



## THE NEW SONG

As we look at the four living creatures leading worship in the Throne Room in Revelation 4, we can see in each one something about the nature, character and qualities of who God is. But what are they doing? The obvious answer: Singing! But, what's really happening here is that they are seeing ... they're amazed at what they see in God. And they're responding to what they're seeing.

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty" is their response to what they're experiencing (Isaiah 6:3). The word "holy" in the original Hebrew means "different" or "set apart". The worshippers are responding to the ever-unfolding revelation of who God is, and with each new discovery, they are in awe. And their natural response is worship.

This is the core of worship: Discovering something about God ... that impacts us ... and then we respond. Worship is our response to His 'worth'-ship.

In Psalm 40, the Psalmist says: "He put A NEW SONG in my mouth ... many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord." The Psalmist uses the word see rather than hear. But what do others see when we worship?

This is a comment on the physical aspect of human creativity, the way others perceive what we express. When someone dances in response to what they've discovered in Him, we observe their expressions and movements; and we share in the joy, power, liberty, and authority. We become aware of His truth expressed in their agility and beauty.

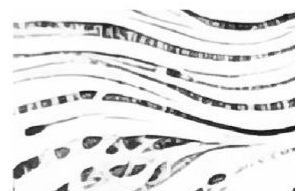
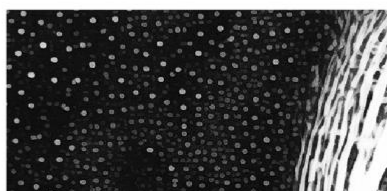
But there's an even deeper level of awareness, of 'seeing', that we are invited into. 2 Corinthians 5:7 encourages us to walk by faith, perceiving heavenly realities with our spiritual senses (John 3:3,5; Hebrews 5:12,14). This goes beyond what our physical eyes can see. To 'walk by faith' actually has three aspects – the perception of the spirit, the conviction of the mind, and the action of the body.

So ... will people become afraid when we start to sing?

Hopefully not. A better translation of this phrase could be: many will see and be in awe.

So, let's look into this 'NEW' concept that the Psalmist mentions: He put a new song in my mouth (Psalm 40:3). What is this newness all about?

The original Hebrew word for "new" used here is translated in the Greek with the word *Kainos*. It refers to something completely new, never heard of before, something that never yet existed.





So when I sing, it's because He's put a new song in my heart. But even the word 'song' is too limited a reference for what He's placed within me. And here's where Paul helps us by using the word *Kainos* in 2 Corinthians 5:17 as well. "If any man be in Christ, he is a NEW creation."

Paul teaches that in Christ, we become a new creation. It's a transformation that puts us in a whole new category of what it means to be alive! Being in Christ means you're more than what is typically understood as being human.

One of the better-known references to the 'new' is obviously Jesus' comment about new wine (Matthew 9:16-17; Mark 2:21-22; Luke 5:36-39). He says nobody takes new (*neos*) wine and puts it in old wineskins; you take new (*neos*) wine and put it in new (*kainos*) wineskins, new containers, new bottles.

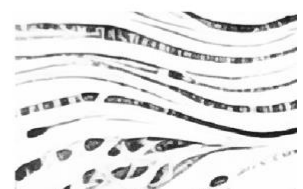
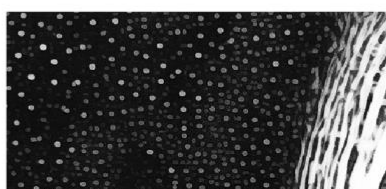
When Christ pours His life into this human container, it impacts every part of our being; it will definitely cause transformation. If this vessel is not a new (*kainos*) creation, it won't be able to handle the God who has poured Himself into it. An unchanged human life cannot 'house' the profound changes brought about by the indwelling Christ-life.

The prophets told us about the NEW (*KAINOS*) thing that God would do (Jeremiah 31:31-34, Ezekiel 36:26-27, Hebrews 8:8). That's what was happening in Acts 2 on the Day of Pentecost. Being filled with His New Life enabled the believers to speak with new (*KAINOS*) tongues (Mark 16:17). And that opened up a whole new category of communication.

Paul encourages believers to 'speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs' (Eph 5:19 and Col 3:16). The 'spiritual songs' he's referring to are the 'new songs' that are born within a believer's spirit. The new (*kainos*) songs flow from the inside out. It's not something I have to make happen. It comes from the Creator of MELODY, who lives in me.

As redeemed-renewed-restored people, we communicate to God – and the world around us – something that is truly new and unique. In Philippians 2:13, Paul reminds us that God is at work in us all the while, creating within us the desire and placing within us the energy and ability to do what pleases Him. Our lives are vibrating with the energy of God. Streams of living water are flowing from within our innermost being (John 7:38). We, the Bride, sing His song (Revelation 15:3).

There's something quite prophetic in this 'Bride & Bridegroom' imagery regarding worship. The groom gets down on one knee ... He takes the initiative, and his bride responds. Corporate worship is God's 'moment', His 'time', not ours. We're not inviting Him in or making Him feel welcome; we're catching on to what The Lord of the Church is busy saying and singing, the way He's choosing to glorify His Father. That's what we're responding to!





## SUMMARY SESSION 8

He's inviting us to engage with Him – and to enjoy Him. He's not sitting in the gallery like an impartial observer or a 'worship critic' as we 'perform' our 'duty' in worship. He's actively, intimately involved.

That's what Paul refers to in 2 Corinthians 4:7 - "We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure". We're His poem, His song, His unique corporate, creative expression, His work of Art, His prized Jewel (Ephesians 2:10). We're the vessels that carry His sound, His song, His joy, His hymns of praise into the spirit realm. Our songs draw people's attention to Christ. Our communication is filled with His energy. It reflects the Word of Christ living richly within us (Colossians 3:16) and the presence of the indwelling Spirit constantly at work in us (Ephesians 5:19).

Let us sing to the Lord a NEW SONG.

