



**The Inscrutable Question: Promotions & Rewards for Elect Angels in Prehistoric Angelic Conflict; Escrow Blessings for Church Age Believers, Eph 1:3-4**

- 26) From verses 8-11 we can learn a number of principles that contribute to our understanding of the phrase “crowned with glory and honor” as well as the principle of rewards to those who advance spiritually. Both these concepts will help us in our study of 2 Peter 1:16-19.
- We are able to note two types of rewards that have been imputed to the angels. The seraph-rank angelic heralds have been given the uniform of wisdom as a result of their spiritual advance in the angelic spiritual life.
  - The twenty four angelic staff officers have been imputed crowns which they present before the throne during worship.
  - The four angelic heralds give glory and honor and thanks to the Lord. The word “glory” is the New Testament Greek’s equivalent to the Hebrew’s *kavoth*: **δόξα** / **doxa** /.
  - We see glory again in verse 11 where the twenty four angelic staff officers say to the Lord that He is worthy to receive from God glory, honor, and power since He is the source of all *ex-nihilo* creation.
  - The word honor is the Greek **τιμή** / **time** /. It is the equivalent of the Hebrew noun **הדר** / **hadar** / found in Psalm 8:5 and quoted in Hebrews 2:7, 9.
  - The reason that the Lord receives this litany from His angelic worshipers is because they comprehend from doctrine that He is the only One worthy, the predicate adjective **ἄξιος** / **axios** / which means “having weight” or “having merit.”
  - His weight refers to the fact that He possesses all that He personally created through His divine omnipotence and thus merits all glory, all honor and all power.
  - The sovereignty of God decreed to create the angels, the universe, and humanity in that order in eternity past. The Lord Jesus Christ was the agent of creation for all three.
  - The Trinity did not need to create any of these objects. They chose to do so because of unconditional and undiminished love for all the creatures they decreed to bring into existence.
  - Spiritual growth by those in the angelic creation led some to attain advanced levels in the sophisticated spiritual life designed for the angels.
  - For this the angels were rewarded and their advanced knowledge of the plan of God enabled them to recognize the resurrected Christ as the One who was worthy to receive glory and honor and power.
  - This recognition derived from spiritual growth caused them to bow down in worship to Him and in the case of the twenty four angelic staff officers, to place their crowns at the foot of the Lord’s throne.
  - Rewards are not achievable unless the Creator sets up a system through which they might be attained. Once attained they are conveyed through grace.

- Thus, the doctrinal wisdom which results in the conveyance of the reward is the same doctrinal wisdom that recognizes all glory and honor belong to the Lord who is the Creator of all things.
- 27) Therefore we may conclude with regard to believers in the human race that rewards are conveyed to those who attain maturity in the spiritual life of their dispensation.
- 28) In the case of Church Age believers, advance to spiritual maturity in the sophisticated spiritual life results in escrow blessings in time and in eternity.

**Ephesians 1:3 -** Worthy of praise and glorification is the God [ **Grantor** ], even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed [ εὐλογέω / **eulogeo** /: **orist (active) participle precedes the action of the main verb** ] us [ **grantees** ] with every spiritual blessing [ **escrow blessings under antecedent grace** ] in heavenly places [ **depository** ] in Christ [ **depository** ],

**v. 4 -** just as He [ **God** ] chose us [ ἐκλέγω / **eklego** /: **the Main Verb, an orist middle indicative; the action of the orist participle in verse 3, εὐλογέω / eulogeo /, blessing, precedes the action of the Main Verb, election** ] in Him [ **baptism of the Holy Spirit: union with Christ and positional sanctification with emphasis on current positional truth** ] before the foundation of the world [ **eternity past** ], that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.

- 1-God's purpose is to bless every believer in time. Positional sanctification places every believer in heaven forever. Antecedent grace is those blessings set aside for us in eternity past.
- 2-Forty are imputed to us at salvation. Greater blessings can be given to us in time and eternity.
- 3-These greater blessings are held in heaven, waiting for us to execute the spiritual life so they can be given to us.
- 4-Attainment of spiritual maturity meets the conditions of the escrow and they are conveyed in time which allows the eternal escrow to be conveyed at the Judgment Seat of Christ.
- 5-There winner believers will receive the conveyance of their eternal escrow at the Royal Award Ceremonies. These rewards are come in seven paragraphs and are called by the Apostle John the Nike Awards: **τοῖς νικῶντι** / **toi nikonti** / , "to the winner."

**Hebrews 10:35 -** Therefore, do not throw away as worthless your confidence which keeps on having rich distribution of blessing.

**v. 36 -** For you keep on having need of perseverance [ **habitual spiritual growth** ] so that when you have executed the will of God [ **complete conditions of the escrow** ] you may receive the deposit [ **escrow account** ] which was promised to you [ **Ephesians 1:3-4** ].