

## THE EVOLUTION OF WORSHIP

---

### WORSHIP

4352. προσκυνέω **prōskunēō**, *pros-koo-neh'-o*; from 4314 and a prob. der. of 2965 (mean. to kiss, like a dog *licking* his master's hand); to *fawn* or *crouch to*, i.e. (lit. or fig.) *prostrate* oneself in homage (*do reverence to, adore*):—worship.

#### Easton's Bible Dictionary **Worship**

homage rendered to God which it is sinful (idolatry) to render to any created being

#### **Exodus 34:14 ESV**

<sup>14</sup> (for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God),

The Lord has established Himself as the sole receiver of our worship.

When we give our worship to anything else but God, we have created an idol.

### IDOLS

Idols can be tricky in our modern day because we don't have little statues. *Maybe you do, in which case, when you get home, throw those things away!*

**IDOL CHECK:** when you are stressed, what do you run to?

- friends
- media
- alcohol
- pornography
- shopping
- food
- etc

God is our source! He is the one place that we can run and be healed.

He is the one place we can bring our burdens and worries and he can shoulder them!

Anything else is an idol and false god, and imposter that will only provided a temporary patch with compounding interest on your unresolved issue.

## EVOLUTION OF WORSHIP

In the book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ, we see seven different times that worship is expressed throughout this vision.

Each time of worship is related to something and I felt led this week to bring this to our attention as we grow as a body in our expressions of worship.

### 1. CATCH A VISION OF JESUS

We are in the throne room as this point.

Up to this point though what has happened is John hears a voice behind him and is caught up in a vision.

The next thing that he sees is Jesus!

Jesus then writes seven letters to his churches, and those letters can be summed up in two words: **discipline & vision**.

Jesus disciplines (disciples) his followers to live according to His standard. Not theirs and not the world around them.

WHY?

He knows that His standard will bring eternal life.

## **DISCIPLINE & DISCIPLE**

### **Discipline**

:: to correct, to train

### **Disciple**

:: to teach, to train

This is expressed through Jesus words in one of the letters:

### **Revelation 3:19 ESV**

<sup>19</sup> Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.

### **Revelation 4:8-11 ESV**

<sup>8</sup> And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!” <sup>9</sup> And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, <sup>10</sup> the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, <sup>11</sup> “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

This worship comes forth because these creatures have seen Jesus.

## 2. HE IS THE ONE (AND ONLY)

A strong angel poses a question to all of creation: who is worthy to open the scroll and break the seals?

He says he has searched the whole earth and not a single one was found worthy.

This causes John to begin weeping at the thought that out of all of creation, not a single person was found worthy to open the scroll.

Then the Lion of the Tribe of Judah is presented and when John looks, he sees the image of lamb that had been slain.

He sees that the one who is found worthy was humble and willing to lay down his life.

### **Revelation 5:9–14 ESV**

<sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, <sup>10</sup> and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.” <sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup> saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” <sup>13</sup> And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” <sup>14</sup> And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

I love this! They sang a **NEW SONG**

*We'll talk more about the new song in a little bit.*

They began to worship Jesus for what he was doing in that moment!

When you receive breakthrough in your life, a new song should begin to pour out of you.

It's when you get the revelation that **ONLY GOD** could've made this happen.

It's not anything that you did in your strength, that you could've paid any amount of money for, you know that you know that you know, God made it happen.

*What if I don't sing...*

Ahh, it's not about the quality according to man's standard (the outward appearance), it's about the quality according to God's standard (the inward heart).

Whether it is a chant, rant, poem, song, rap...you begin to sing that **NEW SONG** to God for what He has done!

### **3. THE SALVATION OF THE LORD**

At the beginning of [Revelation 7](#), we see God seal up his people and mark them.

#### **Revelation 7:9-12 ESV**

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup> and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" <sup>11</sup> And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

This worship is Salvation based worship!

This is the worship that is poured out when you get saved.

Do you remember what your life was like Pre-Jesus? Before you had hope, before you knew **unconditional** love?

Then, do you remember when Jesus showed up in your life. That warmth you felt completely take over your body. The clearing of your mind. The Joy that flooded every fiber of your being. The weight that was lifted off of you. Some of you were instantly set free of addictions, some were healed, some had their mind renewed, some were given a second chance at life.

This worship includes **THANKSGIVING**

This worship expresses that **SALVATION BELONGS TO OUR GOD** alone!

#### **4. HIS KINGDOM ESTABLISHED**

A lot happens between [Revelation 7](#) and 11. What we see in the end though is that God **establishes His Kingdom.**

##### **Revelation 11:15–19 ESV**

<sup>15</sup> Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.” <sup>16</sup> And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, <sup>17</sup> saying, “We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign. <sup>18</sup> The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.” <sup>19</sup> Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.

Although His kingdom is not fully established on the Earth, we should worship each time more ground is added!

With every citizen that is added to the Kingdom, Heaven rejoices.

**Luke 15:7 ESV**

<sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

## **5. WORSHIP FROM AN INTIMATE PLACE**

**Revelation 14:1-5 ESV**

<sup>1</sup> Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. <sup>2</sup> And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, <sup>3</sup> and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. <sup>4</sup> It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, <sup>5</sup> and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

This is the worship song of intimacy.

This is not a worship that others will hear or see, and probably not understand.

Notice in vs. 3, it was a song that only the sealed knew.

They had made a commitment and covenant with the Lord, and out of that covenant relationship, they birthed a **NEW SONG** that only they and the Lord knew!

There is a unique and intimate worship that you bring before the Lord when you worship out of your personal history.

Unlike the worship of Salvation that we have all experienced, when you dive into the details of your life pre-Jesus, you will find that you string together a one-of-a-kind worship.

## **THE NEW SONG**

### **Psalm 33:3 ESV**

<sup>3</sup> Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

### **Psalm 40:3 ESV**

<sup>3</sup> He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

### **Psalm 96:1 ESV**

<sup>1</sup> Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!

### **Psalm 98:1 ESV**

<sup>1</sup> Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

### **Psalm 144:9 ESV**

<sup>9</sup> I will sing a new song to you, O God; upon a ten-stringed harp I will play to you,

### **Psalm 149:1 ESV**

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly!

### **Isaiah 42:10 ESV**

<sup>10</sup> Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise from the end of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that fills it, the coastlands and their inhabitants.

The Bible commands us to worship with a new song because our God is always doing something new!

He is the wellspring of Life!

He is the well that NEVER runs dry!

The Lord does not give us stale bread, he gives us fresh bread, new mercies, and our worship should be fresh and new!



## 6. THE WORSHIP OF TRANSITION

When we go through seasons of transition, there is a worship that we ascribe to Him!

### Revelation 15:2-4 ESV

<sup>2</sup> And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. <sup>3</sup> And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, “Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! <sup>4</sup> Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.”

### THE SONG OF MOSES

The song(s) of Moses are both in seasons of transition.

**SoM 1** ([Ex 15:1-21](#)) is the transition out of Egypt

- deliverance to promise

**Som 2** ([Deut 31:30-32:43](#)) is the transition from Moses to Joshua

- consecration to cultivation

In Revelation we see the song of Moses being sung here because transition is taking place from world ruling to kingdom ruling.

The world loses its power, and God is in full control.

This worship comes out of us as we continue to live a **sanctified** life.

**Sanctification** is the process of setting yourself apart for the worship of God.

This happens as we rid our life of false idols.

## 7. THE CONSUMATION!

We have made it to the end and all the enemies have been defeated, there is no more death, no more sorrow, no more weeping...

### **Revelation 19:1–8 ESV**

<sup>1</sup> After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, <sup>2</sup> for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants.” <sup>3</sup> Once more they cried out, “Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever.” <sup>4</sup> And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, “Amen. Hallelujah!” <sup>5</sup> And from the throne came a voice saying, “Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great.” <sup>6</sup> Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. <sup>7</sup> Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; <sup>8</sup> it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure” — for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

This is a worship that we are looking forward too!

It is a worship that we haven't known and will not know on this Earth.

It is a worship when every tribe, tongue, nation, and creature will come together in unity and lift up the most glorious shout, praise, worship, celebration in history.

This is the “you may kiss the bride” moment of the wedding!

## CLOSING

### **Psalm 73:23–28 ESV**

<sup>23</sup> Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. <sup>24</sup> You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory. <sup>25</sup> Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. <sup>26</sup> My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. <sup>27</sup> For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you. <sup>28</sup> But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.

## RECAP

1. Catch a Vision of Jesus
2. He is the One (and only)
3. He is Our Salvation
4. His Kingdom is Established
5. Worship in Intimacy (your worship is unique)
6. Worship in Transition
7. The Consumation