

Revelation 7:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

Analysis

The angels, elders, and living creatures surrounding the throne depict the cosmic scope of worship. Angels stand ('hestēkeisan') in readiness to serve, while the posture of falling before the throne demonstrates humility before divine majesty. This heavenly liturgy models earthly worship—centered on God's throne, responsive to His acts, corporate in nature. Reformed theology emphasizes that worship's object determines its acceptability; these celestial beings worship the sovereign God, not created things. The order (angels, elders, creatures) shows the unified chorus of all creation honoring the Creator and Redeemer.

Historical Context

Jewish apocalyptic literature (Daniel, Ezekiel, Isaiah) featured angelic worship, but Revelation uniquely integrates the elders (representing redeemed humanity) into heaven's liturgy. This vision encouraged persecuted believers that their earthly struggles were observed by heaven's worshiping assembly, which would soon welcome them to join the eternal chorus.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does envisioning angels, elders, and living creatures worshiping together elevate your perspective during earthly worship?
2. What does the prostrate posture ('fell before the throne') teach about appropriate heart attitude in approaching God?

Interlinear Text

καὶ πάντες οἱ ἄγγελοι ἐστήκεσαν κύκλῳ τοῦ θρόνου
And all G3588 the angels stood round about G3588 the throne
G2532 G3956 G32 G2476 G2945 G2362

καὶ τῶν πρεσβυτέρων καὶ τῶν τεσσάρων ζῷων καὶ
And G3588 about the elders And G3588 the four beasts And
G2532 G4245 G2532 G5064 G2226 G2532

ἔπεσον ἐνώπιον τοῦ θρόνου ἐπὶ πρόσωπον αὐτῶν καὶ
fell before G3588 the throne on G1909 faces G846 And
G4098 G1799 G2362 G1909 G4383 G2532

προσεκύνησαν τῷ θεῷ
worshipped G3588 God G2316

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 4:10 (Worship): The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

Revelation 4:6 (Parallel theme): And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

Revelation 4:4 (Parallel theme): And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

Revelation 11:16 (Worship): And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

Hebrews 1:6 (Worship): And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

Matthew 4:10 (Worship): Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

John 5:23 (Parallel theme): That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

Revelation 15:4 (Worship): Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

Revelation 22:9 (Worship): Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.