

The Eschatology of Worship: Now and Forever



God and Worship at an Immeasurable
Level of Visual and Auditory Intensity

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**I See You in the Future . . .
and in the Ages to Come . . .**

I. NT Worship in the First and Second Centuries

(Less or No Physical Worship Style Expressions with an Inner Worship Spiritual Understanding)
Since Christianity was worldwide there was no “official” worship group, style, or leader.
Worship was at first simple and uncomplicated by buildings, dress codes, and rigid “rules.” It was localized.

II. Worship in the History of the Christian Church (Viewed from a Eurocentric Orientation)

(More emphasis upon the Physical Expressions of Worship)
When the Church of Jesus Christ on earth began to organize set up leadership councils and the like worship became more structured and in the Catholic Church Pope Vitalian, “officially” brought an instrument (organ) music into that “brand” of the Christian church around 670.

Many of the older Protestant clerics are said to have abhorred that instrumentation was placed into the worship service.

1. John Wesley, Methodist, 2. John Calvin, Presbyterian, 3. Joseph Bingham, Church of England
4. Adam Clarke, Methodist

“Most Churches of Christ don't use instruments because the New Testament doesn't specifically instruct worshippers to do so.” – This is their statement regarding their — no instrumentation during Christian worship stance.

An Old Biblical Interpretation Question: Is an activity (thing) NOT permitted (allowed) because God has not specifically commanded it, or it IS permitted (allowed) because God has not specifically forbidden it.

III. Worship in Africa

(Physical Worship Style Expressions with an Inner Worship Spiritual Understanding)

Since they were far removed from the Eurocentric worship style and format. They would freely utilize the worship style befitting the cultural expression of their times.

III. Here and Now: Worship of the True and Living God

Worship Styles (Largely Physical Expressions of an Inner Worship Reality)

Some Christian Styles are without instrumentation

This worship expression is VIGROUSLY taught, preached, and defended. These denominational groups are against using instruments in worship believing that it is not only displeasing to God, but a **sinful expression of worship**, similar to the pagan worship during NT times.

Other Christian Styles include worship with instrumentation

These churches have some worship song writers who write such songs for instrumentation and believe that in the NT Church worship, instrumentation is allowable if done in an attitude of true worship and praise to God and Christ by the Holy Spirit.

The KH Statement: The act of worship is sacred, however the style of worship variegated from generation to generation and from culture to culture and in various forms of Christian Church expressions (denominations, groups, families, etc.).

Believers around the World today have varied expressions of style.

Colossians 3:16 NIV

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through **PSALMS**, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, [spiritual songs] singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Meaning of the Greek word “**psalms**” according to BibleHub.com

Original Word: ψαλμός, Transliteration: *psalmos*

a striking, twanging ((Euripides, others)); specifically, **a striking the chords** of a musical instrument **5568 psalmós** – a *psalm* ("Scripture set to music"). Originally, a *psalm* (5568 /*psalmós*) was sung and accompanied by a plucked musical instrument (typically a harp), especially the OT *Psalms*.

[The Psalms of the OT were often sung and were accompanied by sophisticated musical arrangements.]

VI. Worship in the Book of Revelation

(Not Primarily or No Physical Expressions, Only a Heightened Inner Worship with a Mostly Unencumbered Spiritual Worship)

Revelation 4:10-11, Revelation 5:6-14, Revelation 7:9-11,

Revelation 7:15, New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

For this reason they are before the throne of God and **worship** [some translation say “**serve**”] him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

The Last Command in the Bible: Revelation 22:9, NIV

But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll.

Worship God!”

VII. Worship “In the Ages to Come”

(Not Primarily or No Physical Expressions; Only a Heightened Inner Worship with an Unencumbered Spiritual Worship. Only existing and enjoying worship through a spiritual body with perhaps worship emanating from the body because the body itself is the instrument in a new way.)

KH NOTE: *Sorry, but this is the best way I could explain it. My vocabulary and understanding are limited.*

Question: So is the human body (new, *spiritual*) in the ages to come **THE** free-standing worship instrument in a new reality – the heavenly abode with God’s manifested glory (Presence)?

Truly an eschatological fulfillment of the gospel song that says, “My worship is **FOR REAL.**”

Worship is Forever.

Contrary to the popular entertainment culture declaration, it is not:

“Wakanda Forever” It is — **“WORSHIP FOREVER!”**

A Worship Declaration: Wakanda is NOT forever, but Worship of the LORD and His Christ is.

A Worship Imperative: Worship the LORD and His Christ — **Forever!**

Some Thoughts on Ephesians 2:27 – “IN THE AGES TO COME”

“in order that in the coming ages [*in all future ages*, NLT] he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.” NIV

Show = Greek ἐνδείκνυμι, *endeiknumi*; *en-deik-nu-mi* #1731 to indicate (by word or act), to prove

HELPS Word-studies (BibleHub.com)

1731 *endeiknumi* (from 1722 /*en* "in," **which intensifies** 1166 /*deiknyō*, "show") – properly, to make **fully evident**, showing *conspicuous proof* which **demonstrates something as undeniable**. The prefix 1722 (*en*) adds the dimension of "abiding condition" making the "showing forth" **on "open display" for all to see, i.e. obvious so "no one could miss it."**

GOD'S GRACE AND KINDNESS ON DISPLAY THROUGHOUT ETERNITY

Thayer's Greek Lexicon (BibleHub.com)

ἐνδείκνυμι: to point out

1. to show, demonstrate, prove, whether by arguments **or by acts**.
2. to manifest, display

More English translations of the NIV phrase, “the incomparable riches.”

- ❖ the exceeding riches *KJV*
- ❖ the immeasurable riches, *English Standard Version, New Revised Version*
- ❖ the surpassing riches, *Berean Standard Bible*
- ❖ the boundless riches, *New American Standard*
- ❖ the immeasurable and unsurpassed riches, *Amplified*
- ❖ the limitless riches, *International Standard Version*
- ❖ the surpassing wealth, *NET Bible*
- ❖ the transcendent riches, *Weymouth New Testament*

VIII. A Hint at a Spiritual Understanding and Appreciation of Worship Future Tense

THE KH SPIRITUAL IMAGINATION ADVANCED TO MY THEOLOGICAL THE MAX.

Worship Themes for Eternity to Unwrap like a “Gift” (Ephesians 2:8 Greek, *doros*, free gift)

1. Attributes of God – Could **ACT ONE** (*endeiknumi* ONE) be Displaying, Showing the depth of His LOVE? ; Could **ACT TWO** (*endeiknumi* TWO) be the profundity of His OMNISCIENCE?

And on the on during God’s “Eternal Show.”

Indeed, it will take eternity [*all future ages*, NLT] to DISPLAY all (or some) of what God is and more “time” to show what he has DONE for us IN LIFE on this earth, and has done for us IN CHRIST. (See below.)

2. Perhaps Some Hint of the Eternal Counsel of the Triune God Regarding:

- 📖 The Creation of the Universe
- 📖 The Creation of the Earth
- 📖 The Creation of Humankind
- 📖 The Decision to Deliver Humankind from Destruction (physically and spiritually)
- 📖 The Depth of the Redemptive Process from Sin to Sanctification (in Christ)
- 📖 The Resurrection of Christ – Details of how it was accomplished, carried out
- 📖 The Nature of Our Personal Resurrection from the Dead
- 📖 **Etcetera, etcetera., etcetera . . .**

3. Some Personal Reflections

A “video” playback of the behind the scenes of his sovereignty of care all during your life on earth. Times when you knew He was there and times when you had no idea that He was even in the background

4. More to Come

More to better understand and have even more reasons to worship because we even know more about our God