concomitants that should go with royal dignity.

**II. THEY ALL CAST THEIR CROWNS BEFORE THE THRONE.**

1. Solemn reverence. They see more of God than we do, therefore are they more filled with awe and thrilled with admiration. Our reverence will always make us feel in the lowliest state of self-abasement at the foot of the throne! **The closer you get to Him the more humble you become.**

2. Moreover, they are no doubt actuated by sincere humility. Reverence to God always brings a humble opinion of one's own self.

3. Doubtless, also, they do this for another reason, namely, because of their profound gratitude. They bless God that they are where they are, and what they are.

Above all, they are actuated by intense affection. They love their Lord, and loving their Lord they do anything to adore Him. They are glad to fling their richest goods, their choicest trophy, their most cherished treasure, at His feet: they love Him so.

**Our greatest encouragement for giving is that it pleases the Lord**, but there is nothing wrong with practicing the land of giving that provokes others to give. This does not mean that we should advertise what we do as individuals, because that kind of practice would violate one of the basic principles of giving give secretly to the Lord (Matthew 6:1-4).

**"Give, and it shall be given unto you," was our Lord's promise; and it still holds true** (Luke 6:38). The "good measure" He gives back to us is not always money or material goods, but it is always worth far more than we gave. Giving is not something we do, but something we are. Giving is a way of life for the Christian who understands the grace of God. The world simply does not understand a statement like. Proverbs 11:24: "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet but it tendeth to poverty." In grace giving, our motive is not "to get something," but receiving God's blessing is one of the fringe benefits.

The farmer who sows much seed will have a better chance for a bigger harvest The investor who puts a large sum of money in the bank will certainly collect more dividends. The more we invest in the work of the Lord, the more "fruit" will abound to our account (Philippians 4:10-20).

We reap as we sow, and we share God's miracle multiplication of what we give and do (2 Corinthians 9:10). The farmer has to decide how much seed he will keep for food, and how much he will plant. If the harvest has been lean, there is less seed available both for eating and planting. But the Christian who believes in grace giving never has to worry about this decision: God supplies all that he needs. There is always spiritual and material "bread" for the eating and spiritual and material "seed" for the sowing.

### III. PRACTICAL LESSONS.

1. By this text we can know whether we are on the way to heaven or not; because no man goes to heaven to learn for the first time heavenly things.
2. The next lesson is a lesson of unanimity. Our text says that all cast their crowns before the throne. There are no divided opinions in heaven, no sects and parties, no schisms there.
3. Once again, these redeemed ones in heaven teach us the true way of happiness. They set before us what perfect bliss is. There is no happiness beneath the clouds like the happiness of unselfishness. Strip yourself, and you clothe yourself. Throw, money away, and you grow rich -- I mean in a spiritual sense. Happiness, again, consists in adoration, for these blessed spirits find it to be their happiness to adore God. The happiest days you ever spent are those in which you worshipped God most. But then they were not merely happy because they were self-denying and adoring, but because they were practical. They took off their crowns and laid them before the throne. And our joy on earth must lie in practically carrying out our principles. Cast your ability to do and to suffer, as well as the crown of your labour and patience, at the foot of your God; serve Him with all your heart and wisdom and strength, and thus, **your self-denial** and adoration being mixed therewith, you shall realize on earth as much as possible a foretaste of what the joy of heaven may be.

The "Four Living Creatures" are not in the same class with the "Elders," for they have no "thrones" or "crowns" or "harps" or "golden vials." They are the "Guardians" of the Throne of God, and accompany it wherever it goes. Ez. 1:24-28. They are **four in number**, which is the "**earth number**," and therefore have something to do with the earth. That is, they are interested in the "**re-gensis**" of the earth to its former glory before the Fall. They have eyes **before** and **behind** and **within**, which reveals their intelligence and spiritual insight of things past, present, and to come, and they are tireless in their service, for they rest not day nor night, saying, "**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.**"

The first time these "Living Creatures" are mentioned in the Bible is in Gen. 3:24, where they are called "**CHERUBIM**," but are not described. They were placed at the entrance to the "Garden of Eden" to prevent the re-entrance of Adam and Eve, and to keep the way of the "Tree of Life." It would appear as if at the place where they were stationed there was a Tabernacle, a place of worship to which Cain and Abel resorted to make their offerings, and that it was from there that Cain went out from the "**PRESENCE OF THE LORD.**" Gen. 4:16.