

Lesson # 8 -- The Prayer of the Holy Angels and the Redeemed - the Prayer of Worship.

Introduction

- A. This chapter (Revelation 5) reminds us of the importance and value of prayer.
- B. we stand amazed as we view the scenes before us. In His mercy, God draws aside the curtain and we look into Heaven. We are at the time when all of history is divided. The Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, is about to take the book of history and begin to open it's seals. By this the world will be subdued, the Antichrist and Babylon will be overcome, death will be destroyed, the curse will be annulled, the redeemed will be gathered into a great celebration, the earth and heavens will be renewed and all of redemption will be consummated.
- C. What is the correct angelic and human response to such a display of the works of God? We have it before us - it is worship!

I. The Occasion of This Prayer of Worship, Revelation 5:1-8.

- A. The Book and the Question, Vs 1-4.
- B. The Lamb and His Description, Vs 5,6.
- C. The Action of the Lamb and the Heavenly Response, Vs 7,8.
- D. The Comment:
 - 1. This is a glad contract to the Gospel account of the Crucifixion.
 - 2. This scene, we believe, depicts a time yet future. The opening of these seals initiates a time described as "the Great Tribulation" (Rev. 6:15-17; 7:14).

II, The Participants in this Prayer of Worship, Revelation 5:9-14.

- A. The Four Beasts (Living Creatures), V8.
 - 1. These are angelic attendants at the Throne of God, Rev 4:6-11.
 - 2. They are probably the Seraphim described in Isaiah 6:2,3.
 - 3. Their activity is that of worshipping God in Chapters 4,5,7,19; they witness the worship of the redeemed in Chapter 14; and in Chapters 6 and 15 they cooperate in carrying out the work of judgement

B. The Twenty-four Elders, V8.

1. These elders seem to represent all the redeemed. The number 24 refer to a representation of the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 Disciples.
2. It is significant that these elders wear crowns (4:4); they sing the song of the redeemed (5:9,10); and wear the white raiment of the redeemed (4:4; 19:8).
3. The activity of these elders is that of worship (4:10,11; 5:9,10; etc.).

C. The Angels, V11.

1. God created the angels, not as an angelic race, but one by one, to worship and serve Him, (Col. 1:16; Matthew 18:10; Hebrews 1:14).
2. The Bible describes the angels as having great abilities and powers, (Psalm 103:20; II Peter 2:11).
3. The angels seem to be without number and are constantly engaged in the worship of God and adoring service.

III. The Content of This Prayer of Worship

A. The Object of This Worship.

1. The Lord Jesus Christ.

a. His description, VS 5,6.

- 1). The Lion of the Tribe of Judah, Gen. 49:9,10; Hebrews 7:14.
(His majestic and sovereign power.)
- 2). The Root of David, Isaiah 11:1,10; Romans 1:3; Rev. 22:16.
(His Person is the basis for all the promises made to David regarding his Son reigning over all Heaven and Earth.)
- 3). The Lamb as it had been slain, John 1:29; I Peter 1:19.
(In Jesus Christ we have the loving Redeemer of mankind Who has the perfection of power (horns) and wisdom (eyes) all in the fullness of the ministry of the Holy Spirit (Seven Spirits of God).

b. His activity, Vs 5,7.

- 1). He has prevailed, V5.
(The word is really "conquered" and refers to the triumph of Jesus Christ over sin, death, Hell and Satan.)
- 2). He took the Book out of the right hand of Him that sat on the throne. (Jesus Christ brings about the consummation of the age.)

2. God the Father, Vs 1,7,13.

- a. He is described as sitting upon the throne and holding the book, V1.
- b. Here the emphasis is upon the recognition and all of life grows out of the decrees of God the Father.

B. The Emphasis in This Worship.

1. The recognition of personal worth, Vs 9, 11-14.

The Lord Jesus is worthy of all worship in that He is infinite; eternal; unchangeable; absolute in truth, love and holiness; perfect in all his ways; all-powerful; all-knowing; and everywhere present.

2. The recognition of the value of the work of the Lord Jesus Christ, Vs 9,10.

- a, The Crucifixion.
- b. The work of redemption.
- c. The merciful gifts and calling given to the redeemed.

IV. The Instruction in This Prayer of Worship/

A. Worship is the highest deed an angel or human can perform.

B. Worship must be first in our lives if we are to obey God.

C. Worship brings the spiritual functions of prayer, faith, love and hope into their fullest expression, John 4:24.

D. Worship provides the basis for every other act of adoring service.

E. Worship is sought by God the Father, John 4:23.

Conclusion: Suggestions for Worship

- A. Establish and maintain a daily time for Bible reading and prayer.
- B. Utilize the attributes of God as a basis of worship.
- C. Utilize the Names of God as a basis of worship.
- D. Utilize the works of God as a basis of worship.
- E. Utilize the Psalms as a basis of worship.
- F. Utilize the Hymn book as a basis of worship.
- G. Maintain an attitude of worship during the day in thanksgiving, praise, adoration, meditation on the Scripture, and in expressions of faith, love and hope.