

# Worshipping God In The Presence of Jesus

In Revelation chapter four, an awesome scene is pictured in heaven as witnessed by John the beloved apostle. Verses 2 and 3 state:

*“A **throne** was set in heaven, and **one** sat on **the throne**. And **he** that sat was to look upon like a jasper... .”*

Several things are obvious beyond dispute from reading these verses.

1. The throne is **one** singular throne. Notice, “**a throne**” and “**the throne**.”
2. There is **one** singular entity, being, person, on the throne. Notice, “**one sat**” and “**he that sat**” (see also v. 9: “**him that sat**”).
3. This “**one**” is **seated**. Notice, “**one sat**” and “**he that sat**.”

Here is a question of utmost importance. Who is the person or being referred to in these verses, “**one sat on the throne**” and “**he that sat**?” The answer is found in verses 8 and 11, the “*Lord God Almighty*” who “*hast created all things*.” Now look at the phrase in verse nine, “*him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever*.” This phrase “*who liveth for ever and ever*” appears five times in the book of Revelation (4:9-10; 5:14; 10:6; 15:7), and it **always** refers to Almighty God our Father, Creator of all! For example, Revelation 15:6:

*“the wrath of **God**, who liveth for ever and ever.”*

Now let us look closely at Revelation chapter five. The one seated on the throne holds a book in His right hand which no one is worthy to take and open but “*the Lamb*.” This Lamb “**stood**” (v. 6), “*and took the book out of the right hand of **him that sat upon the throne***” (v. 7). At this point heaven rang with praises to both God and the Lamb (Jesus).

*“Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne [God], and unto the Lamb [Jesus] forever and ever.”*

However, one word is clearly missing, “*worship*,” and verse fourteen tells us why. It is only given to God, the one seated on the throne.

*“And the four and twenty elders fell down and **worshiped him that liveth forever and ever**” [Almighty God].*

It is important to know that Jesus was never promised God’s throne in heaven, nor did he claim that it was his own.

*“...the Lord God shall give unto him [Jesus] **the throne of his father David**” [Gabriel to Mary] (Luke 1:32).*

*“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in **my throne**, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in **his throne**”* [Jesus Christ speaking] (Rev. 3:21).

*“Sit thou on **my right hand**...”*[God to the Messiah] (Psalm 110:1).

*“...he was received up into heaven, and **sat on the right hand of God**”* (Mark 16:19).

*“Therefore being **by the right hand of God** exalted...”* [Peter at Pentecost] (Acts 2:33).

*“It is Christ that died...who is even at the **right hand of God**”* [Paul speaking] (Rom. 8:34).

*“He [God] raised him [Christ] from the dead, and set him at **his own right hand** in the heavenly places”* (Eph. 1:20).

*“...seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth **on the right hand of God**”* (Col. 3:1).

*“But **this man**, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, **sat down on the right hand of God**”* (Heb. 10:12).

*“Looking unto Jesus...and is set down **at the right hand of the throne of God**”* (Heb. 12:2).

*“Who is gone into heaven, and is **on the right hand of God**”* (I Peter 3:22).

*“I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man **standing on the right hand of God**”* [Stephen the martyr] (Acts 7:56).

### **Back to the worship of God in the presence of Jesus**

In Revelation chapter seven there is a scene that is similar to the one pictured in chapter five. Both God and the Lamb are present, and both are **praised**.

*“Salvation to **our God** which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the **Lamb**”* (v. 10).

But according to verses eleven and twelve **only God is worshiped!**

*“And all the angels stood round about the throne...and fell before the throne on their faces, and **worshiped God**, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory...and might, **be unto our God** for ever and ever. Amen.”*

Again, the precious Lamb is present and praised, **but only God Almighty on the throne is worshiped!** Now look at Revelation 11:15-17:

*“And there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of **our Lord** [God], and **his Christ**...And the four and twenty elders...fell upon their faces, and **worshiped God**, Saying, we give thee thanks, O **Lord God Almighty**... .”*

Once again, with both God and Christ in view, only “*God Almighty*” is worshiped. Now let’s look at Revelation chapter nineteen.

*“...I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honor, and power, unto the **Lord our God**” (v. 1).*

*“And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and **worshiped God** that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia” (v. 4).*

*“And I fell at his feet to worship him [the angel]. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: **worship God**” (v. 10). Note: Jesus our Messiah is mentioned, **but not worshiped**. “*Worship God!*”*

*“Then saith he unto me...**worship God**” (Rev. 22:9). Note: The phrases “worship Jesus,” or “worshiped Jesus” are not found in the book of Revelation. Also, the word “worship” itself is not given to Jesus any place in Scripture **after his ascension to heaven**. Perhaps the following verses explain why.*

*“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the **true worshipers shall worship the Father** in spirit and in truth: for **the Father seeketh such to worship him**” [Jesus speaking] (John 4:23).*

*“**Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve**” [Jesus speaking] (Luke 4:8).*

*“For this cause **I bow my knees unto the Father** of our Lord Jesus Christ” [Paul speaking] (Eph. 3:14).*

*“**I receive not honor from men** [period]” (John 5:41).*

Modern Christianity needs to take a serious look at Jesus’ words in John 5:41. Yes, we are to honor Jesus our Savior, but he always reflects the honor and worship to **God our Father**.