

Revelation 5 The Worship of the Lamb

“Worship of God is the theme of Scripture, the theme of eternity, the theme of redemptive history. Redemption can be viewed as the transformation of a false worshipper into a true worshipper. We get into trouble when we try to make God too much like what we know. The foundation upon which true worship is based is redemption. The supreme objective in the salvation of sinners is an eternal display of the glory of God. In the grand scheme of redemption, one of the principal things God is doing is transforming sinners into worshippers.” John MacArthur, *Worship: The Ultimate Priority*

The worship in heaven is pure and simple. It’s all about Jesus, the lamb who was slain to secure God’s redemptive purposes and win people from every nation to Himself.

Biblical worship tells a story. Worship should move you toward a greater understanding of and appreciation for God’s Son, your Savior Jesus. Biblical worship tells the story of Jesus in such a way that you are introduced again to the person of Jesus, your need for Jesus, the sacrifice of Jesus and the gift of life that you have received in Jesus. When that story is told effectively, and you respond by allowing your heart to move closer to God – you have worshipped.

There are five great movements of worship in Revelation 4 & 5.

Rev 4 – Proclamation of God’s holiness
Rev 4 – Worth of God to receive worship

Rev 5 – Adoration of Jesus as the Lamb of God
Rev 5 – Worth of the Lamb to receive worship
Rev 5 – A blessing to the Lamb

If you think worship is about how you feel, you’ve missed it. If you think worship should be a specific style or contain specific songs or instruments or have enough rhythm to get you going, you’ve missed it. Biblical worship declares the worthiness of God to be worshipped.

Notice that worship is a response to God.

The angelic beings and those who have been saved look upon God and Jesus and their response is to worship. They declare the worth of God to be worshipped and they tell the story of Jesus.

What we have here in Rev 4 & 5 is proclamation. Angels and people are responding to what they see. Their response is to proclaim the worthiness of God and His Son to be worshipped.

What they say and what they sing is in sharp contrast to some of the current distortions of the gospel message that are being offered in our culture. At the very core of their proclamation is a shattering of all ideas of human sufficiency. In proclaiming God alone to be holy and ascribing worth to Jesus as the sacrificial Lamb to be worshipped there is implied a confession of the sin that led to the necessity of the Lamb being sacrificed.

We should never stop marveling at this great, great story of a God who loved people so much that He couldn’t leave them in their lost condition, but He sent His Son to be a sacrificial lamb. If that story evokes an eternity of profound worship amongst angelic beings who didn’t have to be saved as well as the saints who have already been saved then that story must be told because that is the only story that will move us to worship God today.

You should have noticed by now that the Book of Revelation preaches the same gospel as the rest of the NT preaches. All of history depends on the cross, the central event in God's plan of salvation.

Home Group Discussion Questions:

- 1) What new ideas came to you through the reading and proclamation of Rev 4 & 5?
- 2) What are you learning about personal worship and/or worship with your Church family?
- 3) Do you see yourself as a worshipper of God? Read John 4:1-26 with a focus on v24.
- 4) What are some reasons why God would place Jesus as the object of worship in heaven?
- 5) Do you ever trip over style or personal preferences and feel as if you didn't worship in Church that day? Is that truly a commentary on what happened in Church or what happened in your heart?