

#9 - 7/29/2018 - Bible Study notes**I. A Daily prayer of praise and worship of God – Holy, Eternal, Worthy, and Creator!**

Revelation 4:1-11...¹ *After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things.”*

Jesus spoke to John and he had an open door to see activities in heaven. John looked and saw God on the throne, surrounded by four living creatures, and 24 elders. The elders are probably representative of the 12 sons of Jacob, later known as Israel, in the Old Testament and the 12 apostles of the New Testament; and ultimately all believers through saving faith according to the Bible as shown in the picture.

The four living creatures worship God by saying, ^{8b} *“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come”*. The four living creatures are worshipping God by praising two of His attributes: [1] The Lord God is Holy. They repeated Holy three times, for emphasis just as the Seraphim did in Isaiah’s vision in [Isaiah 6:1-7](#). God’s holiness is not a better version of the best we know. God is utterly and supremely untainted. His holiness stands apart- unique and incomprehensible. [2] God is eternal, without beginning or end.

The twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and worship Him who lives forever and ever saying, ¹¹ *“Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”* Praise and worship for the Worthy Creator of all things.

Vv.8b & 11 are a model for Disciples today as we daily praise and worship God in preparation for heaven. ^A

The picture ^B is in heaven after the Bema judgment seat of believers, ^C because some of the billions of people surrounding God have on crowns, but before the crowns will be cast at the feet of Jesus ^D.

Notes: **A.** A daily prayer of praise and worship; ^{8b} *“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come”*. ¹¹ *“Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”* [Revelation 4:8b, 11];

B- I have this picture as the screen saver on my phone and desktop computer. **C-** [Heaven with Crowns or Burning Coattails](#); **D-** [Revelation 4:10](#);

II. In my old age God will deliver me

Isaiah 46:3b-4...^{3b} *who have been sustained from the womb, carried along since birth.* ⁴ I will be the same until your old age, and I will bear you up when you turn gray. I have made you, and I will carry you;
I will bear and save you. [HCSB]

Six great promises of God from the womb to heaven for the the person who has faith is Jesus.

^{3b} *who have been sustained from the womb, carried along since birth.* ⁴ I will be the same until your old age,

We have sustained by the Lord from the womb through birth to our old age. We were conceived with a sin nature and born with a sin nature. The Lord promised David that he would see his son that died shortly after birth, again in heaven. ^A So we know that all children from conception to the age of accountability for their sin will be in heaven with Jesus. Jesus will be the same from then until old age.

Hopefully sometime during this time you realized you were a sinner and needed a Savior and turned in faith to Jesus for salvation.

^{4b} and I will bear you up when you turn gray. When we turn gray we need Jesus and His grace more than ever. As the ravages of old age starts to dim our mind and cause our bodies to be frail Jesus will still bear us up. We can still finish strong living one day at a time Jesus-centered.

^{4c} I have made you, He reminds us that He created us and and that He is worthy of daily praise and worship. ^B

^{4d} and I will carry you; He reminds us that He will carry us and we do not have to fear the pains of and rigors of old age but can be thankful because He is carrying along one day at a time. Even in this phase of our life we can finish strong as Disciple-makers.

^{4d} I will bear and save you. When our time on earth ends Jesus will bear His Disciple's soul to heaven ^C and at the rapture ^D of the church our soul will be reunited with our body. ^E Unfortunately, those who rejected Jesus on earth will be judged by Jesus and doomed to the lake of fire forever. ^F

Praise the Lord Jesus for His grace and goodness! ^G

Notes: A- [2 Samuel 12:23d](#);

B- A daily prayer of praise and worship; “^{8b} *Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come*”. “¹¹ *Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.*” [Revelation 4:8b, 11];

C- “³⁸ *For I am convinced that neither death,...will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*” [Romans 8:38-39], “ *We are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.*” [2 Corinthians 5:8], “*For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*” [Philippians 1:21,23b];

D- [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#); E- [1 John 3:2](#); F- [Revelation 20:11-15](#);

G- Lyrics from stanza 5 of How Firm A Foundation:

Open down to old age all My people shall prove
My sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And then, when grey hairs shall their temples adorn,
Like lambs they shall still in My bosom be borne.+

This Hymn is based on Isaiah 46:4, for all lyrics click [here](#) and for youtube video click [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#)

III. For anger resides in the bosom of fools.

Ecclesiastes 7:9 *Do not be eager in your heart to be angry, For anger resides in the bosom of fools.*

"The theme of Ecclesiastes is the necessity of fearing God in this fallen, confusing world. The Lord deserves his people's trust while they seek to understand what it means to “*fear God and keep his commandments*” ([12:13](#)). **This is true wisdom.**" ^A

One of the major temptations of Satan to walk in the flesh is anger that comes from our heart. Anger leads to “*strife, dissensions and factions*” ^B with others. This is the opposite of **true wisdom from God**. I grew up in poverty, weighed 120 lbs when I graduated from high school and my middle name was "Champ", really. In addition I was socially awkward. This resulted in a chip on my shoulder that resulted in fear and anger. Truly “*anger resides in the bosom of fools.*”

It was not until I was 35 that I was convicted that anger was a sin and needed to be confessed and forgiven. I discovered that every time I was angry because of fear that someone was taking advantage of me or mistreating me, that a 2nd problem was created. This 2nd problem had to be addressed before the 1st problem could even be thought about.

This was a profound revelation and the Holy Spirit began to change me. When a problem arose my 1st reaction was to be thankful in Jesus and then began to solve the problem. ^C However, anger is temptation of Satan that does not ever go away and I must persevere every day by the grace of God to maintain love, joy and peace rather than anger.

Be filled by the Spirit all the time! ^D

Notes: A- Source click [here](#); B- [Galatians 5:19-21 CSB](#); C- This book was used by the Holy Spirit to convict me that [anger](#) and [fear](#) were sins that needed to be confessed and forgiven. I developed this approach to [problem solving](#). This has been refined over the last 50 years to this [approach](#). D- for source click [here](#)

Draft 7/27 IV. Count trouble as joy!

James 1:2 *Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,*

This is one of the most unusual commands in the Bible. How can you be joyful when you are in the midst of a trial, problem, trouble or suffering? Yet that is what the scripture says. This is not the only scripture on this subject, for example: "⁴ Rejoice in the Lords always, ⁶ Be anxious for nothing,"^A "¹⁶ Rejoice always; ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus,"^B and "¹⁷ Though the fig tree does not bud and there is no fruit on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though the flocks disappear from the pen and there are no herds in the stalls, [the food supply has failed] ¹⁸ yet I will celebrate in the Lord; I will rejoice in the God of my salvation!"^C

None of these scriptures say rejoice or be thankful only when times are good. The last one even lists a time in an agricultural economy when the food supply had failed but Habakkuk said even then I will celebrate and rejoice in the Lord! How can this be?

It is simply that Jesus set the example for us on the cross when he died for the sins of all people. "*For you have been called for this **purpose**, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps*" and David said "fret not" 3 times. ^D Peter wrote his letter to the Christians during fiery persecution throughout the Roman empire and the "purpose" referred to was "unjust suffering". Four times "*you*" is used to indicate you and I are called to suffer since Jesus left us an example of suffering without complaining but instead witnessed on the cross and forgave His persecutors. ^E

When we suffer trusting Jesus we will be joyful and thankful, have the peace of God ^F and "*the testing of your faith produces endurance*". ^G

Notes: A- [Philippians 4:4](#); B- [1 Thessalonians 5:18](#); C- [Habakkuk 3:17-18](#); D- [1 Peter 2:21, Psalm 37:1-8](#); E- [1 Peter 2:23, Luke 23:39-43, 23:34](#); F- [Philippians 4:6-8](#); G- [James 1:2-3](#)

V. Tribulations increase the disciples hope for the future with Jesus

Romans 5:3-5...³ *And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;*⁴ *and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;*³ *And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations,*

Vv.1-2 include all three parts of a Disciples walk with Jesus: [1] salvation by faith and peace with God, [2] by faith in the grace we stand as disciples growing in His image and [3] the hope of glory--heaven with Jesus for eternity.

Because of these steps the Disciple can exalt in trouble. Dealing with troubles trusting Jesus produces perservance and the character to trust Jesus for all future events good or bad in the Disciples life in step 2. As you continue to repeat the perservance-character cycle living a Jesus-centered life your hope or certainty of eternal life with Jesus grows, step 3.

So in reality troubles increases our hope for the future. The Disciples body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and the Spirit guarantees our resurrection bodies.^A When we purchase a house we provide a downpayment to guarantee the trasaction will be finalized. The Holy Spirit is a much better than a mere money downpayment.

When the first Disciples saw the reality of the resurrection, ascension of Jesus and received the Holy Spirit they no longer feared what man could do them. They became fearless in sharing the truth of the gospel. They lost their fear of circumstances and earthly death.

The Jesus-centered Disciple can exalt in tribulations and serve Jesus and others fearlessly!

Notes: A- [1 Corinthians 3:16, Ephesians 1:13-14](#);

VI. Prayer for the declining church!

I have been agonizing in prayer for more than 2 weeks about the many problems facing the church and as we attempt to stop declining and return to growth. The problems seem impossible to overcome. Just to name a few perceived or not: [1] aging congregation, [2] losing young people, [3] conflict over music styles, [4] necessity to remain true to our core values about abstinence from alcoholic beverages and other commandments out of love for Jesus, [5] disunity over a variety of issues, [6] turning inward rather than outward to the community and world, [7]

strong preaching from the Bible that calls for evangelizing, Discipleship teaching and counseling, serving Jesus and others, living in unity in community of believers, etc.

Today I was convicted as I prayed from; [**“In A Pit With A Lion–How to survive and thrive when opportunity roars” – A week of Supplication Prayers**](#)

The prayer for today was: Saturday – 7. Looking Foolish-

- Peter walking on water Matthew 14:22-33;
- Noah building the ark for 120 years when it was not raining Genesis 5:32-9:29;
- David and Goliath 1 Samuel 17:1-50
- Joshua Battle plan for walls of Jericho Joshua 5:13-6:27;

All of these were impossible or improbable yet Peter, Noah, David, nor Joshua let that discourage or stop them from trying; trusting God for the outcome. As I prayed I thought of these verses; **Jeremiah 32:17** *“Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power...! Nothing is too difficult for You,”*

Luke 1:35-38...35 *The angel...said to her,...37 “For nothing will be impossible with God.” 38 And Mary said, “Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.”*

Revelation 4:8b,11... ^{8b} *Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come”. ¹¹ “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.*

The God Who created this vast universe can surely solve the problems in the church if His people faithfully call on Him in prayer and are obedient to His will and commandments.

I call on each of His people to pray diligently and serve with faith and trust in Creator God and stop worrying!

Use this to pray every day; [31 Days of Prayer in Supplication & Commitments for a church that is not growing or in decline!**](#)**

and [**“In A Pit With A Lion–How to survive and thrive when opportunity roars” – A week of Supplication Prayers**](#)