

12TH MAN

The 12th Man has become a common expression of the impact fans have on the game. Some stadiums are so loud from crowd noise that QB's resort to hand signaling.

As fans, cheering isn't necessarily something we decide to do—often, it's a spontaneous outburst of excitement. Just last night I had to quell a stand-up, fist-pump, shout combo after a big play because I was holding a sleeping baby. The child nearly got thrown into the air after a blocked punt scoop and score.

Why do we act like this? I think it's because we're designed to cheer. As exciting as a big game may be, it pales in comparison to the One for whom we were designed to cheer.

REVELATION 4:1-11

After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."

² At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. ³ And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald. ⁴ Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. ⁵ From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, ⁶ and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal.

And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: ⁷ the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. ⁸ And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"

⁹ And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

¹¹ "Worthy are you, 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."

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

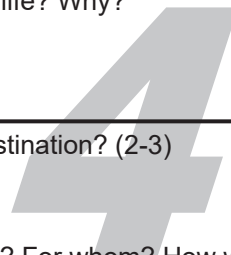
As I mentioned in the notes, the song *Echo Holy* by Red Rocks Worship has become deeply personal. Frankly, it's hard to hear without getting emotional.

Our great hope is an eternity in the glorious presence of the Lord. It will be awesome on a level we cannot imagine. It will not be dull, nor boring. It will be fabulously better than your best day on Earth. To worship with a focus on eternity and a respond to who Christ is, scan the QR code.



DISCUSSION

What was the best day of your life? Why?



ICEBREAKER

1. What did John see at his destination? (2-3)

OBSERVATION

2. What was around the throne? For whom? How were they dressed? (4)

3. What repeated word do the living creatures say and how often? (8b)

4. What 3 things do the elders do and how often? (9-10)

5. What is symbolized by the actions of the elders? (9-10)

INTERPRETATION

6. What are some things for which you want to be praised? How might you move that focus toward God?

APPLICATION

Are you ready for eternity? That's a hard question because as excited as we may be to see Jesus, it's difficult to think of who we leave behind. If you have questions, talk to your coach.

STUDY NOTES

OUR WORSHIP SHOULD RETURN GLORY TO CHRIST

Over the last several weeks, we've examined seven letters to seven churches. In each letter, we saw a description of Christ and a glimpse into his heart. Each time, he (more or less) called out churches for their unfaithfulness and challenged them to live up to the gift they've received.

A.W. Tozer said, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." Seeing Christ's evaluation of these churches should produce one response—worship. Just like fans spontaneously outbursting for their teams, when we see Christ and his heart, it should create in us something similar.

When we think of the word "worship," some of us might think of the service we attend on Sunday mornings. It's the singing part, right? Wrong! Worship isn't just one thing—we may call singing, "worship," but worship isn't *limited* to singing. Worship is an outpouring of a heart overwhelmed by the God who loved us enough to send his Son to die in our place. It's beholding (see Week 7 for a description of "Behold") the overwhelming glory of our Creator. It can be an intentional act of surrender or, like stated above, it might be a spontaneous shout of praise.

Over the final four weeks of our study, we're going to glimpse different aspects of Christ's glory. As such, each week we are going to discover a different angle of worship. There are countless ways *to* worship and countless reasons *for* worship. However, here, the Apostle John would **behold** the Lord of all Creation. This unique portrait, which only John saw, glorified Christ in his relationship to other heavenly beings.

CHRIST'S GLORY IS REVEALED THROUGH OUR WORSHIP (PART I)

At once John **was in the Spirit**. Experientially, he was taken up to heaven, though his body remained on Patmos, where he returned and remained until his physical death. John vividly opened *Revelation* describing the Lord in glory. However, here, the apostle would **behold** the Lord of all Creation. This unique portrait, which only John saw, glorified Christ in his relationship to other heavenly beings.

From a throne encrusted with precious gems and encircled with a brilliant rainbow, John **heard** a voice **speaking to me like a trumpet**, that **said**, "**Come up here, and I will show you what**

must take place after this." "After this" refers to the recording of the previous seven letters. With all of the demands of those letters, a reader might be tempted to ask, "Is this all worth it?" John's vision of those seeing Jesus indicate that anything is worth the price of faithfulness.

Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders. In accordance with Christ's message to the seven churches, the twenty-four elders don't represent *all* believers, but only the *faithful* believers. These crowns (*stephanos*) were given to victors in Greek games, not the crown of a sovereign ruler (*diadēma*, "diadem"). Therefore, they indicate the elders had been judged and rewarded.

In addition to the elders, **around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures... they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"**

THE ANTHEM

Earlier this year, my pastor, mentor, and friend, a man for whom and with whom I have worked for several years, passed away due to complications from Covid. Because of my relationship, as well as a background in video, the family asked me to put together a slideshow for the funeral. Struggling through the process, I reached out to a friend for help with the song to put behind the pictures and video. The song he ultimately suggested was *Echo Holy* by Red Rocks Worship.

"Standing at the end of time, There before the throne of grace, Majesty before my eyes, Let it take my breath away. A million angels fall, Face down on the floor, All to echo, "Holy is the Lord" My heart can't help but sing, With all of Heaven roar, Forever echo holy is the Lord."

This song and these words have become an anthem for myself and my church during this time. We have no doubt that Pastor Tim entered the presence of Jesus and beheld his glory. In that moment, Tim did what he had spent his whole life doing. He worshiped Jesus.

To say that losing Tim was "unexpected" is an understatement. None of us know how much time we have left in this world. Just like **the twenty-four elders** who **fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever**, one day we will all bow before Jesus' glory. **They cast their crowns before the throne** and any reward we receive will be laid at Jesus feet as well. On that day, let us not regret the opportunity we have to live in worship now—"Face down on the floor, All to echo, "Holy is the Lord."