

Revelation Lesson 5

Reading: Revelation 4-5

Memory Verse: Revelation 4:11

Definitions:

Worship – celebrating who God is and what He does, telling and showing Him that He is of supreme value to us.

Rapture – when Christ returns and believers rise to meet Him in the air

Attributes – characteristics.

Redemption – deliverance by payment of a price. Jesus paid the penalty of our sin and made us His very own.

Honor – value, respect, importance.

After reading the lesson, answer the questions using the following link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdGcT8PVEZOcp3eYCJEFsndGC4F6DfmOCt8WcgEQCM2npr6_w/viewform?usp=sf_link

He Is Worthy!

What do you think of when someone mentions worship? Check all the following that apply.

- A Sunday morning church service as listed in the bulletin
- Prayer and Scripture reading with other Christians
- Prayer and Scripture reading by yourself
- A powerful sermon
- Hymn singing accompanied by a piano or organ
- Praise choruses accompanied by a guitar or band
- Testimonies around a campfire
- A small-group Bible study
- Meditating while looking at God's creations in nature
- Something else _____

Whatever your picture of worship is, it is probably different than the one in the book of Revelation.

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In chapter 4, the church disappears (is raptured), and the scene shifts to heaven. There we observe how others worship the Almighty.

Worship the Creator (4:1-11)

Chapter 4 begins the third section of this book as outlined in 1:19: *what will take place later*. Christ invited John into heaven to see what would happen in the future. Before viewing the judgments that will take place after the rapture, John's vision takes him into God's throne room.

Object of worship (vs. 2-3, 5-6)

God on His throne in heaven pictures his sovereignty, or control over everyone and everything. He is in charge of the universe, no doubt about it. This fact sets the scene for the judgments to come. The rainbow around his throne is a reminder of the scene at Mount Sinai when God gave Moses the law. Also present is the Holy Spirit, represented by seven lamps before God's throne.

Worshippers (vs. 4-8a)

The throne is surrounded by 24 elders and four living creatures with six wings. The elders may stand for the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 disciples, representatives of all of God's people. Their white clothing symbolizes the righteousness of Christ, and their gold victors' crowns are rewards for their faith.

Many Bible scholars think the four living creatures represent God's characteristics. The lion is His omnipotence and glory; the ox, His patients on man's behalf; the man, His intelligence; and the flying Eagle, His sovereignty. Their multiple eyes indicate that God sees everything.

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Worship (vs. 8b-11)

Regardless of who these people and creatures are, the important fact is that they worship God. They celebrate God's attributes of holiness, power, eternity, and worthiness, as well as his work of creation.

Worship the Redeemer (5:1-14)

John not only sees God the father in the throne room of heaven, but also the Lamb (Christ) who died for our sins.

Object of Worship (vs. 1-7)

God holds a sealed scroll in his right hand. This rolled-up scroll, written on both sides, contains the prophecies of future events. Like a Roman wheel or a title deed, only the heir can open the seals. But no man worthy enough can be found to break the seals and read the prophecies. And until it is opened, God's plan for men cannot be completed. Therefore, John cries.

But an elder assures John the Christ, the Lion of the tribe of Judah and Root of David, is qualified to open the seals. These titles identify Him as the sovereign and eternal Messiah. But He is also the Lamb of God who paid the price of redemption from sin with his death. His seven horns indicate perfect power, and his seven eyes, perfect knowledge.

Worshippers (vs. 8, 11, 13-14)

Thousands of angels and all creatures everywhere joined the 24 elders and four living creatures in worshipping Christ the Redeemer.

Worship (vs. 9-10, 12-13)

The worshippers focus on his work of redemption as well as his worthiness to open the seals and receive worship. And they praise him for his *power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!* (v. 12). Truly he is worthy of all these and much more.

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So what are you giving him?

Fast Fact

In chapters 4 and 5, John takes us into God's throne room. There we need to pause and see what God is like and what he has done for us before we can understand the rest of the book of Revelation. Read again Revelation 4:8b-11; 5:9-10 and 5:12-13. As you do so, praise God along with the elders and created beings.

Buckle it in

When you get to heaven, you will spend a lot of time worshiping God throughout eternity. Why not start now? What can you do this week to begin to make worship a greater part of your life? If you need help, talk to your parents, Sunday school teacher, or youth leader.

Worship involves giving God our best with all we have because he is worthy. How can you show you belong to a worthy guide? Think of at least two ways in each of the categories below.

- Speech
- Actions
- Attitudes

On the street

There are many ways to worship. You can do it with reference as in Psalm 95:6: *Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.*

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You can do it with loud rejoicing as in Psalm 33:1-3: *Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upper right to praise Him. Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre. Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.*

You can do it in a quiet humility as in Psalm 46:10: *Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.*

But you should always keep in mind that the Lord is worthy of glory, honor, and power. Spend some time reflecting on the fact that the God who created the world with a simple word loves you personally and is waiting to hear from you.