



Connecting with God for a Strong Finish

CHAPTER 17

Worship and Angels

A Multidimensional Precedent from Heaven and Earth

Angels predate Adam and Eve. They shouted for joy when God laid earth's foundation.¹ Idolaters may bow before contrived deities, but they did not invent worship. Imperial egoists may crave homage, but they did not patent prostration. Most likely, angels in heaven set the precedent for worshipers on earth.

Bowing before the King of Kings is more than a regal custom or religious ritual. Facedown reverence originated in heaven and it continues on earth. When worshipers on earth bow down, they behave like the heavenly host.

In five references, the Bible includes angels or the heavenly host in a context of worship or reverence for God. Three accounts describe angels specifically as worshipers (Neh 9:6, Heb 1:6, and Rev 7:11). Two suggest that they are worshipers or that they express reverence (Psa 97:7 and Phil 2:10-11).

¹ Job 38:4-7 (NIV)

ANGELS WORSHIPPING GOD				
Worshippers	Times	Hebrew Greek	Association	NAS Verse
The Heavenly Host	1	Shachah	Bows down before God	Neh 9:6
All angels Hebrew, 'elohiym	1	Shachah	Exhortation To Worship	Psa 97:7
Every knee will bow	1	Kampto	At the name of Jesus	Phil 2:10-11
Let all the Angels of God worship	1	Proskuneo	When God again brings the firstborn into world	Heb 1:6
All the angels	1	Proskuneo	Fell facedown before throne and worshiped	Rev 7:11

1. The angelic host bows in reverence before the Lord

*"You alone are the LORD. You have made the heavens, The heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and all that is on it, The seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them And **the heavenly host bows down** [shachah] before You. (Nehemiah 9:6 NAS)*

2. An exhortation for all 'elohiym to worship; 'elohiym may be translated from Hebrew either as angels or gods

*Let all those be ashamed who serve [ʿabad] graven images, Who boast themselves of idols; **Worship** [shachah] Him, **all you gods** ['elohiym, possibly angels]. (Psalms 97:7 NAS)*

3. Every knee will bow at the name of Jesus

*So that at the name of Jesus **every knee will bow** [the Greek word kampto is not translated as worship in the NAS], of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will **confess** [exomologeio] that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:10-11 NAS)*

4. An exhortation for all the angels to worship God

*And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, "AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD **WORSHIP** [proskuneo]" (Hebrews 1:6 NAS)*

5. All the angels fell on their faces and worshiped God

John witnessed “*all the angels*” standing around the throne. They collectively fell on their face to worship God. In this context, “*all*” probably refers to all types of angels, i.e., worshiping cherubim, seraphim, archangels, etc., rather than every angel in existence in respect to quantity.²

*And **all the angels** were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they **fell** [pipto] **on their faces** before the throne and **worshiped** [proskuneo] God, (Revelations 7:11 NAS)*

Satan, a fallen angel, has tried to corrupt worship with unpalatable stigmas and erroneous associations. Misinformed worshipers emulate heaven’s decorum when they bow before idols, rulers, or counterfeit deities. With ill-advised veneration for inferior substitutes, they redirect gestures of reverence away from God. Talented performers add to the confusion when they borrow this gesture to take a bow before their own audience.

As God reveals His majesty, the importance of who, what, where, when, and how we worship will become more apparent. The direction in which a person bows carries significant weight, especially when the beast and its demonic image materialize during Satan’s apocalyptic campaign described in the Revelation. Now is the time to prepare for Satan’s ultimatums. Eventually one generation will arise with the courage to resist Satan and offer our Heavenly Father the radical reverence that He deserves.

In the end, everyone will worship someone—but the future belongs to true worshipers. Angels and elders bow in heaven and patriarchs and disciples fell facedown on earth. The precedent for this response is multidimensional and unambiguous.

² <http://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/greek/nas/pas.html>;
Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Kittle, G., p. 795

Jesus asked His Father for “*complete unity*” among His followers.³ This prayer is not a sentimental pipe dream infused with theological fantasy. It highlights God’s will on earth as it is in heaven. Jesus taught His disciples to pray, “*Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*”⁴

Eventually, one all-inclusive multitude will participate in a consensus of worship. From heaven and earth, they will agree in their assessment of God’s worth and they will respond with unanimous reverence.

All the earth will worship You (Psa 66:4 and 96:9 NAS)

All the families of the nations will worship (Psa 22:27 NAS)

All the prosperous of the earth will eat and worship (Psa 22:29 NAS)

All nations whom you have made will come and worship (Psa 86:9 NAS)

*“O families of the peoples...Worship the Lord in holy array. Tremble before him, **all the earth!**”* (1 Chr 16:28-30 NAS)

*“...**all the coastlands of the nations will bow down [shachah] to Him, everyone from his own place.**”* (Zep 2:11 NAS)

*“... **ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU...**”* (Rev 15:4 NAS)

Offering Praise beyond Worship as Usual

With perceptive insight and prudent timing, one generation will interrupt history-as-usual by offering glorious praise and demonstrative worship. Comparable to what John saw and heard in the Revelation, multitudes will converge from heaven and earth to convey multidimensional praise and worship. A time will come when men and women, boys and girls will show their Heavenly Father that which He seeks.

³ John 17:11, 21-23

⁴ Mat 6:10 ESV

They will worship Him in solitude and they will worship Him in multitudes.

Based on global estimates, the sum total of potential worshipers living during the 21st Century may exceed the entire population of humans in heaven. Now more than ever, multitudes of worshipers on earth can participate in epic expressions of praise generated in heaven. While an estimated one billion Muslims bow habitually toward a mosque in Saudi Arabia, our Heavenly Father waits for an informed response from those who know the truth about Him.

When it comes to worship, angels and humans complement one another. They each convey reverence from a unique perspective, one by sight, and the other by faith. As likeminded humans worship with the heavenly host, terrestrial reverence conforms to celestial veneration. Each gesture in word and deed penetrates God's heart and mind with eternal significance.

Worshipers on Earth as they are in Heaven

John saw a rare glimpse of worshipers asserting Christ's worth in heaven. He heard angels and humans declaring highest praise with heavenly passion.

*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 [lego means to say, speak, affirm, or teach; NIV renders it singing] 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." 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 [lego], "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever." And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen." And the **elders fell down and worshiped.** (Revelation 5:11-14 NAS)*

Fascinated by the value of God's worth, multitudes of heavenly beings fell facedown then blended their voices in proclamations of praise.

*And all the **angels** were standing around the throne and around the **elders** and the **four living creatures**; and they **fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying** [lego], "Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen" (Rev 7:11-12 NAS)*

Jesus taught His disciples to value God's will "on earth as it is in heaven".⁵ God's will does not vacillate when circumstances change. He seeks for multitudes of worshipers on earth just as He finds them in heaven.

All the earth will worship You, And will sing praises (Psa 66:4 NAS)

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⁵ Matthew 6:10 NKJ