

EP54 Revelation 5 verses 7-14

In our last podcast, we examined the Lamb whose appearance was of one that was being slain. We discovered that He is the only one who has overcome and is worthy to take the scroll. He is the only one who could respond to the challenge put out there by a mighty angel who asked, *"Who is worthy to open the book and break its seals?"* Let's pick up in verse 7.

The Lamb Takes the Scroll

Revelation 5:7-10

And He came and took out of the right hand of Him who is now choosing to be sitting on the throne. When He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one now holding a harp and golden bowls now being full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they now sing a new song, now saying, *"Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open its seals; for You had been slain and purchased for God with Your blood from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made us kings and priests to our God; and we will reign upon the earth."*

The Lamb takes the scroll from the right hand of the one seated on the throne. Please, do not be confused by the images. This is only a picture. We do not have to try and figure out if the Lamb took the scroll with its mouth or whether it suddenly grew hands and an opposable thumb. Nor do we need to get all twisted up trying to figure out how Jesus as a Lamb could take a scroll from Jesus on the throne. It is just a picture, an image which communicates a powerful message.

The Power of Sacrifice

The imagery draws our attention to the only one who is worthy, the one who chose to give up His glory and do the unthinkable, become a man (which was one huge sacrifice), and then chose to sacrifice His life for the sins of the entire world. He is the only one who is worthy to just stroll up to the throne and take the scroll out of the right hand of power and majesty, the right hand of Him who now chooses to be sitting on the throne.

We will find that sacrifice is a key theme throughout the **Revelation** narrative, and it defines the Chosen of God. It is an uncomfortable topic, for sure, but we will find that **Yahweh's** bondservants are and will be required to follow in Jesus' footsteps and be a willing sacrifice. In fact, sacrifice is to be our way of life. In fact, we are commanded, as a matter of lifestyle, to offer up our bodies to God as a living sacrifice. He tells us that this is our reasonable service, or our "make-sense" response, to what God has offered to us, which is the opportunity to now be transformed by God by the renewing of our minds.¹ Yes, it is through our sacrifice that we start to be transformed into the image of Christ such that He comes to possess our

¹ **Romans 12:1-2**

being.

But there is more. He will ask many of His Chosen ones to be willing, just like He was, to sacrifice their lives. We see this detailed for us in **Revelation 11** as the Beast wages war against the Chosen of God. And although sacrifice may seem scary, consider that it is through this willing step of sacrifice that one becomes worthy of power and authority, worthy to be kings and priests. Let me explain.

First let's consider Jesus's sacrifice. The **Codex** reveals to us the reasoning of the Father and the motivation behind Jesus' willingness to be this sacrifice.

Isaiah 53:10-12

But it was **Yahweh's** good plan to crush him and cause him grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the Lord's good plan will prosper in his hands. **When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied.** And because of his experience, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins. I will give him the honors of a victorious soldier, because he exposed himself to death.

The Father had a plan and it involved Jesus being willing to leave His place in the heavenlies and become a man (which was one huge sacrifice in-and-of-itself). But then He suffered rejection by those He came to love, He suffered emotional, verbal, and physical abuse, He was blindfolded and punched in the face over-and-over again, He suffered the lash as meat was torn from His body, and He was pierced through with nails as He was affixed to a cross. And even then, He was continually mocked and ridiculed. *"... and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously..."*²

Oddly, the Spirit tells us that it was fitting or right for Jesus to be this sacrifice. Being the sovereign One, the **Alpha** who initiates all things, including the need for evil, sin, and death to exist in this world, it is only right that He is the one, the **Omega**, who finished this work on our behalf to free us from our bondage to these snares.

Hebrews 2:10-12

For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings. For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, "I WILL PROCLAIM YOUR NAME TO MY BRETHREN, IN THE MIDST OF THE CONGREGATION I WILL SING YOUR PRAISE."

From Jesus' vantage point, all His suffering and sacrifice was worth it because of what He would

² **1 Peter 2:23**

accomplish through His anguish. He was willing to endure so that many would have the opportunity to become righteous. And in our passage, we see the result, as the Elders (the Chosen of God, from both Jews and Gentiles) collectively honor Him and say, *"Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open its seals; for You had been slain and purchased for God with Your blood from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made us kings and priests to our God; and we will reign upon the earth."*

Second, we must not miss the underline message. Christ has **made** His Chosen ones to be kings and priests. This did not happen simply because they said the "sinner's prayer." No, they have been forged, or **made**, in the fires of suffering, for they are those who choose to buy from Him gold having been refined in fire. They choose to walk as He walked and to follow His example of suffering.

Consider the following.

1 Peter 2:19-21

For God is pleased with you when you do what you know is right and patiently endure unfair treatment. Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But if you are now suffering for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you. For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps.

Philippians 3:7-11

But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection **and the fellowship of His sufferings**, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

2 Thessalonians 1:3-12

We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater; therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure. **This is a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering.** For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed — for our

testimony to you was believed. To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 John 2:5-6

By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

Thus, it is through knowing Him in His suffering or our having this intimate fellowship in suffering, that He makes us those who abide in Him worthy of the kingdom or worthy of being kings and priests. He was our example, and we must follow in His steps.

Yes, this was the very-fine print that many of us did not read when we said the “sinner’s prayer”. Nevertheless, it is how we exercise our right to become children of God, for it is in-and-through our appointed times of suffering that we learn how to choose to become dependent upon His name. And as He promised those in the church at Smyrna, those who are faithful unto death will receive the crown of life. This crown being a symbol of their eternal rule; a symbol that like Jesus they considered their suffering worth it because of what He would accomplish in them as a result.

All of this should help us understand why Jesus is willing to sacrifice His own sons and daughters. Because of their sacrifice, they become worthy to rule and reign with Him as Kings and Priest. This is what He accomplished through His anguish and what His Chosen ones accomplish by walking as He walked and following His example through the fires of suffering.

By the way, this image of the Elders as kings and priests, is not a future image of what will be, but it is an image of what Jesus has done.³ He has made His bondservants kings and priests. The only aspect of this image that is in the *future* tense is the reference to the “*reign on the earth*,” which is something that will be a reality after Jesus’ Second Coming.

This is consistent with what the Spirit declares:

1 Peter 2:9-10

But you A CHOSEN RACE, A **royal PRIESTHOOD**, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; which in time past NOT A PEOPLE, but now PEOPLE OF GOD; which had NOT BEEN RECEIVING MERCY, but now have BEEN RECEIVING MERCY.

Even now, the Elders, the bondservants of Jesus Christ, comprise a chosen race of kings and priests, a people for God’s own possession. People who exist with a glorious purpose: to proclaim the excellencies

³ “made” is rendered in the *aorist active indicative*, a form of the past tense.

of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. How beautiful and marvelous is that duty that we have been given.

But this privilege, this honor, this position of power and authority is possessed through the fires of suffering and the willingness to purchase from Him, as our exclusive supplier, gold having been refined in the fire.

Luke 21:16-19

But you will be betrayed even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death, and you will be hated by all because of My name. Yet not a hair of your head will perish. **By your endurance you will gain your lives.**

2 Corinthians 6:1-10

And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain — for He says, "AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU." Behold, now is "THE ACCEPTABLE TIME," behold, now is "THE DAY OF SALVATION" — giving no cause for offense in anything, so that the ministry will not be discredited, but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, **in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger, in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love, in the word of truth, in the power of God;** by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left, by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; regarded as deceivers and yet true; as unknown yet well-known, as dying yet behold, we live; as punished yet not put to death, as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing yet possessing all things.

Hebrews 10:32-39

But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated. For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one. Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. **For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.** FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE, HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY. BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM. But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

James 1:2-4

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, **knowing that the testing of your**

faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

And while none of that sounds joyful (and it is not), and just reading it leaves us beyond exhausted, and if you are one who is now living any of it, you definitely need the word of encouragement regarding endurance. But it is also helpful to keep in mind this incredible promise that He made to those who are willing to buy from Him gold refined in the fire.

1 Peter 5:10-11

After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

The suffering only lasts for a little while—or as He said to the church at Smyrna, our appointed 10-days of suffering. But it is not meaningless, it is not cruel, it is for a glorious purpose. It is how we become established in Him, even now possessing our role as His' kings and priests.

Spontaneous Worship: The Four and the 24-Elders

Revelation 5:9-14

When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one now holding a harp and golden bowls now being full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they now sing a new song, saying,

"Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open its seals; for You had been slain and purchased for God with Your blood from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made us kings and priests to our God; and we will reign upon the earth."

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, now saying with a loud voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was being slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."

And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying,

"To Him who now chooses to be sitting on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."

And the four living creatures said, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped.

Jesus is now choosing to be sitting on the throne and only the Lamb who freely gave up His life has conquered like a bold fearless lion, and He alone has the power to take the scroll. But what happens next is glorious. Once He takes the scroll, spontaneous worship erupts through all of creation. The Four and the 24-Elders fall before the Lamb and worship. And they are joined by angels and every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, no one and nothing could control themselves, they just had to worship.

By the way, **Yahweh** once said: *"I am **Yahweh**, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, nor My praise to graven images."*⁴ Therefore, we can conclude that because the Lamb is now being worshiped by all of creation, we can be confident that the Lamb, the Lion of Judah, the Root of David, is none other than the living God whose name is **Yahweh**. Accordingly, everyone prostrates themselves before the Lamb.

"When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one now holding a harp and golden bowls now being full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints."

This image of the 24-Elders with the golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints, is emblematic of the temple service where incense was offered by the priest in the temple while at the same time prayer was offered by the people in the courts of the temple. Hence, according to the **Code**, incense is an idiom for prayers that are offered as a fragrant offering to **Yahweh**.

We see this in **Luke** where Zechariah, John the Baptist's dad, entered the temple to burn incense while a great crowd stood outside praying.⁵ The idea is that the church as it exists in heaven, and its guardians, are officiating in the heavenly Tabernacle above and offering up incense while the church below is engaged in prayer.

By the way, the **Code** tells us that the 24-Elders are **now** having these harps (or lyres) and the bowls, and the bowls are **now** filling with incense, which is, even now, the prayers of the saints.⁶ Once again, we are drawn from eternity into our now, and every moment of our now. The completed church, true believers, bondservants of Jesus Christ, who have been raised up with Him and seated on His throne,⁷ and its protectors, the Four, are even now worshiping the Lord and in unity praying, and it causes a beautiful aroma to continually rise before **Yahweh**.

Prophetic Nature of Worship

These harps, or lyres (which is **Code** for electric guitars plugged into Marshall stacks, ha) are clearly for music, and in heaven, music is for worship, hence, the song. And like the incense that is emblematic of the temple service and prayer, these stringed instruments draw us to the prophetic nature of worship.

Prophets from David to Samuel used string instruments to draw them into a place of worship where their prophetic gifting was unleashed, and they brought forth not just words of praise but a foretelling of

⁴ **Isaiah 42:8**

⁵ **Luke 1:9-10**

⁶ "having" and "full of incense" are both rendered in the *present active participle*. However, "are the prayers" is rendered in the *present active indicative*. It is a statement of fact, even now.

⁷ **Colossians 3:1**

events all the way through to the **End Times**.⁸

Thus, in the hands of the Four and the Elders, there are both the prayers of the saints and the prophetic word combined in worship and a foretelling of what was and what will be. And this song they **now** sing is new, it has never been sung before. And they are even **now** saying,⁹

"Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open its seals; for You had been slain and purchased for God with Your blood from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made us kings and priests to our God; and we will reign upon the earth."

This song is beautiful, and it is personal. First, it ascribes worth to the Son for what He has done which is a statement on **who He is**. The Greek is graphic. He was literally butchered, like a sacrificial animal (sticking with the motif of the lamb), and with His blood purchased – the implication is directed at those who are singing the song – from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. Yes, He is ascribed worth for what He has done, but in so doing it ascribes worth for **who He is**, in that only His blood could redeem us out of our slavery to sin and death, and only His blood could redeem us from the chokehold of our Old Sinful Nature (the *flesh*) and make us royalty, kings, and priests to our God.

In the currency of the heavenlies, only His blood was pure and sufficient to atone for every one of us. And since no one else in heaven or earth answered the call, just the Lamb, we know His blood is precious, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless.¹⁰

Yahweh's Heart for the Nations

And for all those who have ever complained about the fairness or the justice of God, please note that there are no people groups that are missing in this gathering. Jesus has extended His love to the ends of the earth, and in every little corner of the earth there will be those who know Him and love Him from every tribe and language and people and nation.

In fact, Jesus assured us that, *"This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the **whole world** as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come."*¹¹ As the Amen, the Omega, the Last, He will ensure that this prophetic word comes to fruition. He is so serious about His Word reaching the nations, that He even now and continually sends an angel to fly throughout the earth proclaiming the gospel to those who dwell on the earth, to every nation, and tribe, and language and people. It is being done even now.¹² From our vantage point, it might seem like people organically come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, but in the behind-the-scenes view, this angel is very active proclaiming the truth.

One of my favorite passages comes from the Old Testament book of **Malachi**. The Israelites were being corrected for having hard hearts and offering up worthless sacrifices to **Yahweh**, and **Yahweh** tells them: *"But my name is honored by people of other nations from morning till night. All around the world they offer sweet incense and pure offerings in honor of my name. For my name is great among the nations, says **Yahweh Almighty**."*¹³ And in **Amos** He says: *"Are you Israelites more important to me than the Ethiopians?"*

⁸ **1 Samuel 10:5; 1 Chronicles 25:3; Psalm 49:4**

⁹ "sing" is rendered in the *present active indicative*; "saying" is rendered in the *present active participle*

¹⁰ **1 Peter 1:19**

¹¹ **Matthew 24:14**

¹² **Revelation 14:6**

¹³ **Malachi 1:1**

asks **Yahweh**. "I brought Israel out of Egypt, but I also brought the Philistines from Crete and led the Arameans out of Kir."¹⁴

God's heart is for the nations, and He makes Himself known to them. In the same way that He has worked great deliverance for nations who lived under terrible bondage, He will grant the greatest of all deliverances for those who have lived under the bondage of sin and death, and from every tribe and language and people and nation, they will be rescued.

What Is & What Will Be

The final stanza of this song is extremely prophetic in that it tells both what is and what will be. *You have made us kings and priests to our God; and we will reign upon the earth.*" The bondservants of Christ have been made royalty, kings, and priests. It is done.¹⁵ This is not a future promise, but it is. We touched on this earlier, but it is worth repeating.

1 Peter 2:9-10

But you A CHOSEN RACE, A **royal PRIESTHOOD**, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; which in time past NOT A PEOPLE, but now PEOPLE OF GOD; which had NOT BEEN RECEIVING MERCY, but now have BEEN RECEIVING MERCY.

Each of these titles are pulled from the **Codex**.

- Chosen race: **Isaiah 43:20; Deuteronomy 10:15.**
- Royal priesthood: **Isaiah 61:6; 66:21, Exodus 19:6.**
- Holy Nation: **Exodus 19:6; Deuteronomy 7:6.**
- People for God's own possession: **Exodus 19:5; Deuteronomy 4:20; 14:2.**

This song also declares that they **will reign on the earth**, and that is a future promise and a statement of fact.¹⁶ This is the very promise which Jesus made in the letter to Thyatira to those who are now overcoming.¹⁷ Those who overcome will be given the same authority over the nations which Jesus receives from His Father.¹⁸ This affirms that Jesus is literally and physically going to return to the earth (His Second Coming) and His bondservants, His reward, will literally and physically be with Him to rule the nations.¹⁹

Moreover, **Daniel** reveals that once the Beast (the demonic spirit who possesses the man we call the

¹⁴ **Amos 9:7**

¹⁵ Rendered in the *aorist active indicative* – it is done

¹⁶ "will reign" is rendered in the *future active indicative*

¹⁷ **Revelation 2:26-29**

¹⁸ See **Psalms 2:8-9**

¹⁹ **Revelation 22:12, 17:14; Isaiah 40:10, 62:11; Zechariah 14:3-5; 1 Thessalonians 3:13; Jude 14**

Antichrist) is judged (upon Jesus' Second Coming²⁰), *"Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One (which is His bride); His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him."*²¹ Quite the prophetic destiny that is described for His faithful ones—to those who are now overcoming.

Spontaneous Worship: The Angelic

Revelation 5:11-12

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was being slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."

This scene is simply amazing. The spontaneous worship that broke out among the Elders and the Four suddenly spreads and John hears the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, *"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."*

Worship is contagious. The honor of the Lamb could not be contained to just the 24-Elders and the Four; the angels had to jump in as well. I find it so comforting that the church and the Four are surrounded by a host of angels. Myriad of myriads was not enough to describe the number so John added the description of thousands of thousands. This is an allusion to a passage in **Daniel** which says: *"Thousands upon thousands were attending Him, and myriads upon myriads were standing before Him."*²²

The Number

It is interesting to note that when John said that that he looked and he heard, he used the *aorist active indicative* to convey the *past* tense. But when John spoke of this mighty host ("the number of them was"), he switches to the technical *past* tense, the *imperfect*. This is a hint from the Spirit that the number of angelic beings is fixed, God is not creating more angels and they do not reproduce.²³ But that number was determined, even though from John's perspective, it was practically innumerable.

The angels are even now saying,²⁴ with a loud voice (they are practically screaming), *"Worthy is the Lamb that was being slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."*

There are 7 attributes of entitlement associated with the Lamb's worth. According to the **Code**, 7 is

²⁰ ***Revelation 19:20***

²¹ ***Daniel 7:27***

²² ***Daniel 7:10***

²³ See ***Matthew 22:30; Mark 12:25; Luke 20:35*** where the implication is that Angels in heaven do not engage in sexual activity, much less reproductive activity.

²⁴ "saying" is rendered in the *present active participle*

the number which indicates completion. In other words, the Lamb is worthy of every form of adulation and blessing that could ever be imagined, but this collection of attributes describing His worth is complete.

- Power:* speaks of authority, control, and ultimate supremacy.
- Riches:* speaks of every form of fathomable abundance.
- Wisdom:* speaks of insight, understanding, knowledge and discretion.
- Might:* speaks of ultimate ability in terms of strength and force.
- Honor:* speaks of respect, adoration, admiration, and tribute.
- Glory:* speaks of magnificence, splendor, wonder, grandeur, and beauty.
- Blessing:* speaks of every good and perfect gift.

Because Jesus gave up His life and conquered sin and death, He is worthy of all these forms of adulation, praise, worship, and entitlement. And because of the way this is written, these praises are to be understood all together as one and not as separate pieces. He deserves the **complete** set; He deserves power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.

Spontaneous Worship: All Creation

Revelation 5:13-14

And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying,

"To Him who now chooses to be sitting on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."

And the four living creatures said, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped.

In our last outburst of worship, we had the number 7, but in this one we have the number 4, as praise was given by every created thing in 1) in heaven, 2) on the earth, 3) under the earth, and 4) on/upon the sea. According to the **Code**, 4 is the number which represents the totality of God's creative works.

This picture this is just another way of saying that all of creation honors the Lamb. And they have a 4-fold utterance of 1) blessing, 2) honor, 3) glory, and 4) dominion that will extend to the Lamb over all creation, forever and ever.

Being outside of time, in the Spirit, there is a good chance that what John was observing is an event which one day will happen, where all of creation honors Jesus as **Yahweh**. This was prophesied in *Isaiah* and restated, with a twist, in *Philippians*.

Isaiah 45:23

I have sworn by Myself, the word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness and will not turn

back, that to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will *swear allegiance*.²⁵

Philippians 2:8-11

Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus {which is **Yahweh**} every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord {**Adonai/Yahweh**}, to the glory of God the Father.

There will be a day when all creation acknowledges, or completely confesses upon bent knee, that Jesus is the **I AM, Yahweh Adonai** —and there is no other. However, being outside of time, John sees this as a real-time event, for all of creation is even now and continually saying: " *To Him who now chooses to be sitting on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.*"²⁶ Some might argue that there is an aspect of every created thing that even now, by their mere existence, through every breath that comes forth from their lives (a breath that is given by God), they honor the Creator, whether they know it or not. As people and creatures live and move and do what they were designed to do, the beauty and glory of it all honors God. This notion is picked up by the writer of **Proverbs** when he scribed:

Proverbs 30:18-19

There are three things which are too wonderful for me, four which I do not understand: The way of an eagle in the sky, the way of a serpent on a rock, the way of a ship in the middle of the sea, and the way of a man with a maid.

Then the Four said "*Amen*" to this glorious proclamation, and in natural response the 24-Elders fell and worshiped. Again, we have an interesting and contrasting use of the *past* tense. The Four "said" is rendered in the *imperfect active indicative*, but "fell" is rendered in the *arist active indicative*. The notion the Spirit is communicating is that the Four have said "*Amen*" or "*So Be It*" from epochs past. It almost stands there as a monument to their agreement with all that is **Yahweh**. Whereas the Elders fell in worship is more of a response to the moment, and their uncontrollable urge to prostrate themselves before the Lamb and honor Him for all He is and all He has done.

Perfect worship

Let us review what John has just seen:

- 1) The 24-Elders sing a new song in worship of the Lamb.

²⁵ "swear allegiance" is a translation of the Hebrew meaning to swear by repeating a declaration 7-times – it is a complete acknowledgment.

²⁶ "saying" is rendered in the *present active participle*

2) This prompted the hosts of heaven to now join in their worship.

3) Then all of creation joined in and is even now honoring the Lamb.

There are 3 spontaneous outbursts honoring the Lamb, providing a **PERFECT** worship of **Yahweh Adonai**. Remember, according to the **Code**, 3 is the number of “perfection.”

And, finally, the Elders fell in worship. What else could they do? Everyone was honoring the Lamb. Hence, the Four declare: “*Amen*” – “So Be It!”