



IN THE THRONE ROOM

The incarnation, or “taking on of flesh”, saw Jesus – who was **fully God** – now also becoming **fully Man** by stepping out of the throne room of Heaven and into a virgin’s womb.

An entire cycle of events followed - His early life, ministry, death, burial, resurrection and then His **Ascension** - the grand finale - completing the entire cycle. Jesus ascends, returning to the Father, forever changing how we engage with Him and He with us.

So, what does this mean for me, as a worshipper, but also in my everyday life? (Ephesians 2:4-6 NLT).

Every aspect of Jesus’ life is significant because He fully represents us. We are linked with Him in every facet of what He experienced and accomplished. His experiences have a direct influence on how we engage with life.

This principle, in the context of the Kingdom of God, is known as the principle of identification. We identify with Jesus’ death, burial, resurrection, and all that that implies for our lives and futures. When we do not properly grasp this principle, our lives never get to experience the fullness of our God-intended potential.

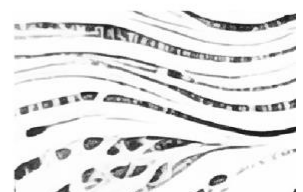
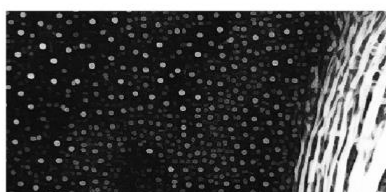
Some consider Jesus to be a myth. Others accept the historical evidence supporting the life of Christ but believe that other figures like Gandhi or Mandela had a similar impact in their time on this earth. Some recognise that Jesus died for you and me but have distilled the relationship between us and Christ to one of debt and duty. “He died for us; now I need to do my part for Him.”

The problem with this kind of thinking is that instead of a life of freedom, fullness, relationship, restoration and abundance, we are trapped in a life of guilt and indebtedness.

In becoming human and dwelling among us, Jesus chose to fully identify with Mankind in the implications of our humanity (John 1:14; Philippians 2:5-8) and in dealing with the consequences of our choices (2 Corinthians 5:21).

For you and I, it means that because we were included IN HIM when it happened, His death became our death. On the cross, humanity’s sin was dealt with; our sins were forgiven; our past has been addressed (John 19:30 – tetelestai! – it is done). Accepting that sets us up to embrace the next step(s).

If, when He died, He took our sinful past with Him to the cross and wiped the record clean, when He was buried, He took our sinful nature with Him into the grave. And when we fully





identify with Him in both His death and his burial, it sets us up to fully identify with Him in His resurrection (2 Corinthians 5:14b-15 AMP).

We have been raised together with Him into newness of life. His victory over sin and the forces of darkness has become our victory (Colossians 2:10-15). And the implications of His ascension become clear. Because of my identification with Him, I find myself seated together with Him in heavenly places (Ephesians 2).

My identification with Him in His resurrection and ascension means two things: I cannot be separated from Him in His exalted position! And He cannot be separated from me as I live in this world, with all of its challenges. He and I face life together. His Spirit dwells within me, fills me, and empowers me in every situation I face.

In Galatians 2:20, Paul confirms this - not only do I live IN HIM, but He lives IN ME.

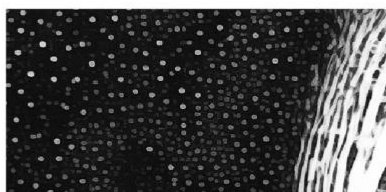
God invites us to join Him in His position and to see things from His perspective. Our identification with Christ is the only way in which that shift can be made.

So, what does it really mean to be seated in heavenly places as a worshipper? What does it mean to worship from this place, the throne room?

In Revelation 4 and 5, we find one of the most amazing descriptions of worship and how worship is being expressed 'in heaven'. We read about the 24 Elders casting their crowns before The One who is on the throne. These crowns represent everything that they've been rewarded for. And they are casting it at the feet of The One on the throne, saying, 'You alone are worthy! No matter what it is that we have been able to accomplish, we've been able to do that because of who You are and what You have made possible for us'.

The four living creatures are the first 'ring' of worshipers around the throne (Revelation 4:6-8 ESV). These four creatures are the four worship leaders in the heavens. John draws our attention to the uniqueness of each one.

The 'first' is like a lion. The second like an ox; the third has a human face and the fourth is like an eagle in full flight. There is significance to who these living creatures are and what they represent. Each of them is telling us something about who Christ is and how He is engaging with His creation. These four living creatures are leading voices in the throne room, worshippers who are modelling appropriate responses to the awareness of His worth and also the significance of what they are revealing to us about worship – and how to engage in worship – in what they are saying and doing. Each of these four living creatures invites us to engage with them in worshipping Him from that specific 'revelation-place'.





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In the next few sessions, we will 'zoom in' on each of the four living creatures and discover what they are telling us ... firstly, about what they see in Christ and secondly, what they are modelling for us as worshippers in responding to that revelation.

