



## PARADIGM SHIFT

As recently as 500 years ago, Church leaders and theologians taught that the Earth was the centre of the universe, and everything revolved around us. Thanks to the scientific revolution, we've returned to the belief that the sun is the centre of our solar system, with all the planets (including Earth) revolving around it.

The French Revolution saw another major cultural shift in how we see our world. But this time, in the opposite direction. We've come to believe that we are the centre of all things. This belief affects the way we read the Bible, do Church and worship. Everything has become about US.

Scripture challenges this belief, and acknowledging that we are not the centre of our world is probably the 'one thing' that changes everything for worship.

The Psalms help drive this point home:

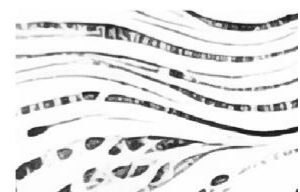
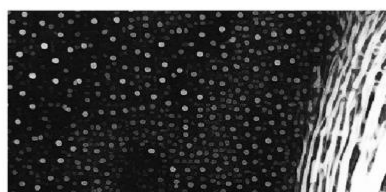
**Psalm 1** starts by focusing on our inner world – our dreams, thoughts, hopes, desires, passions, and decisions ... and the implications of our choices.

**Psalm 2** shifts us from a focus on our own reality to one which focuses on the eternal reality of God. And this reality is a "Christ at the centre" reality (v6,8). Everything revolves around Christ, whether it appears to us to be so or not. And anything that sets itself up against Him will eventually come to ruin (vv9-12), never reaching its fullest potential. The message is clear: the best thing I can do is bring my WORLD into alignment with His WORD.

**Psalm 3** reminds us that we will face challenges as we seek to make Christ the centre of our lives. There will be opposition, but instead of challenging God and questioning His priorities, we are encouraged to surrender our minds and hearts to Him as He aligns our thinking with His own and shows us where our desires don't match His plan for us. In every challenge we face, God invites us to turn our face towards His defined CENTRE, to find the ONE around Whom all of REALITY revolves around.

Christ is to be found wherever we look – in Nature, in Scripture, in our original Human Design. The revelation of CHRIST is the reason behind ALL of God's creative activity. Just as the lights in the heavens shed their light on the earth and draw our gaze toward them, so the glory of Christ draws the eyes of our hearts to gaze upon Him (2 Corinthians 4:6). It is in His light that we see light (Psalm 36:9b).

CS Lewis reminds us of this parallel in the spirit:





I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I **see it**, but because **by it** I see everything else.

Christ is central to all of Scripture. We can look at Scripture as an additive to our lives or view it as something foundational from which we live (Matthew 7:24 MSG).

God intended for us to SEE CHRIST in Scripture (John 5:39-40 & Hebrews 1:1-3a AMPC).

Christ is also the prototype on which our Human design is patterned. Knowing how powerful the mirror of our culture and human relationships can be – how easy it is for us to see ourselves defined by others' opinions of us – the Holy Spirit uses Nature, Scripture and our Original Design to reveal to us our 'original face' IN CHRIST and be transformed into his likeness as we do.

So, let's connect what we've just seen with the conversation on WORSHIP.

Worship didn't start in Genesis 4, with Cain and Abel bringing their sacrifices ... or in Genesis 22, with Abraham laying Isaac on the altar – although the first reference to 'worship' in the Bible is found here (Genesis 22:5). The best place to start any conversation on worship comes from a comment that Jesus made while teaching His disciples to pray – 'Your kingdom come, Your will be done ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN' (Matthew 6:9-13 / Luke 11:2-4).

So, how does worship work in heaven?

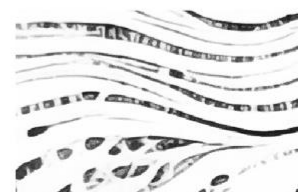
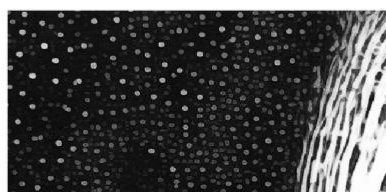
John provides us with a fairly detailed picture of worship – as it is in heaven – in Revelation 4 (vv2-6). Light, colour, movement and energy, shouts of surprise and joy, participation and response. Worship in heaven is so interactive; there are no spectators; nobody is standing, watching, and wondering; everybody is engaged. The only way to avoid being totally overwhelmed and disoriented there is to focus on the throne and respond to the revelation you are experiencing.

So, how would that play out here on earth?

The point is not to try and emulate what we see in the Scriptures by recreating the Tabernacle of Moses or David or even what we see of prophetic ministry with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2. But rather, apply the principle that Jesus taught us – that His will should be done on earth AS IT IS IN HEAVEN. Our starting point must be to ensure that the 'heart' of worship, as we engage here on earth, is 'in sync' with the heart of the worshippers in heaven.

Nobody there is concerned with their own preferences in worship ...

No one is clinging to a cultural reference as they worship ...





**SUMMARY**  
SESSION 1

Worship is simply a natural human response to the revelation of Christ ...

Everyone there is simply in awe of who Jesus is ...

And their response is worship.

