

## REVEALED Special Study– Casting Crowns

The **imagery of throwing crowns before the Lamb** comes from **Revelation 4:10-11**, where the **twenty-four elders** worship God by **casting their crowns at His feet**:

*“The twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ‘Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.’”*  
(Revelation 4:10-11, ESV)

This **powerful act of worship** communicates several theological themes:

1. **Surrendering authority and status to God.**
2. **Acknowledging that all honor belongs to Him.**
3. **Demonstrating that true worship is an act of humility.**

### **1. The Meaning of Crowns in Revelation**

In the **ancient world**, crowns (*stephanoi*) represented **victory, honor, and authority**. In **Revelation**, crowns appear in several contexts:

#### **A. Crowns as Symbols of Victory**

- **Believers are promised crowns as rewards for endurance:**
  - *“Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.”* (Revelation 2:10, ESV)
  - *“Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.”* (Revelation 3:11, ESV)
- These crowns are **not about personal achievement but about faithfulness to Christ**.

#### **B. Crowns as Symbols of Authority**

- The **Beast** and other rulers wear crowns as signs of earthly power (**Revelation 13:1**).
- Jesus Himself wears **many crowns** (**Revelation 19:12**) to symbolize His ultimate rule over all things.

#### **C. The Twenty-Four Elders and Their Crowns**

The **twenty-four elders** likely represent **the redeemed people of God**, often understood as:

- **Twelve tribes of Israel + Twelve apostles** → Symbolizing **the Old and New Covenant believers together**.
- Their **golden crowns** symbolize the **authority and reward** given to the faithful.

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Yet, **rather than holding onto their crowns**, they cast them before God's throne, showing that:

- **Any honor or victory they have is ultimately from Him.**
- **Their authority is completely subject to His.**
- **True worship is about surrender, not self-exaltation.**

### **David deSilva: Worship as a Response to God's Worthiness**

David deSilva, in *Discovering Revelation*, notes:

"The act of casting crowns before the throne is not just humility—it is a declaration that all honor, all authority, and all reward belongs to God alone. **Their surrender is an act of worship, acknowledging that without God, they would have no crowns at all.**" (*Discovering Revelation*, p. 157)

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## **2. Worship as Surrender: Why Throwing Crowns Matters**

The elders' actions teach us about the nature of true worship—it is not about **what we receive from God, but what we surrender to Him.**

### **A. Worship Recognizes God's Ultimate Authority**

The elders **throw their crowns** as they declare:

*"Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."* (**Revelation 4:11, ESV**)

This teaches us that:

- **Worship is not about us—it is about acknowledging God's worthiness.**
- **We do not cling to our status, achievements, or rewards—we lay them before Him.**

### **Michael Gorman: Worship as Submission to God's Reign**

Michael Gorman, in *Reading Revelation Responsibly*, explains:

"To worship God is to renounce all claims of self-sufficiency. **It is to lay down all status, all privilege, and all control, acknowledging that true power belongs only to the One on the throne.**" (*Reading Revelation Responsibly*, p. 92)

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### B. Worship is Giving Back to God What He Has Given Us

- The crowns the elders cast before God were **given to them as rewards**, but they **return them in worship**.
- This reflects a **biblical pattern**: everything we have—**our talents, gifts, victories—ultimately belong to God**.

*“For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.” (Romans 11:36, ESV)*

This teaches us:

- **Worship is about giving back to God, not just receiving from Him.**
- **Our victories, successes, and honors should point back to God’s greatness.**

### C. Worship as a Posture of Humility

The **act of throwing down crowns** is a **physical expression of spiritual humility**.

- It shows **complete submission** to God’s authority.
- It recognizes that **we rule only because He rules first**.

*“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.” (James 4:10, ESV)*

True worship is not **exalting ourselves** but **falling before the throne and surrendering all to Him**.

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## 3. How This Applies to Our Worship Today

The image of **casting crowns before the Lamb** is not just about **heavenly worship**—it is an example of how we should approach God **now**.

### A. Surrendering Our Own "Crowns"

- We may not have literal crowns, but we do have **things we cling to**—status, achievements, pride, success.
- Worship is **laying these down before God**, recognizing that **all we have is from Him**.

**Question to Reflect On:**

What “crowns” in my life am I holding onto that I need to surrender to Jesus?

### B. Worship That is Focused on God, Not Ourselves

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- The elders do not focus on **their rewards**—they focus on **God’s worthiness**.
- Worship should be about **honoring God, not seeking personal gain or emotional experience**.

**Question to Reflect On:**

**Is my worship about God, or about what I want to get out of it?**

### **C. Living a Life of Worship Beyond Sundays**

- Worship is not just **singing**—it is a **lifestyle of surrender**.
- Every time we **offer our time, talents, and treasures to God, we are casting our crowns before Him**.

*“Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.” (Romans 12:1, ESV)*

**Question to Reflect On:**

**What part of my life have I not fully surrendered to God as an act of worship?**

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## **4. Conclusion: Worship as Surrender**

**The image of throwing crowns before the Lamb shows worship as surrender.**

1. **True worship is not about gaining something, but about giving everything to God.**
2. **Our victories and achievements ultimately belong to Him.**
3. **Surrender is the posture of worship—laying down our crowns and declaring that He alone is worthy.**

**Final Thought:**

**True worship is not holding onto our crowns—it is throwing them down in surrender before the Lamb.**

*“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” (Revelation 5:12, ESV)*