

# Prophetic Insights

How Awestruck Are You About Our Lord?

February 21, 2014



*“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him—but God has revealed it to us by His Spirit...” (1Corinthians 2:9,10).*

We’ve written previously that 89% of all the information that enters your mind comes through your eyesight, with the other 11% coming from your other four senses. Centuries ago the demonic influence of Hellenism and Romanism enticed the Catholic Church to produce myriads of statues and paintings— things people *could see*—to appeal to the human soul. But your *soul*, your mind, will and emotions, can NEVER experience or appreciate the *true awesomeness* of the God of all Creation.

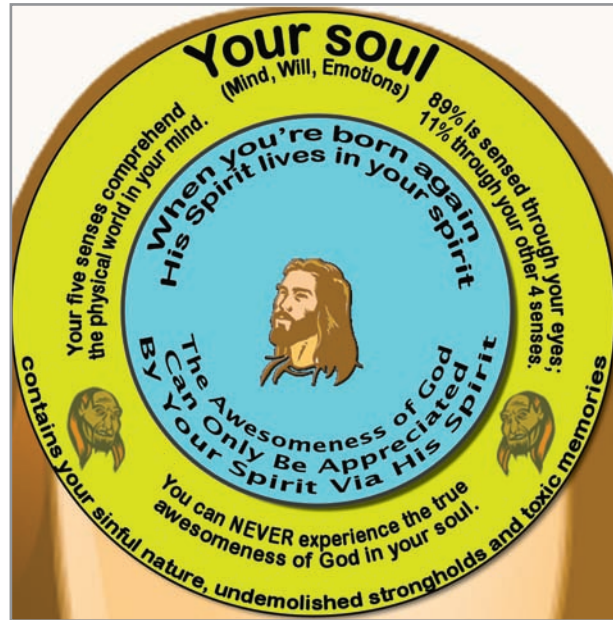
Tragically, countless millions over the centuries have been seduced into venerating and worshipping icons and images they can *see* rather than the one true God Whom only their spirit can experience.

Examples of visually ensnaring images:

- portrayals of Jesus’s mother forever holding and protecting Him as a helpless child.
- representations of Jesus perpetually hanging powerlessly on a cross.

How many others within contempo-

rary Christendom are trapped by their mind’s imagination or misguided teaching which depicts Jesus only as their “friend” or as a “savior” *separate* from His Lordship role as Master in their lives?



*“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they were created and have their being” (Revelation 4:11; see also John 1:1-4).*

Can the worth and sovereignty of our Lord have been revealed any more clearly? You and everything you see have been created and exist *because He wills it*. Both Testaments bear witness to the awe-inspiring nature of our Lord. Put yourself in Moses’ place, reverently and fearfully awed as our Lord identifies both Himself *and* His generational consequences when the guilty refuse to live repentantly:

*“Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed His Name, the LORD. And He passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, ‘The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow*

*to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet He does not leave the guilty unpunished; He punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation”* (Exodus 34:5-7).

The God Who created billions of galaxies yet knows the number of hairs on each person’s head offers the essential, unchanging reality of Himself as worthy of eternal awe. Don’t downplay what our Lord is making known to you here! Why might you? Because your perspective of our Lord may be altered by the idol of *self-centeredness* that’s so popular throughout Christendom today—**“God exists to bless me and make me happy.”** That’s what happens when you have no awe, no *biblical fear* of our Lord. And that self-imagined “god” you serve because *that’s who you want Him to be* is propelling you to an eternity apart from the God of the Bible. You’re not alone in your deception. Too many within the Christendom that has departed from God’s Word as absolute remain on the sides of the funnel (page 4) in the darkness of their unconfessed sin.

People who cling to the side of the funnel only know *about* our Lord; they speak about Him in an impersonal way because He’s no more than another piece of information in their mind. But when someone has a personal, gratefully loving and repentant relationship with our Lord, they purpose to stay in the center of the funnel, and speak of Him often with a fervent heart. Our Lord is precious to them, and they want others to know Him too!

Seldom do we hear Christians speaking of their relationship with our Lord with even the slightest understanding of His awesomeness. In fact even fewer talk about any relationship with Him at all! They talk about “Christian” activities *but*

they neglect discussing the ONE Who should be the central focus of their faith.

- How often, and with what emotional intensity, do you speak about our Lord to others?

The awesome nature of our God clearly requires an awe-filled response: *“Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling”* (Psalm 2:11). *“The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble; He sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake”* (Psalm 99:1).

The Newer Testament as well cites how to approach our God and King:

*“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our ‘God is a consuming fire’”* (Hebrews 12:28,29; see also Deuteronomy 4:24; Revelation 2:18; 19:12).

If your heart resonates with these words, then you’re in the center of the funnel. Your spirit comprehends our Lord’s awesomeness because *His Spirit* dwells in you.

- Does *your* worship overflow with grateful ‘reverence and awe’ toward our mighty Lord?

**The Book of Revelation reveals Who our Lord is and our perception of Him IF we are welcomed into heaven for eternity.**

Why did our Lord make sure the Book of Revelation came at *the end* of the Bible? Did He foresee Satan’s trap to lure Christians into being content to *know about* Jesus within the confines of their mind, will and emotions, yet not grasp the holiness and power His Being should evoke? Amid the many unmistakable truths the Revelation discloses are these:

- the inexpressible awesomeness of our Lord.
- what conditions will be like for us as He brings this world to an end.
- what will happen to those whose names aren’t found in the Lamb’s Book of Life.

Throughout the Revelation we find His way of *inspiring awe of Him* as well as *grave warning* so you can discern how true you are to Him, and what will be *your eternal destiny*.

From the opening verse we discover that the book is “***The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants what must soon take place***” (Revelation 1:1). In the letters to seven groups of called-out ones (chapters 2 and 3) we find opportunity to examine ourselves to see if we like so many of them fall short of our Lord’s parameters for *His called, chosen and faithful ones* (17:14).

Permeating the Revelation are glimpses of our Lord’s awesome power and nature (see chapter 4; also 6:15-17; 7:9-12; 11:15-19; 14:6,7; 15:2-4; chapter 22). Notice that our mighty and merciful Lord doesn’t leave us facing the future blindly. As He did with His disciples while He was on earth (see Matthew chapter 24), He uses His Revelation to warn us what to expect in days to come before His glorious return (see chapter 6; 12:17; 13:7-10; 17:6; 20:11-15).

Similar to Peter’s prophecy of the coming destruction of the earth (2Peter 3:3-7), Revelation warns us that during this time of inconceivable stress people will *refuse to repent* of all their vile deeds and demonic belief systems (9:6,20,21; 16:9,11,21). Eternity in one of two destinations is at stake for you and your family. This is no light matter, but rather THE most important issue of your life. Paul well understood the gravity of the choices people *need to make now* as he urged the called-out ones in Philippi to “***continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose***” (Philippians 2:12,13).

- Can it be that if holy ‘fear and trembling’ *don’t* accompany grateful love and obedience in Christ, then you don’t really grasp the nature of your absolute NEED for salvation and dying to the SELF which tries to rule your soul?
- Can you proclaim with assurance that living in obedient trust in Jesus as the awesome *LORD of your life* and *Ruler of your soul* is your highest priority? If not, then are you truly inhabited by His Spirit and thereby welcome in His eternal Presence?

If you, your family and faith family don’t live repentantly now, you won’t repent during God’s judgments on the earth. Don’t fall by the wayside into the obligatory responses of self-serving cold love. Rather, by His Spirit serve Him until the end and find eternal salvation: “***Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold. But whoever holds out [with love] till the end will be delivered***” (Matthew 24:12,13).

### **NOW is the Time: Leave The Self-deceiving Sides of the Funnel**

All too many religious leaders are concerned with attracting and keeping people by appealing to their sinful nature and excusing their lawlessness. That’s why they refrain from imparting a true awe and fear of our Lord and His holiness. Nor do they help their people live repentantly. This tragic state of affairs doesn’t surprise our Lord: “***And it will be: Like people, like priests. I will punish both of them for their ways and repay them for their deeds***” (Hosea 4:9). Today His punishment is spreading throughout Christendom. The Lord of the universe is allowing the deceived and deluded who defame Him by their very lives to themselves experience destroyed marriages and families. And still they have neither holy awe nor reverent fear of Him.

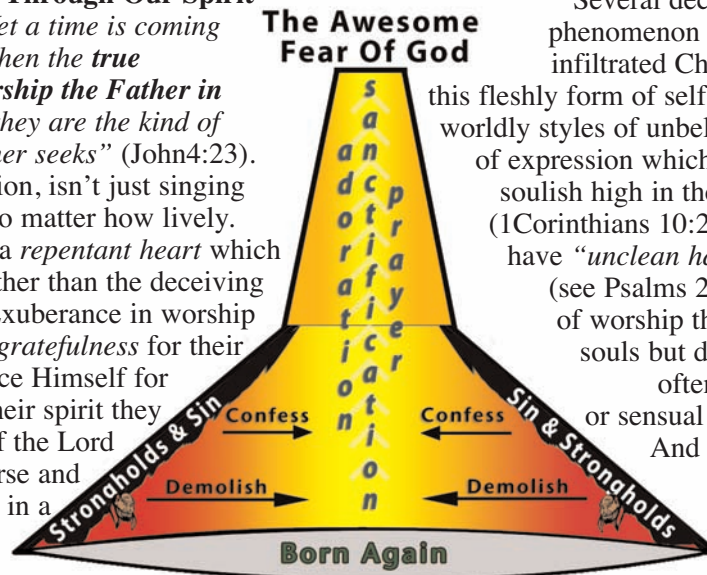
## Born Again — The BEGINNING of A Life of Spirit-empowered Awe and Fear of our Lord

To worship our Lord *without* the awe of amazed appreciation of Who He is a self-fabricated expression that's devoid of the revelation of Himself in His Word. While your "worship" may satisfy the soulish dominion of your emotions and thoughts, apart from the reverent awe of Who He is, His Spirit isn't gratified. Authentic love for our Lord and heart appreciation for His awesomeness go hand-in-hand, leading to the adoration He richly deserves from those indwelt by His Spirit in their spirit. These are the sanctified followers of Jesus in the center of the funnel, those on a life journey of living repentantly in obedient trust.

Apperceiving Proverbs 15:29, "*The Lord is far from the wicked but He hears the prayer of the righteous,*" Peter reiterates our Lord's criteria for answering prayer: "*For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil*" (1 Peter 3:12). Since our Lord is attentive to the prayers of the righteous and resists the wicked, is His standard any lower for those who sing their worship before Him? No, His holiness *can't* lower the standards of His Word. Those who live repentantly, who choose sanctification rather than living in darkness, are acceptable to Him. John describes the true state of those on the sides of the funnel who choose to keep on sinning: "*No one who lives in Him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen Him or known Him*"; "*No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God*" (1John 3:6,9; see also Romans 13:11,12).

### (1) True Adoration Flows From the Holy Spirit Through Our Spirit

Scripture is clear: "*Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks*" (John4:23). True worship, adoration, isn't just singing praises and hymns, no matter how lively. Rather it flows from a *repentant heart* which abides in the truth rather than the deceiving sides of the funnel. Exuberance in worship flows from *heartfelt gratefulness* for their Lord's love to sacrifice Himself for their sins. Through their spirit they appreciate the love of the Lord Who made the universe and yet was humbly born in a manger to ultimately atone for their sins.



### (2) Satan's Counterfeit: Soulsh Worship

Several decades ago the widespread phenomenon of *soulsh lively worship* infiltrated Christendom. But in reality this fleshly form of self-expression emulates the worldly styles of unbelievers—a demonic form of expression which pagans use to conjure a soulsh high in their worship of false gods (1Corinthians 10:20). Worship leaders who have "*unclean hands and impure hearts*" (see Psalms 24) have employed forms of worship that please people's sinful souls but displease our holy Father, often imitating rock concerts or sensual nightclub performances. And those who are content to remain glued to the sides of the funnel want it this way!

### (3). The Stem of the Funnel is Where Your Spirit is United With His Spirit

Only the *sanctified*—those being set apart as holy for our Lord's use—have the awe and reverent fear of our Lord that results in adoration and prayer that are acceptable to our Father. You recognize their lives because they're not influenced by worldly ways, goals or values. Nor does the success offered by this world matter to them. Rather, their hearts are united with others who have displayed like trust: "*For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come*" (Hebrews 13:14; see also Hebrews 11:13-16; Matthew 6:20,21). The sanctified are eager for their eternal destination with Jesus!

Consider what the Bible teaches about prayer: "*We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will*" (Romans 8:26,27). We're also told, "*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints*" (Ephesians 6:18; see also Jude 1:20). The Holy Spirit through the spirit of the sanctified enables their mind to pray according to our Father's will. So ask yourself, "**Are you sanctified? Are your prayers in accordance with the Father's will? Is He even hearing your prayer?**"