



1



2



3



4



5

- But first He gives us a glimpse into glory and permits us to witness worship in heaven.
- Two aspects of worship are presented for our instruction and imitation:

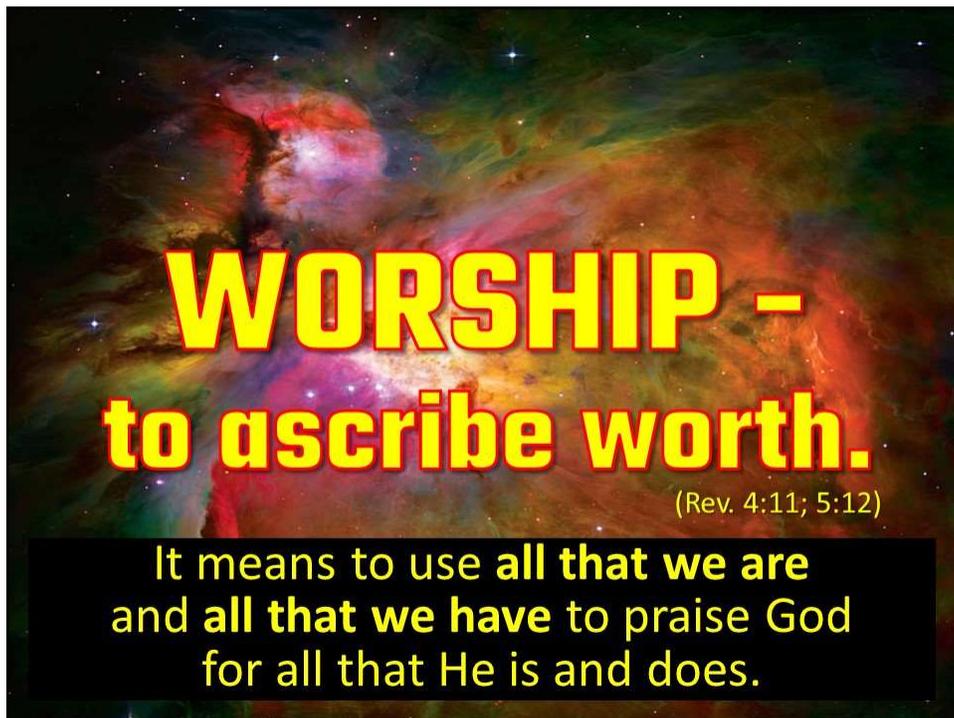
WORSHIP THE *Chapter 4*
CREATOR

Chapter 5 **WORSHIP** THE
REDEEMER

6



7



8



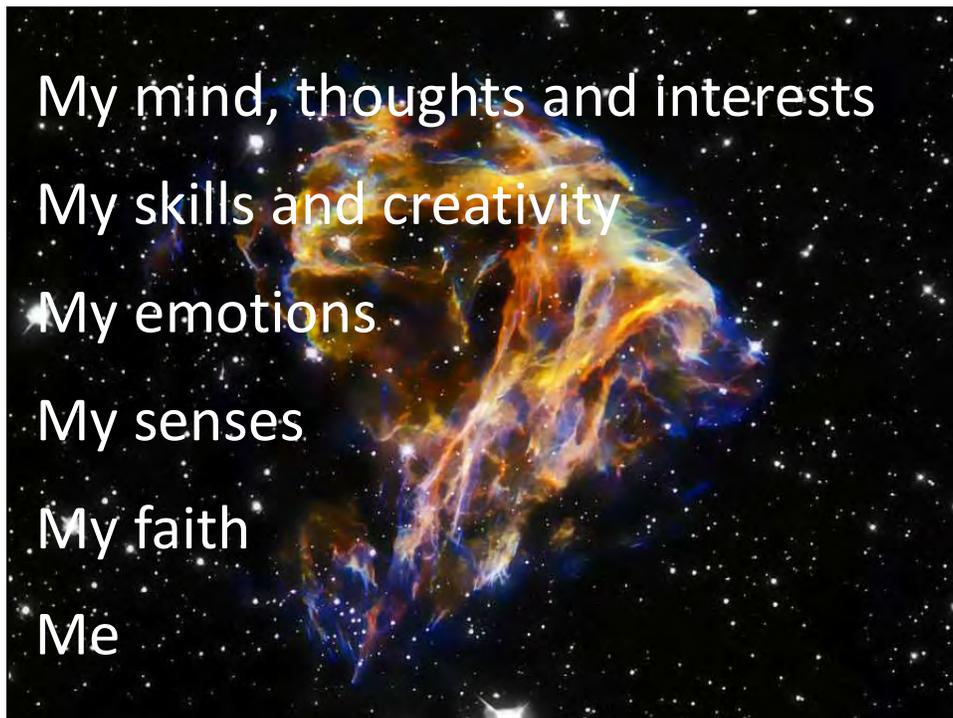
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10



11



My mind, thoughts and interests

My skills and creativity

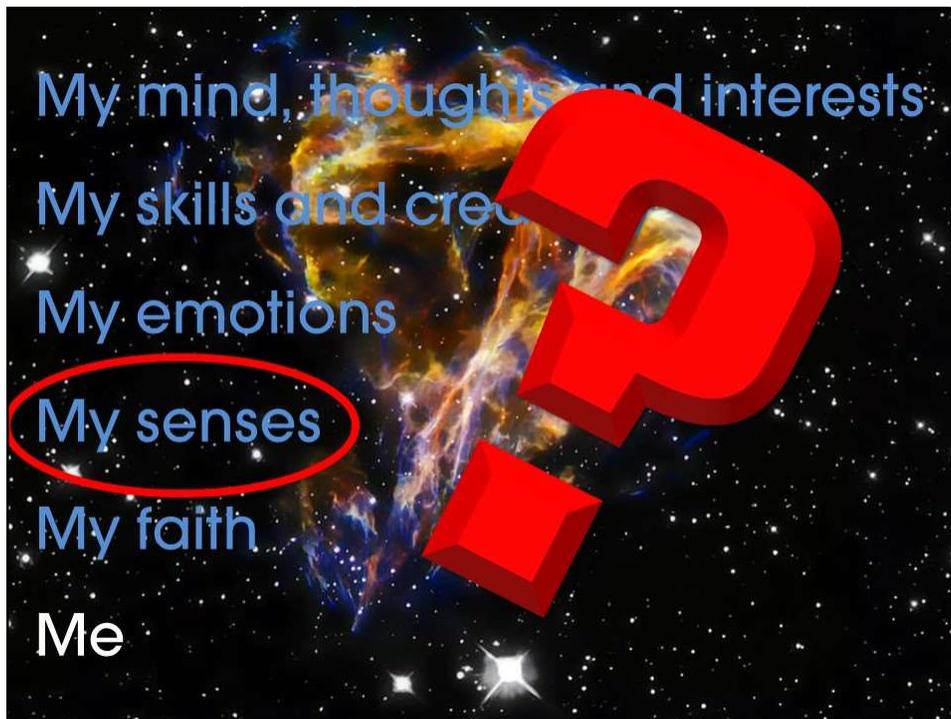
My emotions

My senses

My faith

Me

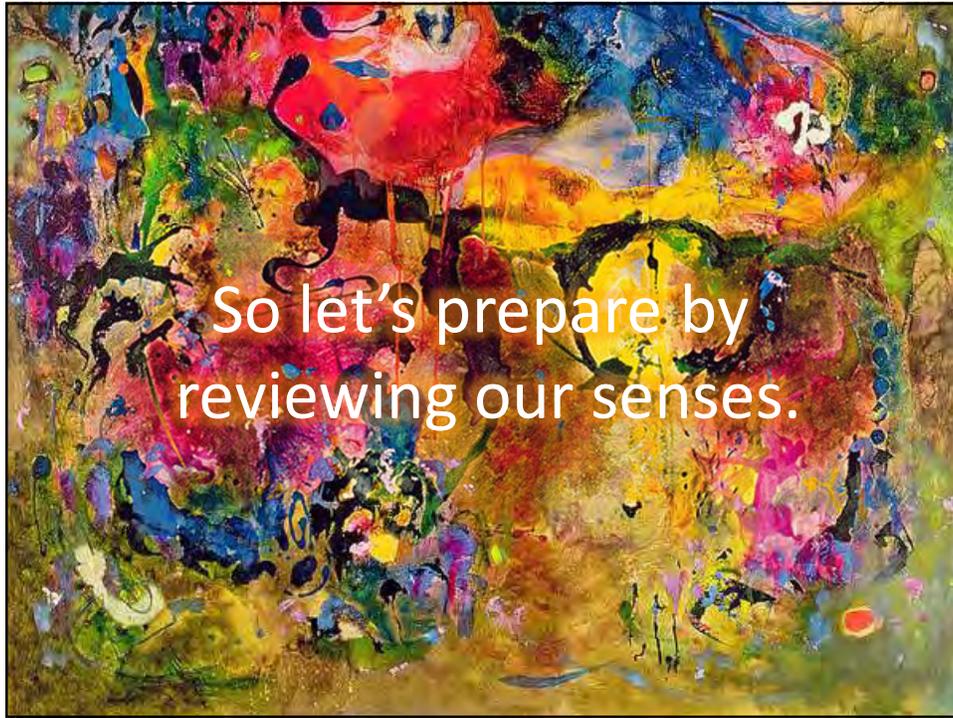
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16



17

Celestial harmony

- Pythagoras in particular tied music into his theories of mathematics (e.g., harmonics, etc.) and colour (e.g. light frequencies).

HARMONOGRAPH
A VISUAL GUIDE TO THE MATHEMATICS OF MUSIC
Anthony Ashton

18

Mathematical bottom line

- A colour is a light wave of a specific frequency (Hz) within the visible spectrum.
- A musical note is a sound wave of a specific frequency (Hz) within the audible spectrum.

EXAMPLE

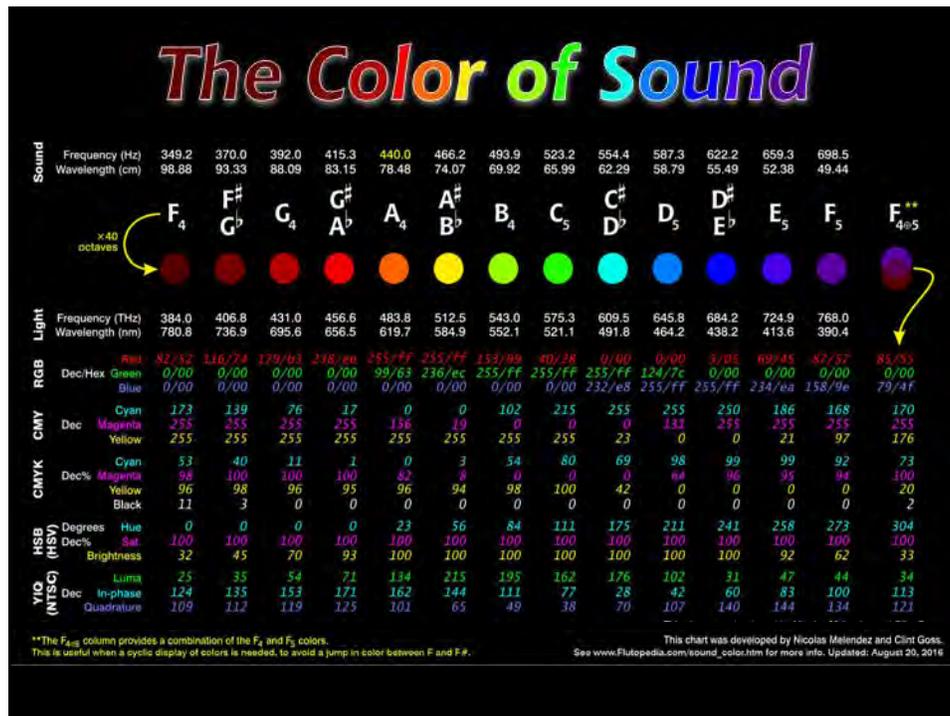
A light wave of 440 Hz is seen as orange.

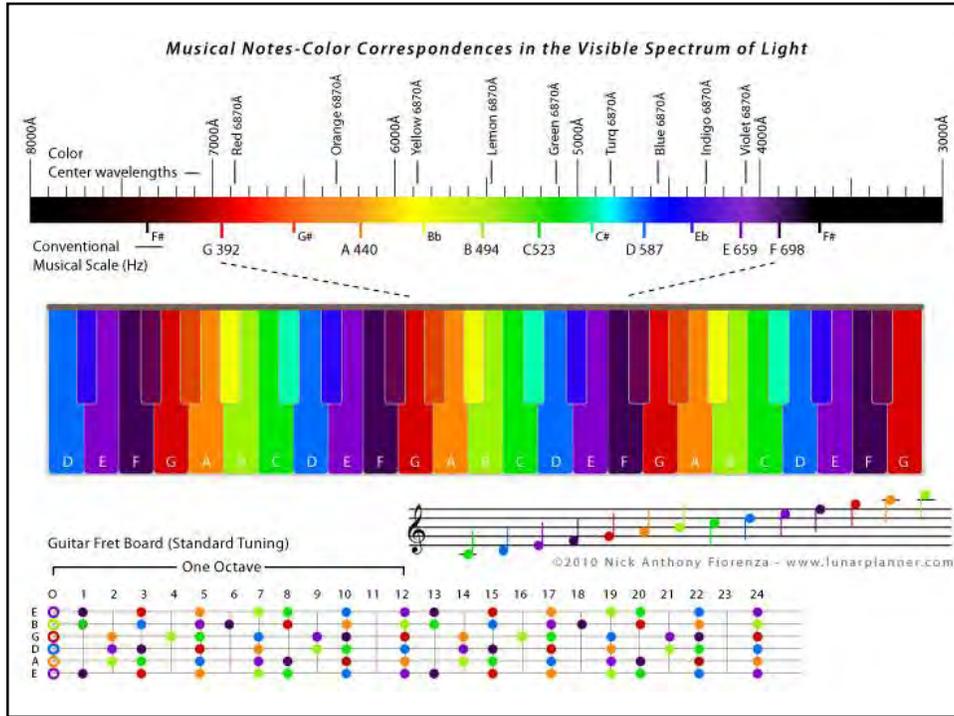
A sound wave of 440 Hz is heard as A.

∴ The musical note "A" is orange.

(Highly simplified)

19





21

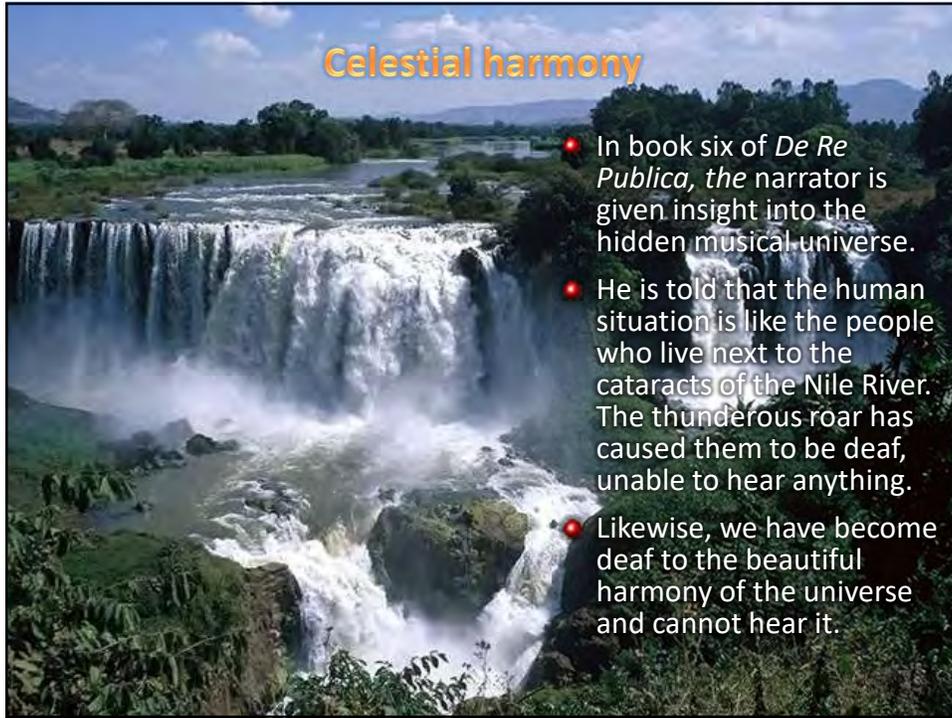
Celestial harmony

M. TVLLI CICERONIS
DE RE PVBLICA
QVAE SVPERSVNT
EX PRIMARIA EDITIONE
ANGELI MAII
TATICANAE BIBLIOTHECAE PRAEFECTI.

PARISIIS
APUD ANTONIUM AUGUSTINUM RENOUARD.
M. DCCC. XXIII.

- Like the Greeks before them, the Romans believed that the created universe was filled with music.
- *De re publica* discusses Archimedes' two celestial spheres, and Cicero asks Africanus (death), "What is this loud, sweet harmony that fills my ears?"

22



Celestial harmony

- In book six of *De Re Publica*, the narrator is given insight into the hidden musical universe.
- He is told that the human situation is like the people who live next to the cataracts of the Nile River. The thunderous roar has caused them to be deaf, unable to hear anything.
- Likewise, we have become deaf to the beautiful harmony of the universe and cannot hear it.

23



מוסיקה מאלוהים

(Music from God)

- According to rabbis, all of creation reflects the divine order which in turn is represented by the divine language and its symbols - the Hebrew alphabet.
- The Music From God project is a collaborative effort to produce a new kind of Biblical translation.
- Hebrew letters of the Torah are decoded into discrete musical notes, translating the power of the original Hebrew text into the universal language of music.
- Professional musicians then play and record the musically translated Bible.

24

Psalm 23

A Psalm of David.

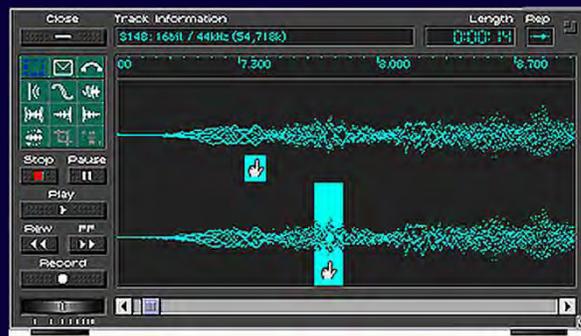


- ¹ The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.
- ² He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.
- ³ He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.
- ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; For You *are* with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
- ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.
- ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

25

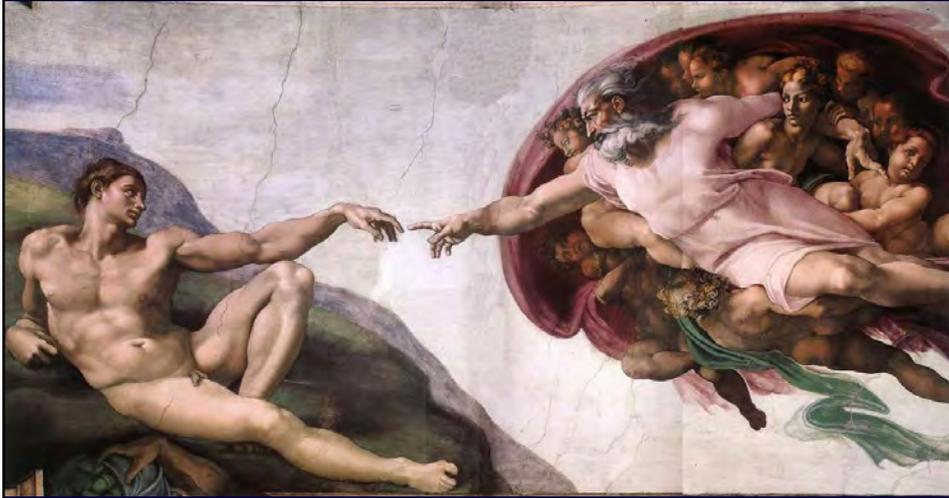
The amazing graphic representation of the soundtrack of Psalm 148

- The *Music From God* project often encounters unexpected, unexplainable phenomena.
- While recording Psalm 148 they were amazed to find a graphic representation of the Star of David in the visual graph of the sound of the word "Hallelujah" around the fourth syllable "jah," which sounds as "Yah."



26

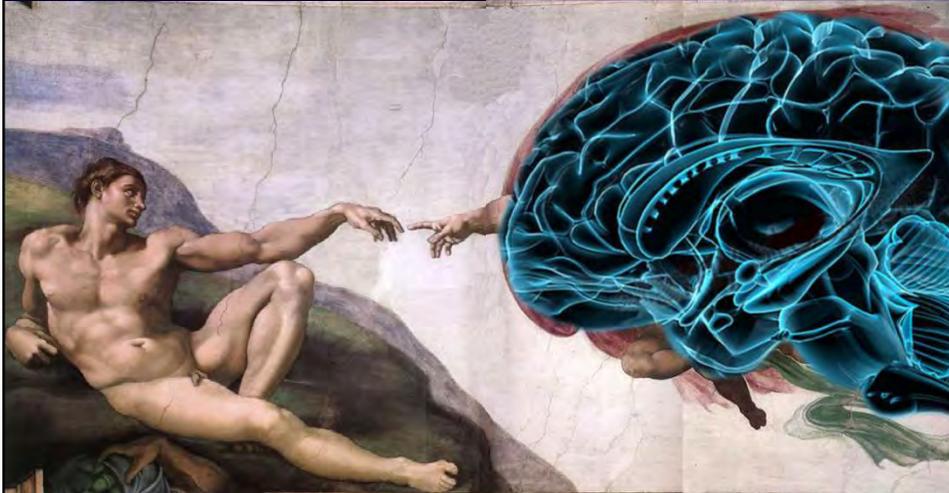
The sense of touch



The integumentary system (skin, hair and nails) provides a protective barrier for our internal organs and reacts to sensations of touch, vibrations, and pressure, regulating body temperature, and responding to sensations of heat and cold.

27

The sense of touch

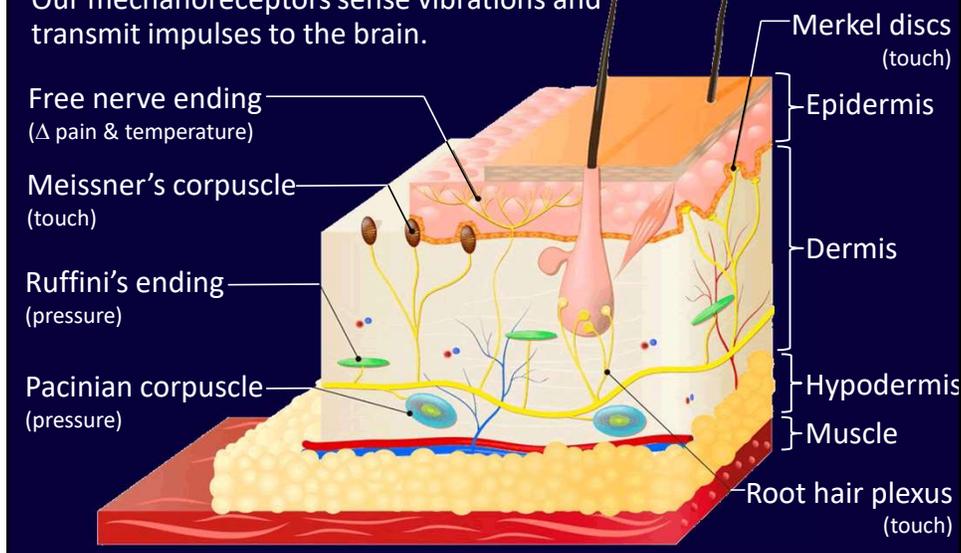


The integumentary system (skin, hair and nails) provides a protective barrier for our internal organs and reacts to sensations of touch, vibrations, and pressure, regulating body temperature, and responding to sensations of heat and cold.

28

Sensory organs on the skin

We sense and respond to the surrounding environment because of millions of receptors sensitive to pain, pressure, and temperature. Our mechanoreceptors sense vibrations and transmit impulses to the brain.



29

The physics of smell

- Odour is not a **wave** in classic physics. It is a **particle**. Somehow an "odour" particle reaches and locks into an olfactory sensor which notifies the brain. QED.
- However, there is a problem in identifying precisely how just a select few of the many odour particles available lock into a sensor (just ask your dog about smells).
- A recent scientific theory (which some dispute) suggests that as particles "lock in," a vibration is created that generates a unique frequency or set of frequencies associated with the chemical bond(s). This would mean that "smells" share wave characteristics with sound, colour, etc.

Frequency = wave ; lock and key sensor = particle
(who says science has all the answers?)

30

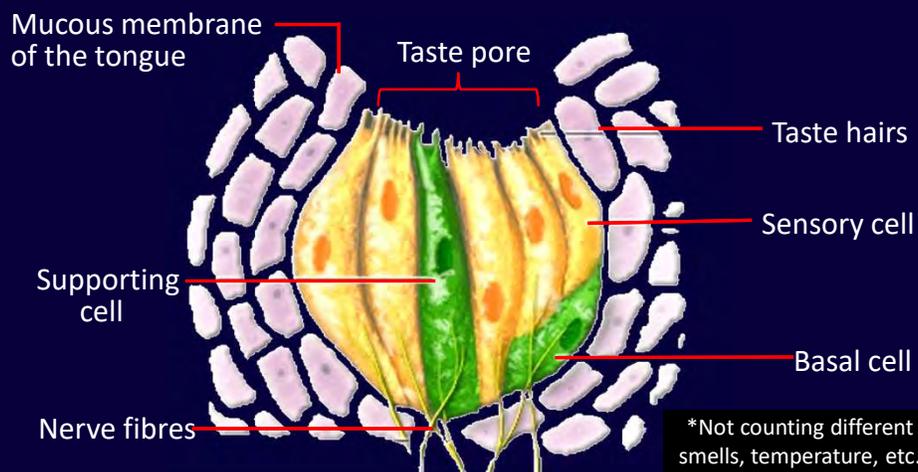
The physics of taste

- Adults have 2,000-4,000 taste buds in and around the mouth, each with 10-50 sensory cells. Proteins bind the “taste” chemical and activate the cell. Brains combine taste signals with pain, touch, temperature, and smell to determine flavour.
- Tastes are often associated with strong emotions. This is an evolutionary linkage associated with survival.
- Humans perceive six basic tastes:
 - **Sweet** (sugars (fructose, lactose), some amino acids & alcohols)
 - **Sour** (acidic solutions that taste sour due to H⁺ ions split off by an acid dissolved in a watery solution)
 - **Salty** (table salts (NaCl) or mineral salts)
 - **Bitter** (~35 sensory cells proteins respond to bitter substances as an evolutionary response to poisonous bitter plants)
 - **Savoury** (Jap. *umami*). Glutamic acid, aspartic acid and other amino acids intensify the savoury taste of foods.
 - **Fatty** (enzymes in saliva split some fatty acids from fatty foods.)

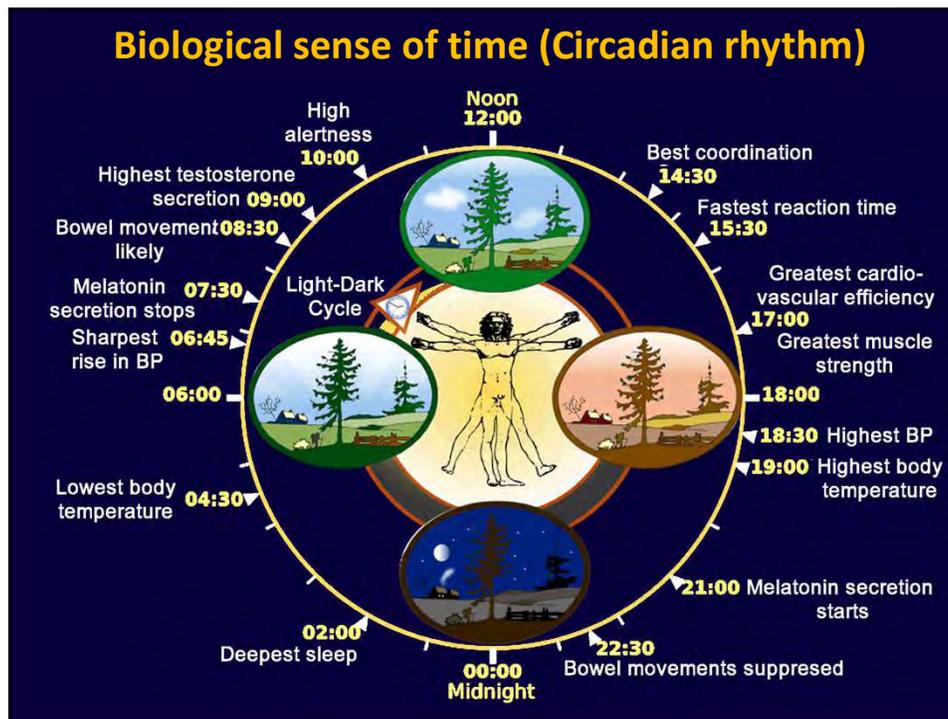
31

Taste bud

- Each cell is fixed. Half the sensory cells react to several basic tastes, differing by varying levels of sensitivity.
- The full flavour is produced by combining inputs, yielding a flavour array of over 100,000 flavours*.



32



33

Effect of emotion on time-perception



- **Awe** can expand our perceptions of time available. Our temporal perception slows down when in awe.

- **Fear**. Time also seems to slow during times of danger. We become capable of complex thoughts in what would normally be the blink of an eye. This evolutionary response enhances our ability to make quick decisions critical to survival.

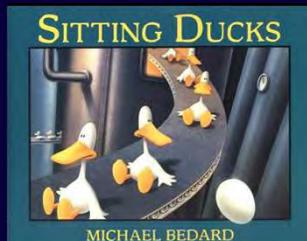


- **Empathy** can also change our sense of time. We may adjust our own sense of time to mirror our perception of other people's emotions.

34

The “Oddball Effect”

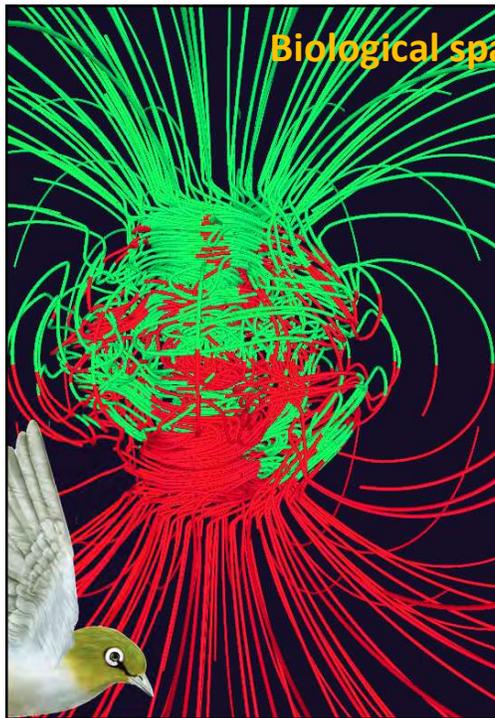
- Our perception of the duration of an event seems to be modulated by our recent experiences. We typically overestimate the perceived duration of unfamiliar or unexpected “oddball” events or stimuli. This is consistent with time slowing down in threatening situations.
- The effect seems to be strongest for images that are expanding in size on the retina, in other words, that are “looming” or approaching the viewer, and weakest for receding images.
- Experiments have shown that oddball-induced “subjective time dilation” can expand perceived duration by as much as 30–50%.



John’s vision was completely **outside** his experience. It was the archetypal “oddball” event.

35

Biological spacial effects



- Experts think that birds see earth’s magnetic field when light of a certain wavelength energizes molecules of pigment proteins (cryptochromes) in the eye.
- Thus they have an innate sense of direction.
- Perhaps most animals can sense magnetic fields.
- Interestingly, human eyes contain cryptochromes. This may aid visual spacial perception, perhaps yet another sense that will be of use in heaven.

36

WHAT THE
BIBLE
 IS ABOUT

Synesthesia

THE **TASTE** OF WORDS
 THE **COLOUR** OF SOUNDS

37



What is synesthesia?

- Synesthesia is a neurological condition in which two or more senses are attached.
- People with synesthesia feel a relationship between the senses. The excitement of one sense stimulates the experiencing of another.
 - The sensation is involuntary and can't be suppressed.
 - Sensations are actually felt: e.g., they can taste words or see colours while listening to music.
 - Sensations are consistent, generic and durable.
 - The feelings are often accompanied by emotions.
- More than 1 in 10,000 people have synesthesia (few report it).

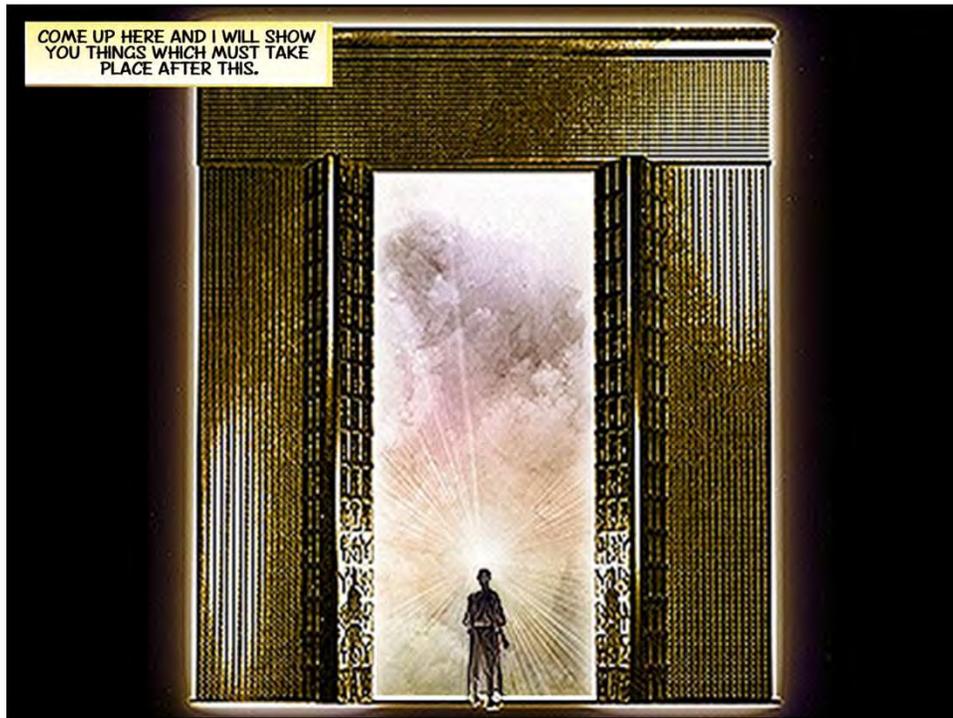
38



39



40



COME UP HERE AND I WILL SHOW YOU THINGS WHICH MUST TAKE PLACE AFTER THIS.

41



GOD THEN TRANSPORTS JOHN TO HEAVEN WHERE WORSHIP SURROUNDS THIS THRONE...

"HOLY, HOLY, HOLY IS THE LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS, AND IS, AND IS TO COME." IS SUNG CONTINUOUSLY AROUND THE THRONE.

42

The Throne Room of Heaven

Revelation 4:1-11

¹ After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

² Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.

³ And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.

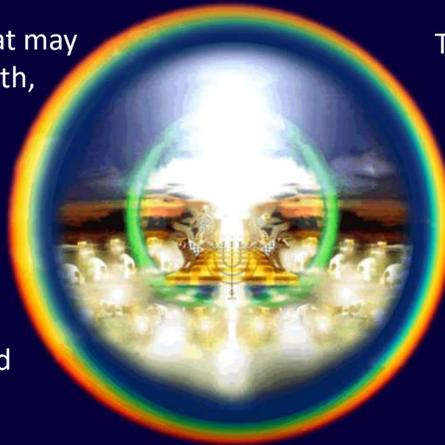


43

- Focal point is **the throne** (used 14x this chapter, 46x in Revelation).

No matter what may happen on earth, God is in complete control.

The imagery emphasizes God's glory and sovereignty.



The Father is on His throne (4.2-3).

The Holy Spirit is before the throne (4.5).

John sees the Lamb of God (5.6).

- The rainbow is a circle vertically (complete). Judgment will fall, but the rainbow reminds us that God is merciful. Usually, a rainbow appears *after* the storm, but here, we see it *before* the storm.

44

The Throne Room of Heaven

⁴ Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.

⁵ And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal.

⁶ And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.

⁷ The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle.

45

- The king's court (heavenly beings) are around the throne horizontally.
- Who are the twenty-four elders?
 - They are not angels (Heb. 12:22)
 - They are numbered, crowned, and enthroned.
 - They symbolise the people of God in heaven, enthroned and rewarded. "Kings and priests" reign and serve with Christ.
 - David had 24 courses of priests in the Old Testament temple (1 Chron. 24:3–5, 18; see also Luke 1:5–9).
 - Some say 12 tribes (Israel) plus 12 apostles = 24 all God's people.
 - Some: special created beings typical of Old & New Testaments.
- Lightnings, thunderings, and voices (signals of coming storm)
- Crystal sea symbolises God's holiness, fire symbolising judgment.
- Whenever the living creatures glorify God, the elders fall before the throne and praise Him.

46

Acknowledging the Creator
is the **first step** toward
trusting the Redeemer.

But **sinful man worships**
and serves **the creature**
rather than the Creator
(*idolatry*).

47

Living Creatures Reflect the Character of Christ

Creature Number	Appearance	Tribe	Characteristics	References
1	Lion	Judah	King or defender	Rev. 5:5
2	Calf (Ox)	Ephraim	Sacrifice	Lev. 4
3	Face of man	Reuben	Substitute or humanity	Phil. 2:5-8 Gen. 4:1
4	Flying eagle	Dan	Sustained	Ex. 19:4

Four faces referenced in Isaiah 6; Ezekiel 1, 10; Gospels; Numbers 2

48

God's Design of the Gospels

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Presents as	Messiah	Servant	Son of Man	Son of God
Genealogy	Abraham (Legal line)	-	Adam (Blood line)	Eternal (Pre-existent)
What Jesus	Said	Did	Felt	Was
Written to the	Jew	Roman	Greek	Church
First Miracle	Leper (sin) cleansed	Demon expelled	Demon expelled	Water to Wine
Ends with	Resurrection	Ascension	Promise of Spirit (Acts)	Promise of Return (Revelation)
Camp Side Ensign Face	East Judah Lion	West Ephraim Ox	South Reuben Man	North Dan Eagle

49

They worship the Creator

⁸ The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: " Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"

⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,

¹⁰ The twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

¹¹"You are worthy, O Lord,
To receive glory and honour and power;
For You created all things,
And by Your will they exist and were created."

50

New Testament Greek for "Crowns"

English (KJV)	Strong's	Greek Root	Biblical usage
crowns	G4735	στέφανος <i>stephanos</i>	1) A Badge of Victory; like the Latin "corona" is the crown in the sense of a chaplet, wreath or garland for the games, civic worth, military valour, nuptial joy or festive gladness 2) A Crown as a mark of royal or exalted rank a) a wreath or garland given to victors in public games b) Metaphorically: the eternal blessedness which will be given as a prize to the genuine servants of God and Christ: the crown (wreath) which is the reward of the righteousness c) that which is an ornament and honour to one
crowns	G1238	διάδημα <i>diadēma</i>	1) Always a symbol of kingly or imperial dignity; a badge of royalty 2) A diadem: a) a blue band marked with white which Persian kings used to bind on the turban or tiara b) the kingly ornament for the head, the crown

51

Crowns Available (in General)

The Badge of Victory	Criteria	Reference	Verses (KJV)
Crown of Life	For those who have suffered for His sake	James 1:12; (also Revelation 2:10)	<i>Blessed the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.</i>
Crown of Righteousness	For those who loved His appearing	2 Timothy 4:8	<i>Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.</i>
Crown of Glory	For those who fed the flock	1 Peter 5:4	<i>And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.</i>
Crown Incorruptible	For those who press on steadfastly	1 Corinthians 9:25	<i>And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.</i>
Crown of Rejoicing	For those who win souls	1 Thessalonians 2:19	<i>For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?</i>

52

Reserved Crowns

The Badge of Victory	Criteria	Reference	Verses (KJV)
Crown of Thorns (Jesus Christ)	Blasphemous masquerade of royalty by Roman soldiers made of <i>juncus marinus</i> or <i>lycium spinosum</i>	Mark 15:7 (also Matthew 27:29; John 19:2)	<i>And they clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his head,</i>
A Golden Crown (Jesus Christ) (<i>diadēma</i>)	The Son of Man at the time of God's Wrath; ----- KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS	Revelation 14:14 Revelation 19:12-21	<i>And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.</i>
Crowns of Gold	The 24 Elders	Revelation 4:4	<i>And round about the throne 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.</i>

53

Parallels

Earthly Temple	Heavenly Sanctuary
• Holy of Holies	■ Throne of God
• Seven-branched candlestick	■ Seven lamps of fire before the Throne
• Bronze Laver	■ Sea of glass
• Cherubim over the mercy seat	■ Four living creatures
• Priests	■ Elders (kings and priests)
• Bronze Altar	■ Altar (Rev. 6:9-11)
• Incense Altar	■ Incense altar (Rev. 8:3-5)
• Ark of the Covenant	■ Ark of the Covenant (Rev 11:10)

54

Worship

• **God's people Worship the Creator** (Chapter 4)

- On the throne—Almighty God (vv. 2–3a).
- Around the throne—a rainbow (v. 3b).
- Around the throne—elders and living creatures (vv. 3–4, 6–7).
- Out of the throne—storm signals (v. 5a).
- Before the throne—lamps and a sea (vv. 5b–6a).
- Praise to the throne (vv. 9–11).

55

Worship

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- Before the throne—lamps and a sea (vv. 5b–6a).
- Praise to the throne (vv. 9–11).

• **God's people Worship the Redeemer** (Chapter 5)

- Because of who He is (vv. 5–7).
- Because of where He is (v. 6).
- Because of what He does (vv. 8–10).
- Because of what He has (vv. 11–14).

56

Revelation 5

¹ And I saw in the right *hand* of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

² Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice,

“Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?”

³ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.

⁴ So I wept much (“*wept copiously*” – Jewish Bible), because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.

⁵ But one of the elders said to me,

“Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”

57

Revelation 5

⁶ And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, **stood a Lamb as though it had been slain**, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

⁷ Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

Worthy Is the Lamb

⁸ Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

58

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying:

“
 You are worthy to take the scroll,
 And to open its seals;
 For You were slain,
 And have redeemed us to God by Your blood
 Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God;
 And we shall reign on the earth.”

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,

¹² saying with a loud voice:

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
 To receive power and riches and wisdom,
 And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

59

Revelation 5

¹³ And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying:

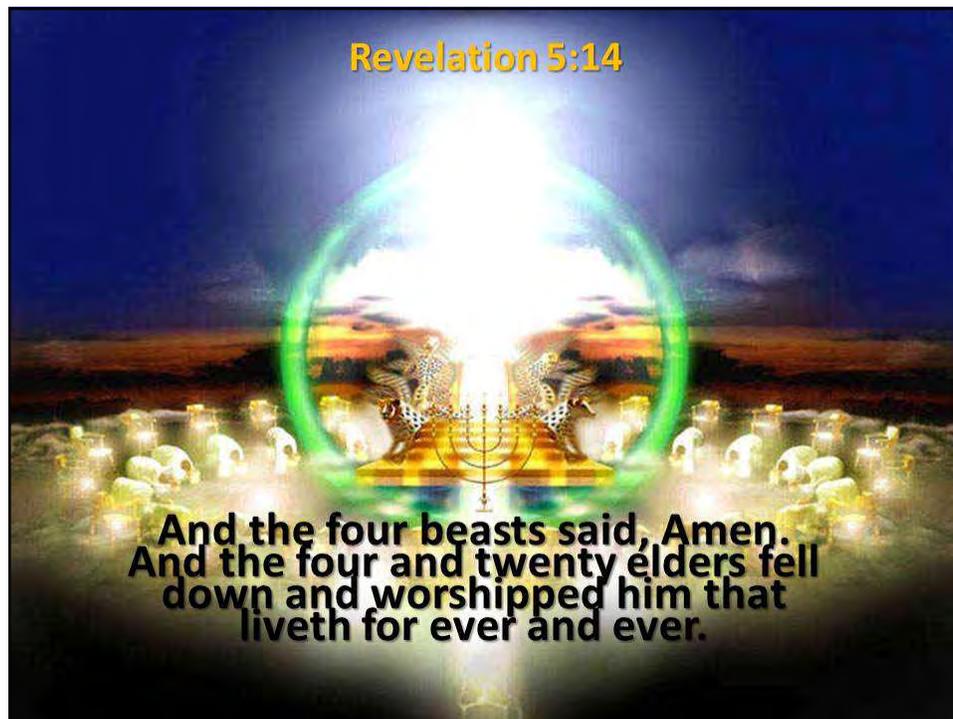
“Blessing and honor and glory and power
 Be to Him who sits on the throne,
 And to the Lamb, forever and ever!”

¹⁴ Then the four living creatures said,

“Amen!”

And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

60



61

They worship the Redeemer

<p>Because of who He is (verses 5-7)</p>	1	2	<p>Because of where He is (verse 6)</p>
<p>Because of what He does (verses 8-10)</p>	3	4	<p>Because of what He has (verses 11-14)</p>

62

Hymns of Praise in Revelation 4 and 5

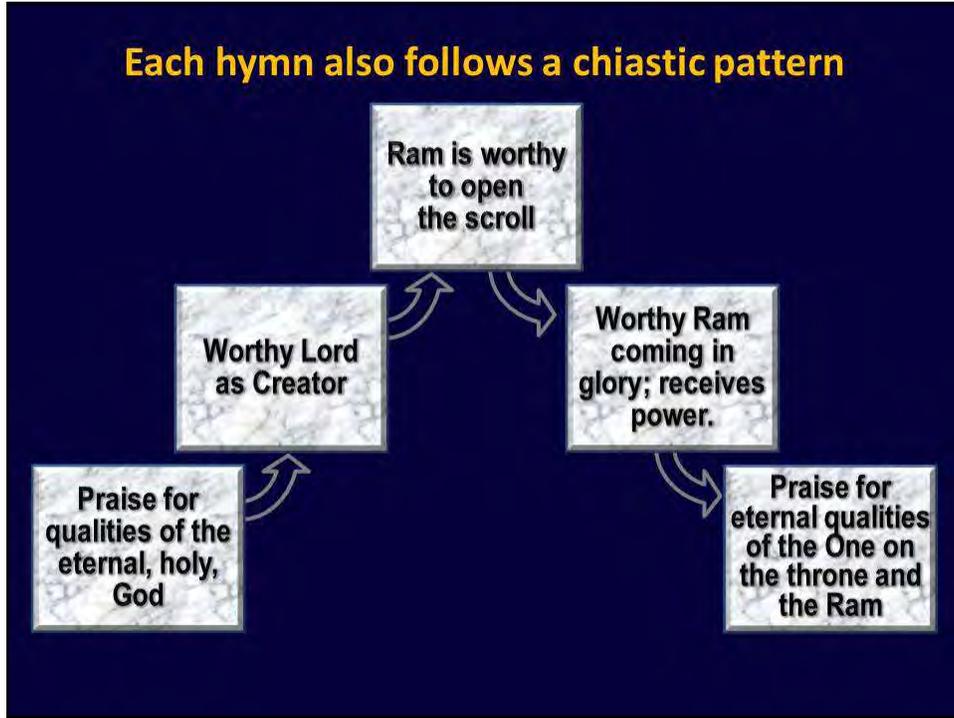
Revelation 4 and 5 include five praise hymns that rise to a magnificent crescendo throughout the universe for the One on the throne and for the One in the midst of the throne!

- ♪ There is a progression in the praise.
- ♪ ♪ More and more beings join in as the praise is given.
- ♪ ♪ ♪ They progress in time from creation to the end of the world.

63

-  **Hymn 1:** The eternal existence and holiness of God is seen (from eternity past) (4:8).
-  **Hymn 2:** Creation is reason for praise (4:11).
-  **Hymn 3:** Ascribes merits from the cross. He then empowers us with the gift of the Spirit (at Pentecost) (5:9).
-  **Hymn 4:** He has Power. According to Rev 7, this He receives in the judgment (5:10-12).
-  **Hymn 5:** The whole universe is involved in the praise. Every knee will bow around the Great White Throne at the end of the Millennium (5:13).

64



65

God's Plan of Salvation Seen in Hymns 1-5

Praise	Voices	Actions	Divine Qualifications	Event or Time
Prelude	... out of the throne ... lightnings and thunderings and voices (4:5)	-	-	The fall - By choosing sin, man is without hope. The divine law has been broken.
Hymn 1	... Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. (4:8)	The 4 living creatures praise the One on the throne day and night.	Righteousness of God in all ages	Looking back to eternity past, and considering creation, through to the time of the cross.
Hymn 2	Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. (4:11)	The 24 elders bow, casting their crowns before the throne.	God is worthy as creator and sustainer of all.	After creation. Genesis 2:1
Hymn 3, chiasitic center	Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; (5:9)	When the Lamb took the scroll, creatures and elders with harps and prayers sang this new song.	Jesus, the divine substitute is worthy to open the scroll (book) is worthy as priest and judge	Inauguration of Christ after His death, resurrection and ascension. He begins the <u>preadvent judgment</u> in the end times Rev 14:6. It is described as breaking the seals in chapter 6. See Daniel's description in Daniel 7:8.
Hymn 4	And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on [over] the earth. ... Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. (5:10,12)	The angels along with the living creatures and the elders have seen the records of the opened scroll.	Jesus is found worthy to reign as king (See Daniel 7:14)	The pre-advent judgment ends and the <u>millennial judgment</u> begins at the coming of Christ. Those found righteous reign with Christ as kings and priests per Rev 20:4.
Hymn 5	... Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. (Rev. 5:13)	These words are from "every creature" which would include the wicked. (Romans 14:10-12)	The one on the throne and the lamb are both worthy.	The millennial judgment is followed by the <u>Great White Throne Judgement</u> . All the universe including the wicked see God's divine justice. The wicked are destroyed. Rev 20:11-13.
Postlude	... Amen. ... (5:14)	The living creatures said, amen, and the elders worshiped	-	Life of the redeemed forever at peace in a universe living God's love

66

Hymn 1: Revelation 4:8

- This hymn recognizes God's holiness, omnipotence, and eternalness. This is the opening hymn, the "Call to Worship" for what follows.

And the **four living creatures**, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. **Day and night without ceasing** they sing;

***"Holy, holy, holy,
the Lord God the Almighty,
who was and is and is to come."***

67

Hymn 1: Revelation 4:8

- The four living creatures ceaselessly worship the one seated on the throne. The three-fold "holy" (see Isaiah 6.3) is a highly emphatic way of emphasizing God's unique holiness. John was allowed to view the centre of all holiness. The words of the living creatures tie this to John's initial description of God as the ageless one (Rev 1.4).
- In 4.9 we begin to see the function of the four living creatures more clearly. They serve as leaders of worship for the heavenly throng. There are four aspects to their words of worship:
 1. They ascribe *glory* to God. God's greatness and power must be recognized.
 2. They *honour* God. This can be construed as royal language. To honour God admits God's kingship.
 3. They *give thanks* to God. John is shown that the need to give thanks to God will never end, even extending to heaven.
 4. They recognize God's *eternity*. God is the one who "lives forever and ever."

68

Hymn 2: Revelation 4:10-11

- God's is worthy to be worshiped because he is the Creator of all.

The twenty-four elders fall before **the one** who is seated on the throne and **worship the one** who lives forever and ever; they **cast their crowns before the throne**, singing,
**"You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were
created. "**

69

Hymn 2: Revelation 4:10-11

- This is the baseline hymn. It is a "doxology" in light of its ascription of worthiness and glory to God.
- The elders follow the lead of the living creatures and offer their own worship by bowing before the throne and offering their crowns to God. They release any claim to their own authority and autonomy. They are utterly devoted to the service of God.
- This is first place in Revelation that anyone "worships." The main New Testament word for "worship" (*proskuneo*) implies giving obeisance, to bow down. Thus "worshiping" can be a physical position. In English "worship" has the connotation of "giving worth to someone," or "counting someone to be ultimately worthy."
- Worship here is not an emotion. It is an acknowledgement and a full commitment. We worship that which is superior and worthy of our honour. To say "You are *worthy*" is the very heart of worship: acknowledging the Worthy One. In an absolute sense, God is the only one "worthy to be praised" (Psalm 18.3). When understand that and see worship as spiritual submission to God, he is then our King and Master, and we are his blessed servants.

70

Hymn 3: Revelation 5:8, 9

- The Lamb's worthiness to open the scroll is revealed in light of his sacrifice on the cross and his formation of a new people of God on earth.

When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song, singing:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and **by your blood you ransomed** for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be **kings and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.**"

71

Hymn 3: Revelation 5:8, 9

- Heavenly worship ceases temporarily to (1) get the judgement underway and (2) introduce the Lamb. Worship resumes when He appears and joins Father God as the object of worship.
- Harps and bowls of incense add to John's spiritual experience.
- The earlier image of the elders as being white robed and wearing crowns signifies their dual role as kings and priests. In this hymn, the king/priest motif re-emerges, recognized as made possible by the Lamb's victory.
- Further evidence of the level of worship given the Lamb is found in the singing of a "new song."
- This worship celebration for the Lamb is motivated by two things:
 1. Jesus appears in heaven as the Redeemer for the people of God. He has been slain as an atoning sacrificial victim, and His blood bought redemption to both Jews and Gentiles. Jesus' death is not a defeat, but a victory (he has "prevailed").
 2. Jesus is acclaimed because his sacrifice has made him worthy to solve the current crisis: break the seals and open the book.

72

Hymn 5: Revelation 5:13, 14

- Universal and eternal worship is both for God and for the Lamb.

Then I **heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea,** and all that is in them, singing,

*"To **the one** seated on the throne **and to the Lamb***

be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

And the **four living creatures** said, **"Amen!"**

And the **elders** fell down and **worshiped.**

75

Hymn 5: Revelation 5:13, 14

- Universal and eternal worship is both for God and for the Lamb.
- The worship chorus is now joined by all creatures. The celebration is so great that even heaven cannot contain it for it has spread to earth. The acclamation of the creatures is four-fold, symbolic of the entire world, repeating four of the items from the angelic song.
- Human beings are assumed to be present, but they are not the centre of the worship exercise. They are on the outer ring.
- This song is similar to the original song of God's worthiness in Revelation 4.11, except worship now includes the Lamb. The Redeemer of Humankind is worthy of worship, and no human king is similarly deserving.
- The scene ends on a high note with the worship of the four beasts and the twenty-four elders. They worship unreservedly, counting the Lamb as worthy as the One who sits on the throne.

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