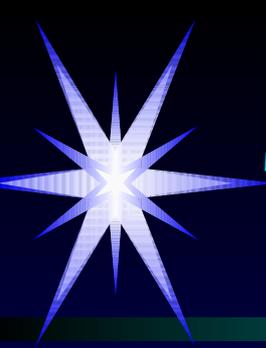
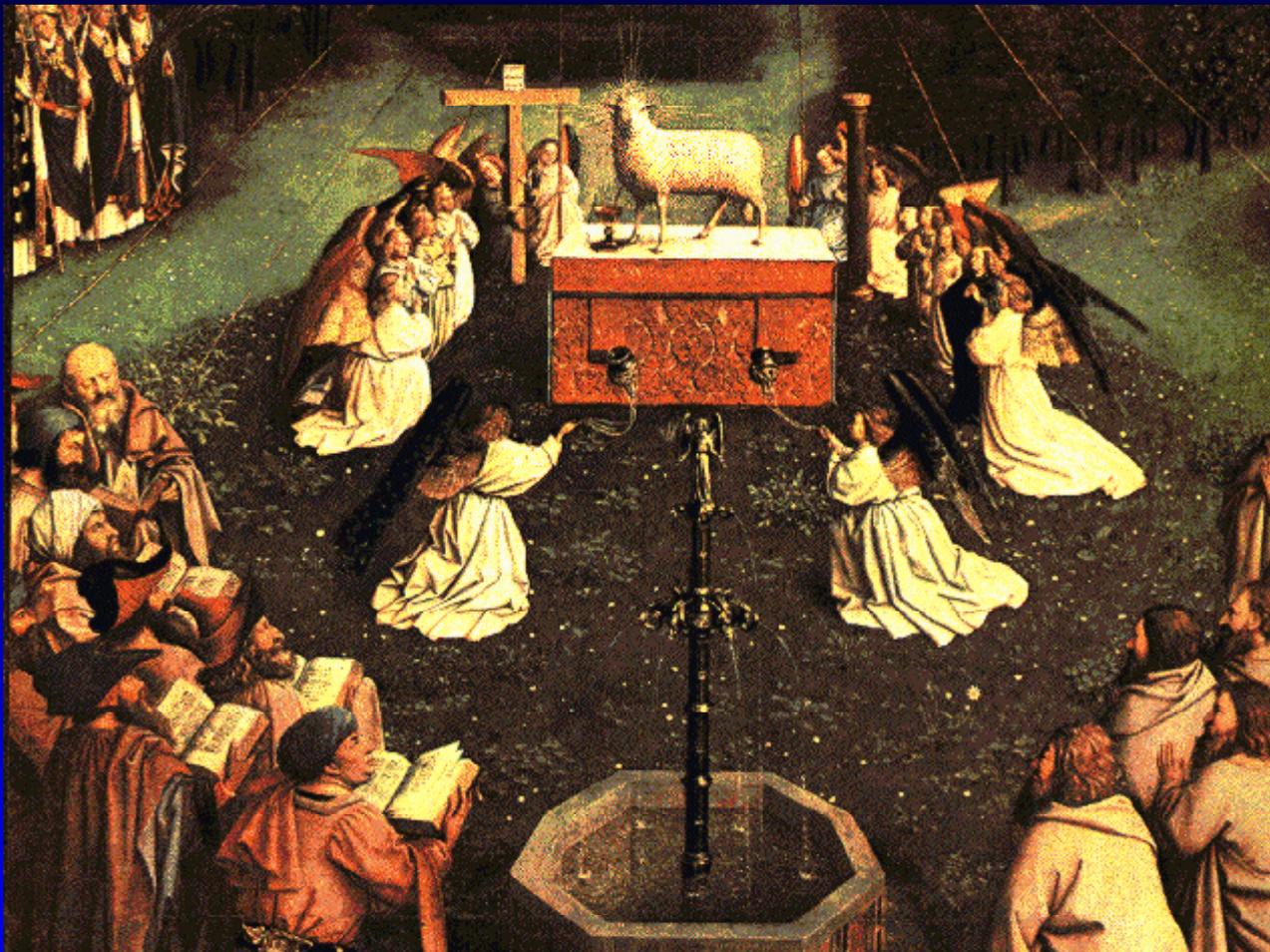


Worship in Revelation

Vern Sheridan Poythress



The Lamb



The
Adoration
of the
Lamb,
by Jan van
Eyck, 1432



Worship from Theophany

Seeing God in majesty



Praise

4:8



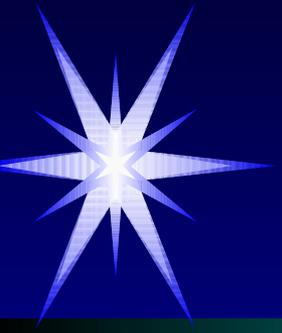
Awe

1:17



Imitation

2 Cor. 3:18

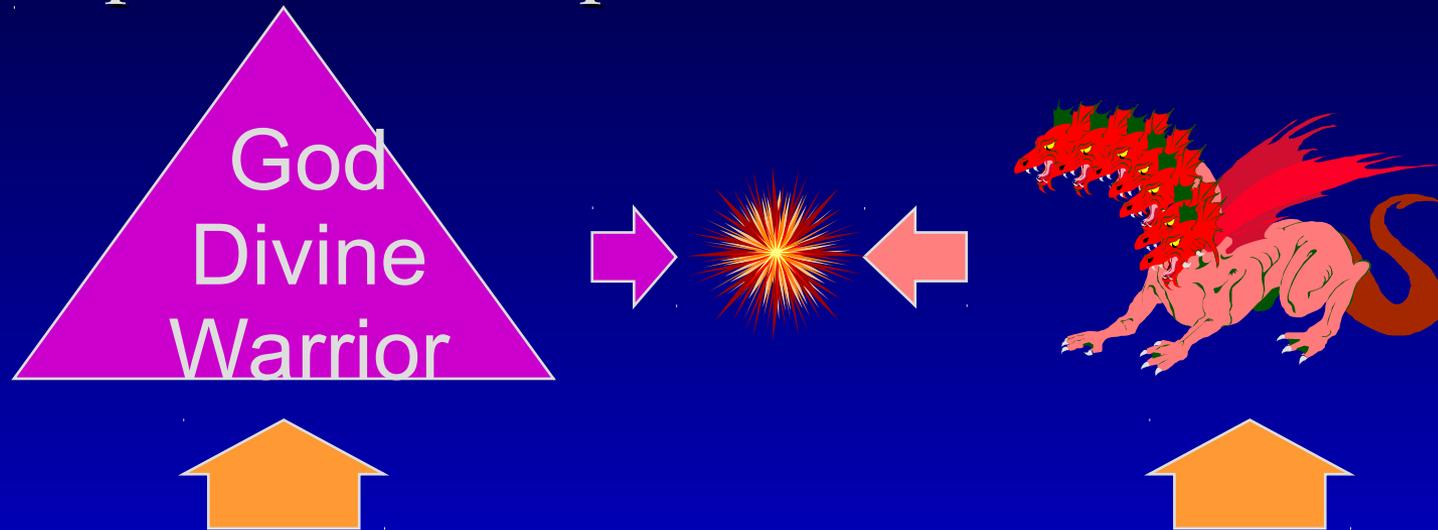


A. Worship as Theme in Rev.



Conflict as Worship

- ▶ Spiritual war pervades Rev.

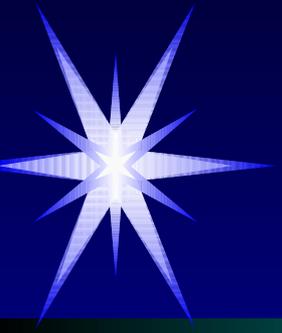


- ▣ To whom do people give allegiance?
- ▣ Worship of God or Satan.

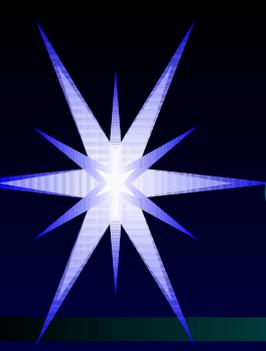


Pervasiveness of Worship

- ▣ **Scenes of worship: 1:17; 4-5; 7:9-12; 8:3-5; 10:6-7; 11:1; 11:15-19; 12:10-12; 15:2-8; 15:5-7; 18:20; 19:1-10; 20:4-6; 20:11-15; 22:1-5; 22:8; 22:20-21.**
- ▣ **Spiritual war.**
- ▣ **Seeing God.**
- ▣ **Receiving instruction and exhortation.**

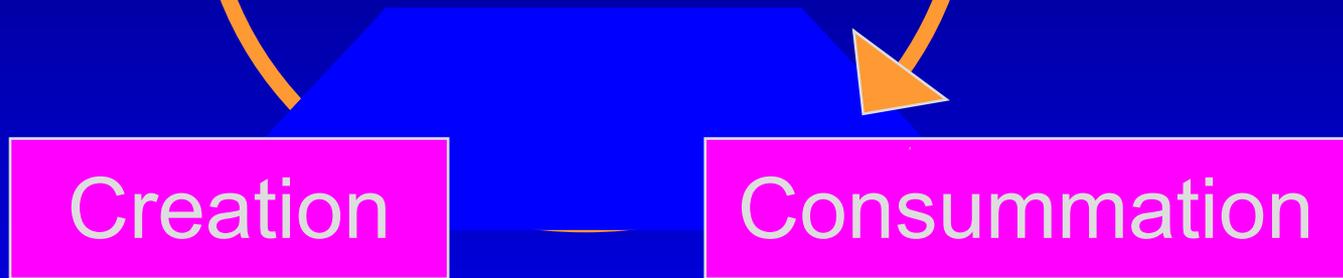


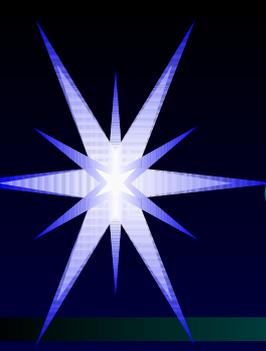
B. God Who Is Worshiped



Creator (4:11)

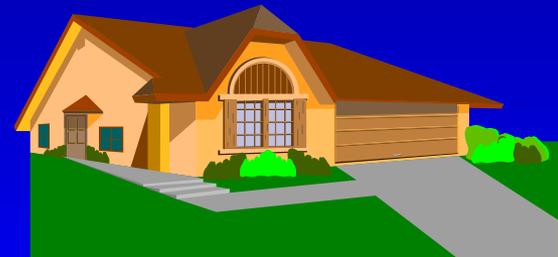
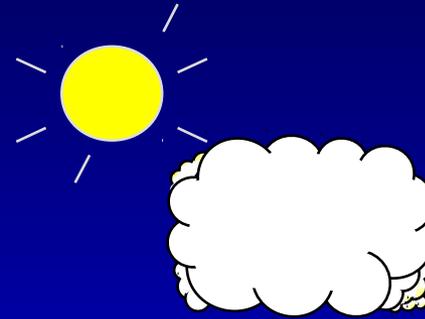
- 4:11, “for you created.”
- Absolute mastery over all detail.
- Guarantees control over history and over its consummation.

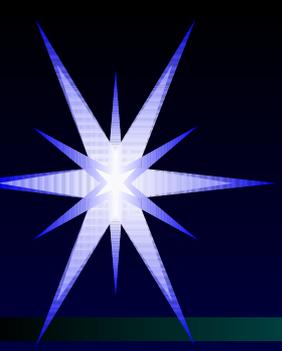




God's Glory Now

- In redemption, 5:2-6
- In creation, 4:11
 - Light
 - Cloud
 - Thunder
 - Trees (life)
 - Houses





Song from Rev. 4:11

Thou art worthy, Thou art worthy,
Thou are worthy, O Lord.

Thou are worthy to receive glory,
glory, and honor, and power.

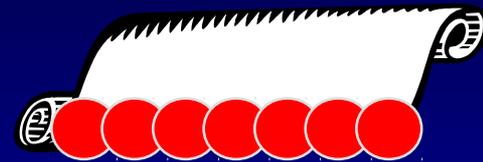
For Thou hast created--
hast all things created,
For Thou hast created all things.

And for Thy pleasure they are created;
Thou art worthy, O Lord.



Redeemer (5:1-14)

□ Only Christ can bring about redemption (5:3).



□ Wondrous method (5:6).

□ Wondrous results (5:9-10).

□ Wondrous praise (5:11-14).





Victory over Death

- 1:18; 2:8-11.
- **Christ is victor; so are we.**

Christ:

died

eternal resur-
rection life

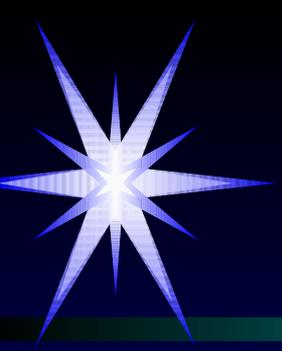
We:

die

gain resur-
rection life

Practical!





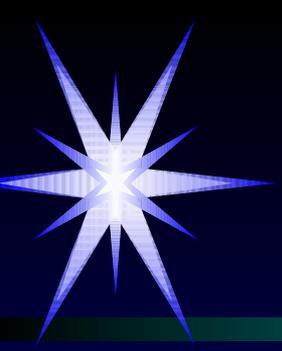
Song from Rev. 5:9-14

Thou art worthy, Thou art worthy,
Thou art worthy, O Lamb.

Thou art worthy To receive glory
And power at the Father's right hand.

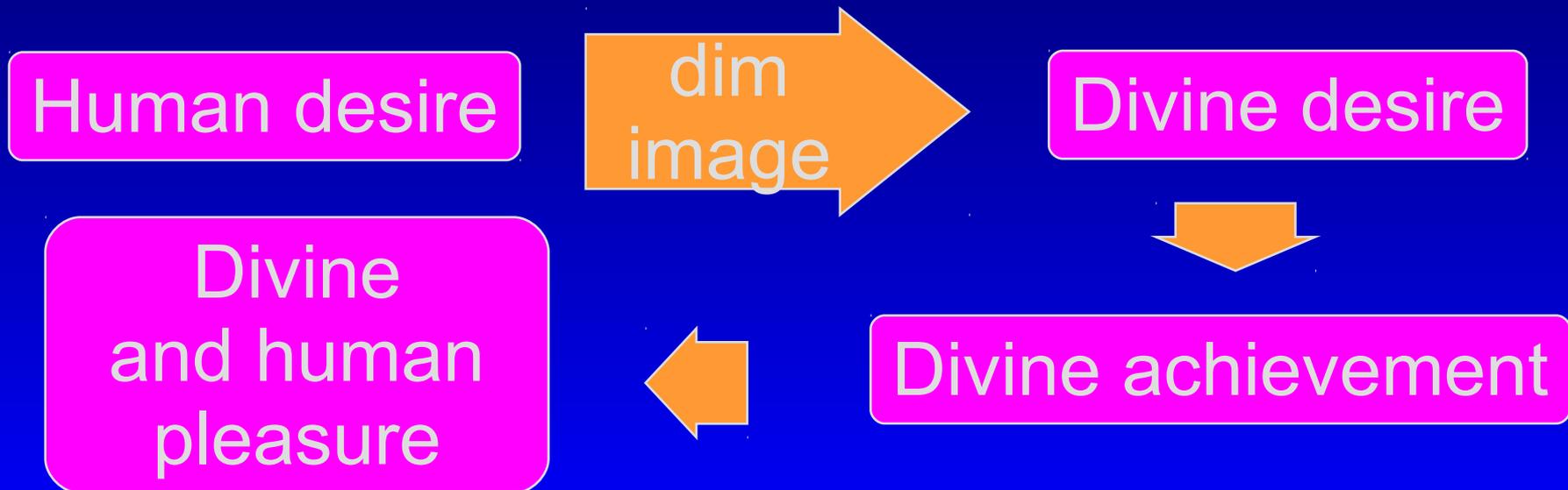
For Thou hast redeemed us,
Hast ransomed and cleansed us,
By thy blood setting us free;

In white robes arrayed us, Kings and priests
made us, And we are reigning in Thee.



Righteous Judge (20:11-15)

- **Note worldly longing for peace and justice.**
- **Reflects dimly the desire and will of God.**





Judgment in Rev.

- **The cycles are cycles of judgment.**
- **Set in motion by God (cf. 6:1; 8:2).**
- **As exhibitions of who God is in righteousness and zeal.**
- **Worship is appropriate as a response to all of Revelation.**

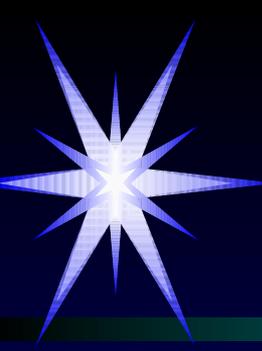


Song from Rev. 19:6-7

Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. (2X)

Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory unto him.

Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.



God's Holiness (4:8)

- **Exalted**
- **Ethically pure**
- **With infinite intensity**



Holy, Holy, Holy!

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!

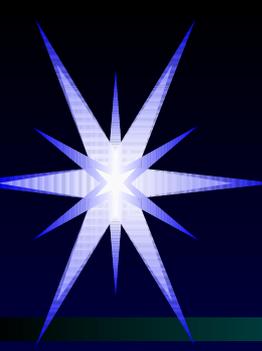
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,

**Casting down their golden crowns around the
glassy sea;**

Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,

Who wert, and art, and evermore shall be.



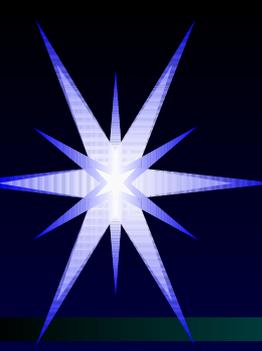
God's Beauty (4:3)

- **God is magnificent (4:3)**
- **Beauty in creation dimly reflects the Original (4:7).**
- **We are to be beautiful in action (19:8; Matt. 5:14).**
- **Final goal is beauty/glory (21:11, 18-27).**
- **Indifference to beauty denies creation and dishonors the Creator.**



God's Beauty in Jewels





For the Beauty of the Earth

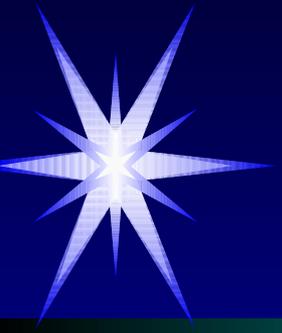
For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth,
Over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise

This our hymn of grateful praise.
For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flow'r,
Sun and moon and stars of light, ...



Responding to Creation

- **Modern secularism has desiccated the sense of God's presence.**
- **Awareness of God in creation and providence produces breadth to worship.**
- **“O Lord, how manifold are thy works. In wisdom hast Thou made them all. The earth is full of Thy riches. I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live, I will praise my God, while I have my being” (Ps. 104:24, 33).**



C. Human Response in Worship



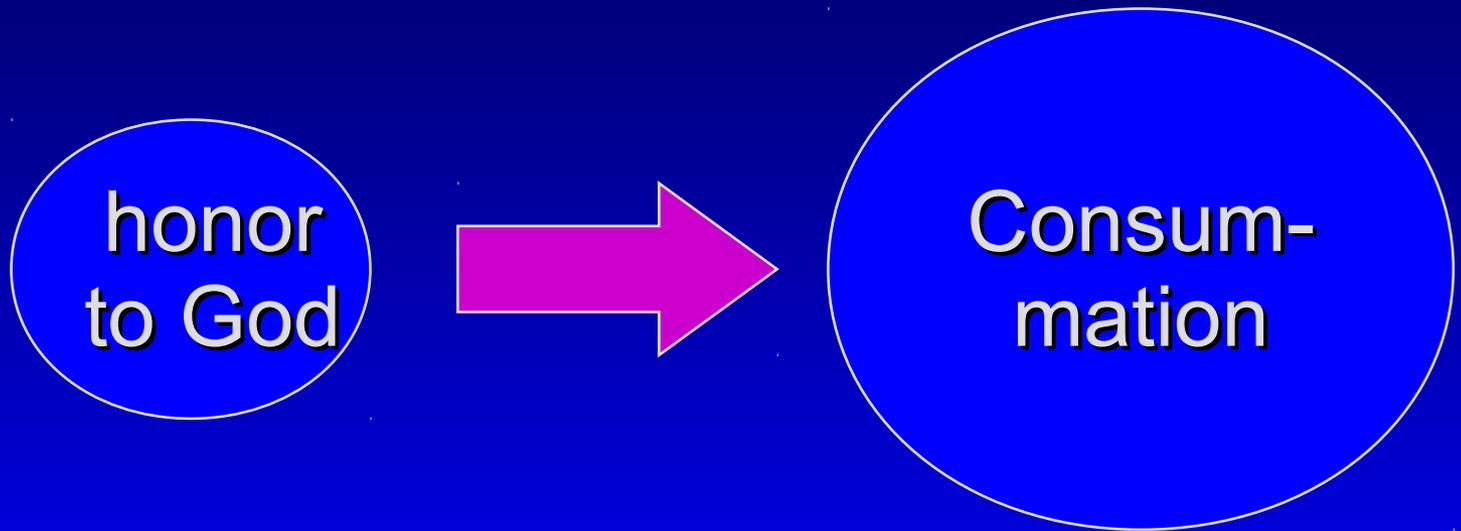
Aspects of Worship

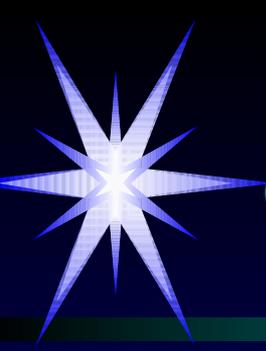
- Know who God is (22:4)
- Praise, singing (19:1-8)
- Sense of pollution and its remedy (14:7; 1:17(?); Isa. 6:5-7)
- Submission, bowing down (1:17; 4:10)
- Obedience (1:3)
- Awe (4:8)
- Imitating God (reflecting the glory of God, as in 2 Cor. 3:18)



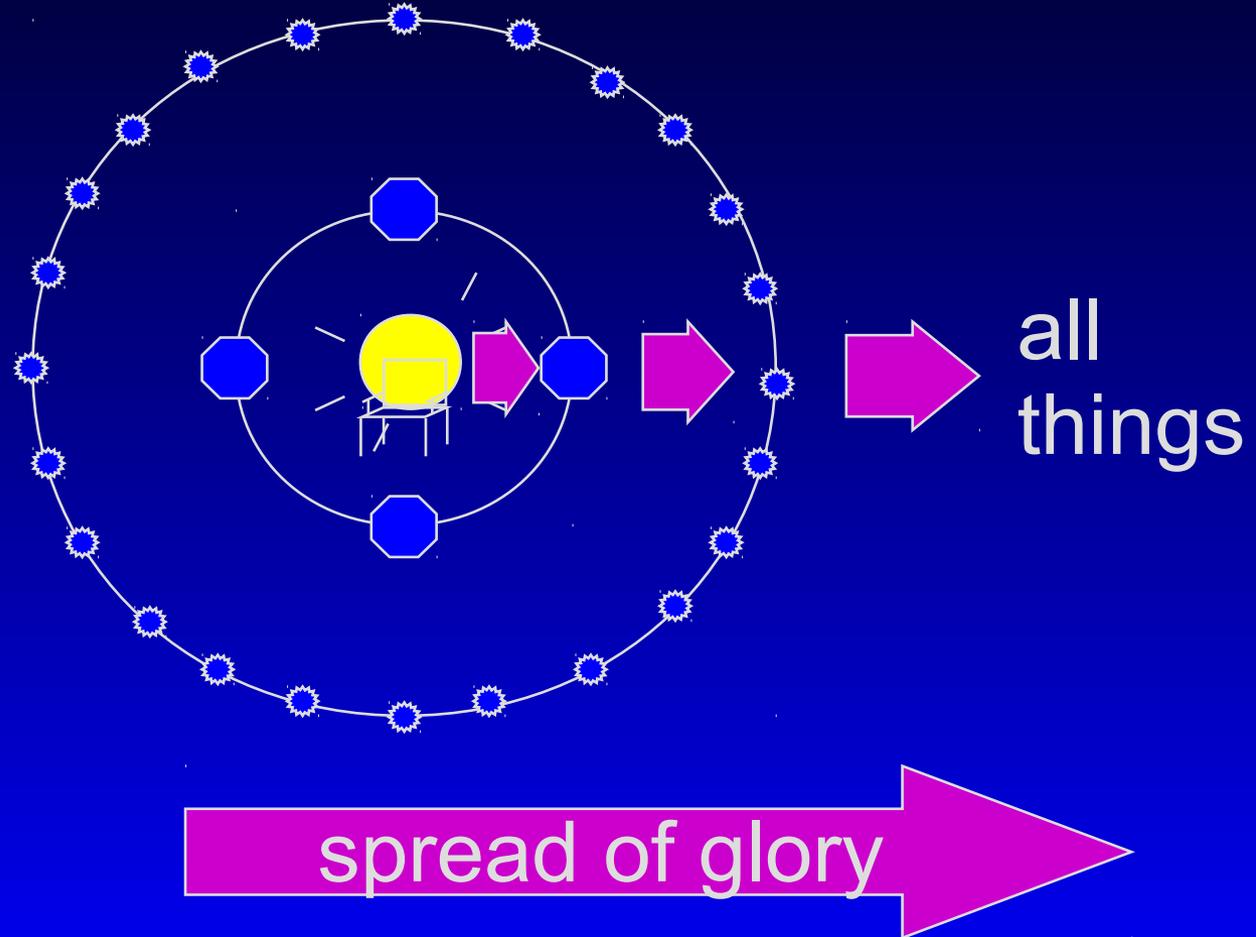
Worship as Anticipation of Eschatological Goal

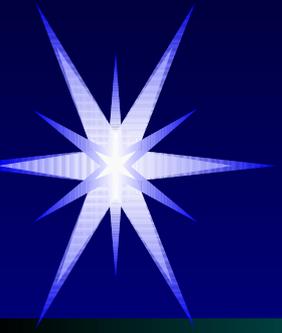
- **Worship now mirrors and longs for final worship and communion.**





God's Plan for History





D. Christocentric Worship



Christ as Worshiper

- Christ is the mediator of worship.
 - ▶ In 4:1, he brings us to heaven.
- He is the final *human* worshiper.
- He restores the world through thanksgiving.
 - See Alexander Schmemmann, *For the Life of the World*, 60-61.