

**March 14, 2021**

**Prayer of Adoration**

**By**

**Rev. Edgar Solís**

**Illustration.**

'During one of the Crusades, Philip Auguste, king of France, before he went into one of his battles, removed his royal crown from his head and, setting it on a table with the inscription 'Au plus digne' (to the most worthy), he made his oration, as was the custom of leaders in those days. (Slide 1) He asked his nobles, knights and men to forget that he was their king and commander, and to consider that the crown which he had laid aside for the battle would be the prize for the one who carried himself most worthily and bravely and contributed most to their victory. They entered the battle and returned victorious. All gathered round the table on which the crown had been placed. One of the nobles, stepping forward, took in his hands the royal crown and, advancing toward the monarch, placed it on his head, saying-'Tu, O roi, es le plus digne' (Thou, O king, art the most worthy). A CROWN IS A POWERFUL SYMBOL. The crown traditionally represents power, legitimacy, victory, triumph, honor, and glory, as well as immortality, righteousness and resurrection. Crowns are made from the most precious materials available.

The crown represents authority as it is passed from the giver to the recipient, and we all know in the royalty, the climax of every coronation is the crowning. It is that moment when the recognition and authority are set in place for all to see.

## **Bible Context**

In today's Bible reading we see a powerful scene...using apocalyptic imaginary the book of Revelation was written to provide encouragement and strengthen the faith and hope of believers who were experiencing stress and harassment as a marginalized community of outsiders in Greco Roman urban culture. Bible commentaries state that the author wants to make the first readers aware of the critical situation in which they lived and the threat they faced. In other words, the book is telling these communities that things are bad and everything going to get worse, but in the end, God will win so be strong and take courage, God is still on his throne!

## **Theological Reflection**

Through this apocalyptic literature imaginary the author describes images of the transcendent world in symbolic language. (Slide 2) *The presence of 24 elders on 24 thrones suggests the whole people of God-Twelve tribes and twelve Apostles who are somehow represented in heaven. The rule of the one God does not take place apart from God's people.*

Beyond the fantastic imagery of the text, the important thing we must learn from this passage, is that God deserves our adoration, even in the time of trial. Heavenly worship is a powerful manifestation that we as humans must consider when everything is getting complicated or frustrating. The powers of nature, the cosmos as a whole and the creatures of this world and the spiritual entities of the spiritual realm surrender everything to the creator.

Here is what I consider to be one of the main principals in verse 10: *'They lay their crowns before the throne...'*

South African pastor and broadcaster, Andrew Roebert says: *They are deferring honor to the One to whom all honor is due because, how does one sit with a crown on your head in the presence of the King of Kings? When we grasp how great God is and how great a thing He has done for us, we can but only remove our crowns and lay them down at His feet. They were laying down their rights, privileges and wills. They placed everything in subjection to God.*

### **Application**

It is so easy to think that all we have achieved is to our personal credit when in fact everything is a result of God's favor and grace towards us. Patricia D. Brown in her Book "The Paths of Prayer" states: "Adoration is our total self-surrender before the absoluteness of God. We accept our full dependance on God." "...Jesus invited us to relinquish our plans in order to live and be open to God's new possibilities: to die to the doubts, frustrations, and anxieties that diminish us so we can live boldly and claim God's power."

(Slide 3) Dear Church, this is the week in which we all are invited to practice Adoration. Worship is not a weekly religious activity but rather the expression of a life that surrenders all to God. More than music or the practice of liturgy, adoration is an attitude of humility toward God. We need to get to the point where we are so moved by what God has done for us that we spontaneously lay down our crowns before Him.

What is the crown that we need to lay down before God? Perhaps we should lay down one or two crowns, our pride, our self-sufficiency, our human achievements, not just on that day when we see Him face to face. Adoration means, recognizing God for who He is. During the practice of prayer this week, let's open a place in our heart for humbleness. If the problems and challenges of life have brought anxiety, stress, or loneliness, if you see that people are suffering and the world needs a change, let's dedicate this week to adore God and receive the power of the Holy Spirit so that we may share the good news of Jesus Christ. In this way, we can be collaborators in the transformation of God's Kingdom! Now let's adore God!