

Series	Gamma 16 – Study 6
Topic	The Worship of God
Reference	Revelations 4
Date	4 November 2020
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Good evening brothers and sisters in Christ. Welcome back to Gamma study 6. Today, we will be looking at Revelations chapter 4, focusing on the worship of God. Before we begin, let's start with a word of prayer.

Lord, we ask this evening that you show us from your word, fill us with your spirit to understand what happens at the center of heaven. It is the worship of God. We ask all this for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Now let's start off today's study. Very interesting, looking at heaven. Chapter 4 verse 1,

1 After this I looked, and **behold**, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."

Here we have John suddenly given a vision of where God dwells, the spiritual timeless dimension of heaven. And the features of this heavily seen that we see, first of all, there is God in his throne, elders and then the four living creatures. What are they doing? And why does it matter to us? The imagery is taken from the Old Testament. Ezekiel, Daniel, Isaiah and all this will combine to give us some understanding of what happens in heaven. And I guess it's very hard to depict what happens because we're using analogical language because we have no conception of heaven otherwise, because God is omnipotent all powerful God.

Let's look at God on his throne. There was a story told some time ago where a cat died and went to heaven. While on tarty gates and St. Peter was there, , and he said to the cat, "Cat, you have having a very tough life. You know. You are living in a poor part of India and you've been lying down on a cold hard floor all the time. As a reward when you are in heaven, I am going to give you a big cushy cushion. So you can rest there for the rest of eternity." And the cat was very happy, would settle down and snug into its little pillow. And then that was it.

And the next bunch of people was six mice, who also died and came up to heaven and Peter said to them, you know, you're having a tough time in life. You'd be running, running from cats, running from women with brooms. I think you need a break. What am I going to do to give you? I'm going to give you six roller skaters so that you have a nice time in heaven, gliding away. So he gave them six brand new roller skates. Next time St Peter came back to check out on the cat and see how it is doing. He said to that, Mr Cat how are you doing? Do you like your pillow? "Oh, I love the pillow said the cat". I even loved much better the pillow, those meals on wheels that you send along my way.

Now this is a comical disposition of what heaven's going to be like and we all have got our various ideas of what heaven is like. Some years ago, there was a young boy called Colin Burpo who was about four or five years old when he actually had died during a surgical operation appendicitis, had a near death experience and he claimed to have been transported to heaven. And he wrote about this and became a best seller, New York Times bestseller for some time. And he described the scene in heaven in his eyes, and he went to heaven if was full of light and he met Jesus Christ who actually help them with his

homework. There was a multicolored rainbow horse. He met his long lost sister who was actually he never met before because she was miscarried. His mother had miscarriage some years ago and this was the sister that was actually miscarried. He met his great grandfather, grandfather who had not actually met for a long time. He made his friends, heaven was fun and everybody had wings. Some wings were larger than others and the old people were flying around. So he wrote this book and it became a bestseller.

Now there are other stories and testimonies of people who have claimed to have gone to heaven. A book by Don Piper some time ago was called 90 Minutes in Heaven where he actually died for 90 minutes in a car crash as attested by paramedics and after a prayer by a passing pastor he actually came to life again. And he described coming to heaven, meeting all the people, all his old long lost friends, which he had missed for such a long time, recognizing them, having a great time in heaven. Of course there are others who have actually described going to hell, but they're all these descriptions. Do they actually authenticate the heaven experience.

In 1839 there was a boat captain called John Troot, who also in a fit of severe illness claimed to have died and become very ill and gone to heaven; place with bright lights and he saw all his friends. You see John Troot was not a Christian before he had this experience and after this experience he was more convinced that you don't actually need Jesus Christ to go to heaven. Are these events, are these testimonies a confirmation that heaven exists. What about scenes from the other parts of the Bible scenes where people have encountered heaven?

Paul encountered heaven. We read this in 2-Corinthians chapter 12 verses 2 onwards.

2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. 3 And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— 4 and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter.

So Paul obviously knows of a man and he's actually obliquely referring to himself that he has been to heaven, but it is so wonderful that he will not actually utter it. Then you've got the parable of the poor beggar outside the door of the rich man and when Jesus concludes the parable, he says to him,

31 He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'

Which means stories of people rising from the dead and then going to heaven do not necessarily authenticate heaven, only scripture authenticates heaven. In fact, this doubting Thomas whom Jesus said to him, after he had physical evidence of Jesus' resurrection.

He says, have you believed because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed

In today's scene is John given the scene of heaven and taking us there and it is an account because this is a scripture that we could actually identify with and also believe. Now let's look,

2 At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. 3 And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.

So here you have a focus in heaven on God and the most important word there is the throne repeated three times. There is a throne. In Isaiah 6:1

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple

Ezekiel 1:26

And above the expanse over the heads there was a likeness of a throne in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was a likeness with human appearance.

So each time there is a throne. Daniel chapter seven,

9 “As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow,

So each time, there is a throne. The throne is a center of power. It's a control center. Now if you look here at the scheme of Revelations. Revelations, chapter four to five, it precedes the rest of revelations, which talk about the judgments of the seals, the trumpets, and the bowls. And why does, John put it in this particular section? It is to tell us that this is the control center that actually controls all the events through the rest of Revelations, all the way to eternity. That is why these two chapters are placed here.

Going to heaven is like getting into the cockpit of a very turbulent plane. It's being buffeted, got big bangs due to lightning and thunder and you don't know whether we're going to survive and then suddenly you walk into the cockpit and the cockpit is where you see the pilot, you see the person in control who will then reassure you. That's why wherever you are in a plane, when there's a lot of turbulence, it is a captain who actually stays. Don't worry folks. We're going through a wee bit of turbulence, nothing to worry about and when you hear that you feel calm and that's what happens.

The throne is a place that conveys majesty, authority, beauty and glorious. You can see in Queen's Elizabeth throne. It projects power. So all these are features that is the why the vision consists of a throne. Then we got the appearance of God.

2 At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. 3 And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.

So here we have God peering like jasper and I want to fast forward to Revelations 21.

10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

Here we have the glory of God described by that gemstone called jasper, which we think is like diamonds. And all these gemstones are the breastplate of Aaron, the high priest. There is also Carnelian and there is also the Emerald, which is the color of the rainbow.

Some years ago I was in Turkey at the Constantinople. There was a big palace there called the Dolmabahce Palace. There in the middle of the palace was the largest bohemian crystal chandelier in the entire world. It was actually given to the emperor there by Queen Victoria some years ago. It had

750 lamps and weight actually 4.5 tons. Huge and the light that it gave was tremendous, but this is a light that is reflected off the crystals. The light that you actually have in God is there, verse 3

3 And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian,

You don't need light bulbs or electricity. He himself radiates that light. The light, the glory is intrinsic. It was not reflected. Verse 3,

and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.

Now, why would you actually have a rainbow on top of God in the throne. Was it raining on that day? No, the rainbow was the first sign after the flood to Noah that God had hung up his bow and this bow was a promise that God would keep his covenant, that there will be no more destruction on earth by flood. Which means it reminds the people of God when you actually look up the throne, you see the rainbow, it reminds us even in the midst of judgment of God, God will remember and be gracious because of his covenant with his people.

Now let's read on. If you look in at chapter 21 verse 18. You've got a description of the new heavens and new earth with Jerusalem, and you can see all the emeralds and all the precious stones; sapphire, emerald, carnelian, chrysolite and beryl. These are all symbols of the new impending new creation that's going to be coming.

5 From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, 6 and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal.

So seven spirits of God, we have already gone through that in chapter 1. The fullness of God spirit was present in the scene in heaven. From the throne came flashes of lightning and thunder and peals of thunder. And this is basically judgment. If you look at Revelations eight and also Revelation 16, lightning and thunder are signs of actual judgment of God and when this all thunder comes from the throne of God, it reminds the church that even though they are persecuted, the center of all power, the control of all the judgment actually comes from God himself. Way back then in the Mount Sinai is described by Moses in chapter 19 verse 18.

18 Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the Lord had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. 19 And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder.

So therefore God is surrounded. God is awesome frightful God where judgment is also part of his love and we often forget that. If you look in Ezekiel chapter 1 verse 27

27 And upward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were gleaming metal, like the appearance of fire enclosed all around.

So here God is surrounded by fire. The throne described by Daniel, in the throne are fiery flames coming out from the throne as well. Now around the throne there was also the glassy sea. The sea of glass like crystal and you need to understand why this is there. In Hebrew culture the sea is described as a place of tumultuous chaos of evil. In Revelations the sea is a dwelling place of the dragon or the sea monster or the beast that arises from the sea itself. So, this is the reality of evil and when you have the glassy sea, it means that the sea which is a place of evil in front of the throne is already calm down by

the power of God. Revelations 15:2

2 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. 3 And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb,

So here we actually have a picture of triumphant church standing there and they have got the song of Moses, which is Exodus, the salvation Exodus and the song of the lang, which is salvation of the lamb, and what appeared before them was this chaotic sea, which is now calm by the power of God. So, the glassy sea is a symbol of the victory of God and the control and sovereignty of God. So, the next thing that we actually see back here is these elders.

So with seen the throne with God on the throne with a rainbow above lightning thunder of his judgment, and is basically full of his glory. In the next part of this vision, it is the 24 elders. And these are, you know, we don't know who they are. There are only two possibilities, they are either exalted saints or angels or heavenly beings, right. And these heavenly beings represent the church.

4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads.

So you've got 24. Why the number 24? Well, the old Testament background of 24 is King David had 24 orders of priests in Chronicles. The Levitical gatekeepers were basically 24 and the Levites served the priests. Levitical worship leaders were also 24. So, there is a symbol, 24 is a symbol of priesthood. Around the throne were 24 elders, and these were seated on thrones, which means they were ruling and they were clothed in white garments and golden crowns on their heads.

Now, triumphant Christians in Sardis, Revelations 3:5, Jesus says to them,

The one who conquers will be clothed in white garments.

So therefore white garments indicates the saints who have actually conquered.

And I will never blot the name out on the book of life.

And then to the Christians in Smyrna, he says he writes. Revelation 2:10b,

Be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life.

So white garments and crowns are actually given to believers and not angels. And if you look at the new Jerusalem in chapter 21, that's fast forward. Verse 12 onwards.

12 It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed—... 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

So you have got 12 tribes of Israel. You get names of 12 apostles, which then actually is symbolic of the whole of God's people. Revelations 15, remember that scene where they actually stand by the glassy sea and they sing, these are believers sing the song of Moses, which is a salvation from Egypt and the song of the lab salvation from sin and death. So they are together. So, this salvation spans all of God's people that spans the two testaments. Matthew 19 verse 28 Jesus said to his disciples,

Truly, I say to you in the new world, when the son of man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on 12 thrones, judging the 12 tribes of Israel.

And in Luke 22:29 as well. So therefore it would seem that people sit on these 12 thrones, white garments, crowns refer to humans. So these 24 elders were representative believers, humans. They're not angels. They're representatives of the church and its character as the universal priesthood of believers. Now let's move on. Then you've got God on the throne, 24 elders, and then you've got the four living creatures.

Now verse six

6 ...on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: 7 the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. 8 And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all

This is similar to the experience and vision of Ezekiel. Ezekiel describes,

Ezekiel 1:7 ... And they sparkled like burnished bronze. 8 Under their wings on their four sides they had human hands. And the four had their faces and their wings thus: 9 their wings touched one another. Each one of them went straight forward, without turning as they went. 10 As for the likeness of their faces, each had a human face. The four had the face of a lion on the right side, the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and the four had the face of an eagle.

Ezekiel chapter 10,

14 And every one had four faces: the first face was the face of the cherub, and the second face was a human face, and the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle.

This is Isaiah's vision.

Isaiah 6:2 Above him stood the seraphim (kind of angel). Each had six wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew

So this is all consistent that the four living creatures are basically the higher order of angelic beings, why because they stand next to the throne. They are representative of the whole of created order and if you look in Revelations chapter 5, you will find that they are direct servants of the lamb and the lamb opens a seal. They commands opening a seal and they will open the seal. Full of eyes and we know from symbolism, we are full of eyes, basically are omniscience. They see everything all over the world.

In fact, they search the earth to execute God's judgment on sinners. What do they all do? Well, if you could seed in a scene here in Revelation chapter four, the four living creatures worship God for who he is, his attributes. The 24 elders worship God for God's work of creation and if you look down here,

8 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!" 9 And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever,

So they are worshiping God, which means God is above and separate from every thing else in the entire

universe. He is a separate category by himself. Holy, holy, holy only applies to God and we are people of God. We are then also set apart to be like him Holy. Lord God almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.

Nebuchadnezzar was a king of Babylon who have encountered with Daniel and what happens was, because of his arrogance the Lord punished him and he grew mad and went out in the fields and ate grass. For many years, grew his hair long. And then one day he actually regained his senses and he learned his lesson. This is what he said, Daniel 4:34

34 At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; 35 all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"

Here he recognizes that above him there is someone who is more powerful. Why? Because this person is forever. His dominion is forever. His kingdom is forever. And if you contrast this to what the seven churches were going through that time, there were under the rulership of Roman emperors, but each Roman emperor, no matter how powerful they were, were actually limited in their time. Augustus ruled for 41 years. Tiberius ruled for 23 years. Caligula was assassinated after four years. Claudius 13 years. Nero 14 years committed suicide. Galba one year assassinated. Otho one year assassinated. Domitian 14 years, was assassinated.

Look at our own country. Tunku 13 years. Abdul Razak 6 years. Hussein Onn 5 years. The longest was Mahatir. It would seem as if Mahatma would last forever. Maybe Mahatir would apply. Imagine if we were 2018 and we look at Mahatir who was and is and maybe is to come we don't know, but maybe not. Now you look at the elder and their worshipping.

9 And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 10 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, 11 "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."

So they've got the crowns. What is this crown? Well, the Patheon King Tiridates actually put his crown before the emperor Nero, why, no choice because he was defeated and he needed Nero's protection and is done by force. You actually have athletes who win prizes. They have crowns put on their heads. You also have crowns of believers. Revelation 2:10,

be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Paul describes,

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness,

So the seven churches, each of them Jesus says to them, to the one who conquers, which means a crown. I will grant him to sit with me on my throne. They share the crown. So therefore the crown is emblematic symbolic of human, faith, courage and endurance because the crown that we as believers has is always a crown of thorns, anticipating the crown of gold in the end. We take all this and we

throw it before the throne, because we acknowledge that our faith, our courage, our endurance, our victory actually is not ours, it actually belongs to God.

So here we have the 24 elders falling down before God and acknowledging. They survive, they overcame, they had the faith because of what God has done for them. And they worship,

11 “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.”

And here when they're worshipping these 24 elders in heaven worshipping, they're actually the heavenly dimension of the earthly Church already present. They represent us. And when we worship, they are worshipping as well and they are right next to the throne of God. Their proximity to the power of the throne means that we too like them are proximity to the power of God available for our protection. Their crowns and white robes and thrones anticipate one day that we too will have the crowns, the robes, which they when we actually persevere. So when our weekly worship, whether it is online or physically, there is a heavenly dimension and this should encourage us when we actually come together and worship.

So, here we have the elders worshipping,

11 “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things,

The Emperor Domitian would require all the subjects to come before him, and they are saying, You are worthy and they have to actually worship him. We talk about the concept of worthiness. The concept of worthiness in theological terms is somebody who is with praise or what should be because it's fitting appropriate or morally beautiful. Because if you will look at applying it to the saints. In revelations 3:4

4 Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy.

Does worthy mean deserving? Not necessarily. It means that they are morally appropriate or beautiful because these people who are basically believers, just like us in Saudis are actually sinners. If you actually look at that, what do we actually deserve? We actually deserve death and separation from God, but why does Jesus call them worthy. He is calling them worthy because of the victory of the lamb, because the lamb's blood was spilled and so therefore it's actually morally appropriate to consider them as worthy. Same thing as unrighteous people, Revelation 16:9, these are describing unbelievers,

9 They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.

It is actually morally appropriate or beautiful because of their unrighteousness to deserve the punishment. Here is a picture of that mass killer, the serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer. He was actually found to have murdered 16 people, chopped them up and actually ate them up. He was a horrible person. And some years ago, he actually was supposed to have come to know Christ. Imagine Jeffrey Dahmer clothed in white robes. Do you think this serial killer is worthy? In fact, someone said if Dahmer is in heaven, I don't want to be there, as if Dahmer was there because of the merits of what he had done. No, Roy Ratcliff was the pastor in the Mandrake Road Church of Christ who was he called Jeffrey Dahmer's prison cell, because Jeffrey Dahmer had confessed to sin and repented of his evil and he came to know the Lord and tragically he was actually murdered in prison some time ago.

Now worthy to receive, glory, honor and power. Glory is that outward beauty, the greatness, the visible light of God. Honor is his intrinsic worth and dignity. Power is that enormous strength channeled through this outward brightness and inner dignity and worth of God. That's been channeled. Worthy to receive.

Now some time ago when I was a young child in school, Queen Elizabeth came to visit us. I think there was some time in the 80s. They lined up all the school kids, federal highway I remember we were lining up there and as the queen trundled by her Rolls Royce, all of us were waving Malaysia flags and all that and I was thinking, I spent the whole morning, very hot sweating. All of us here to make her look good. Isn't it. If we were created for God's glory, is God actually using us. I mean a lot of Greek gods wanted glory and worship from the people, as if God's actually need us. In fact, when we talk about magnifying glory. What does it mean by magnifying glory? I means you take a microscope and you magnify what is small to become big. Is that right?

Actually this is a wrong concept of magnifying God. What is a better concept is if you look here the picture of the Hubble telescope, you go up there and what looks like just tiny dots in the sky, which you can see with your naked eyes is now blown up to a beautiful, beautiful array of colors, we can actually see through the furthest depths of the universe. And even that is not enough. So when we actually worship God, when we give him glory, what we're doing is actually we are trying to get an approximation of his greatness and then reveling in that, enjoying that, experiencing that.

Hiroshi Miyamura was a very famous American soldier during the Korean war. He was famous because what he did was amazing. He was a couple of miles outside Seoul during the Korean war, when everybody around him was being killed, he actually sent all his soldiers in this machine gun pit away because they were wounded. He wanted them to safe and alone he sat there and started shooting all night. At the end of the encounter, he probably shot 50 Chinese soldiers who were rushing him. And after finishing all this bullets, you don't want, he did. He jumped out of the machine gun pit and he charged the enemy. Hand to hand combat. He was wounded, actually sent into a communist prison for two years and actually survived. When he came back, they gave him the medal of honor.

Now, wherever he goes people salute him, give him the kind of honor and the medal of honor is actually the government's response to this man's action. Whether they actually gave him the medal of honor actually makes no difference because he actually did all those things. When you actually look at God, when we worship God there is an intrinsic reality of who God is, whether you acknowledge it or whether you don't acknowledge it. Same like Hiroshi Miyamura, whether they acknowledge it or he gets a metal or he didn't get metal, he actually did all those things.

There is an intrinsic reality of who God is, he is full of glory, external glory, the honor and power that's there. When we actually worship, there is a subjective reality of God. We're like the telescope, grasping at some aspect of God that we are aware of. We need to see that glory and even then as with humans we only catch a glimpse of it and then we actually respond. Worship is responding, which means we respond with recognition verbally and physically. Verbally is we express joy, exaltation, admiration, obedience because we submit to this glory that we have just seen.

The intrinsic reality also of what God has done in creation. All of creation responds to being created with praise and adoration. That's why they say for you created all things by your will they exist and were created.

6 I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, 7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

The purpose of creation. The purpose of us being on this planet is not an accident. We are created for God's glory. In fact, Jonathan Edwards writes that

God's goal, His mission is to be glorified above all else. The praise and worship of God is the purpose for which He created the world.

Now, some of you say, Oh my goodness, God's number one purpose in life is to be praised and glorified, and worship, isn't that a little bit self-serving. Well, if you actually think about it, the greatest person in entire universe is God, everything else created by God. What do you expect God to do? You got to worship something less than himself. If God worships something less than himself, you know what that's called, that's called idolatry. So the purpose of life for which all life exists in this planet and beyond is to glorify God, to treasure him, to praise him, to trust him, to love him in what he values which is himself above all else. And this is what the picture of heaven is trying to tell us.

We need today to rediscover our purpose as image bearers with our praise and our lives. The central focus of heaven should be the central focus of the church on earth. The church on earth is basically a reflection of the church in heaven. If the 24 elders are laying before the King of Kings, their crowns and their lives and they are singing the praise, shouldn't we be doing the same, because the same agenda is there.

The universe revolves around God, not us. Sometimes we're so focused. We are not focused on who he is and what he has done for us. We're focused on our own things. If we really focus on this main thing, we will have fearless faith and humble faith. We'll have confidence in sovereignty and yet humble in our dependence. We won't be sitting down and say, whenever something bad happens, we'll say God is not fair, actually if anything bad happens to us, actually we deserve to suffer because we decided to sin. The essence of sin is doing right by our own eyes, declaring that we are the masters of the universe and not God.

So understanding who is really in control of the world affects how we see ourselves. We are not going to be focused on our own dignity and self-worth without mentioning our sinfulness. That means we will be too proud. We won't be doing that. And then we also won't be focusing on utter worthlessness and sinfulness, with the only in note that our dignity comes from God's grace. In fact, you can see the perfect balance in how we see ourselves in the life of Paul. Paul says in 1-Cor 15:9-10,

For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to called an apostle...

That's the kind of humility because he recognize he is a sinner. He was a persecutor of the church. He actually murdered people. I don't deserve to be called an apostle. I am the least. And yet he doesn't wallow in his sin and despondency but by the grace of God, I am what I am and his grace to me was not without effect.

A true Christian has a true balance and view of himself. He is not full of himself, because he understands there is sin and he is not groveling and despondent and has no self-esteem. Why? Because his self-esteem is built up because of the loving grace of God, actually forgave him a sin.

Lastly, it's very important that we keep worship at the center of focus. Because we will become what we worship.

Psalm 115:4-8.

4 Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands.

5 They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see.

6 They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell.

7 They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat.

8 Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.

You see the vision and heaven not only gives us some idea and experience of power and majesty and control and sovereignty of God, we need to emulate that. You see, we become what we worship. I remember as a child, you know, young children they always emulate what they actually admire. Teenage Mutant Ninjas, remember that time? I remember my brother getting all excited and whenever that show will come on and then he will dress like a Teenage Mutant Ninja. For my generation, we were like Ultraman, you know, doing this because we admire Ultraman. And so we became as aggressive as Ultraman and as powerful as Ultraman.

We become what we admire and the danger is that if we do not focus on what we're actually created to admire and worship God then we will become lesser. We will worship the creation. If we worship supermodels, we will be superficial. If worship rich tycoons, we will be aggressive, materialistic and greedy. So brothers and sisters in Christ Revelations 4 reminds us who we are and what we are created for.