

# Worship in Revelation

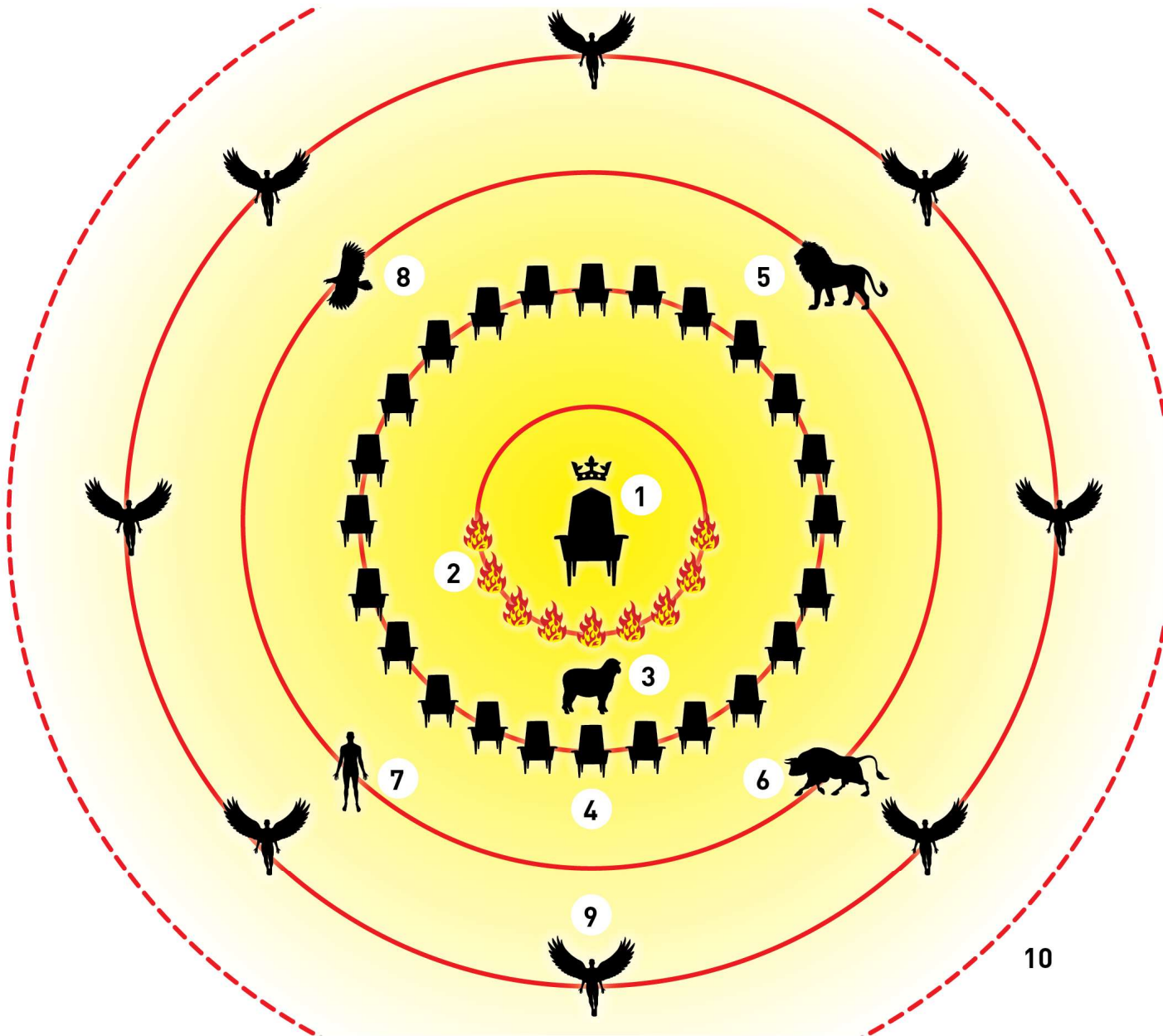
**Proclaiming the One  
Who Was, Who Is and  
Who Is To Come**

**[1]** God the Father's throne at the centre of heaven, around which is a rainbow like an emerald and from it comes flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder (4:2-3, 5).

**[2]** 7 torches of fire, which are the 7 spirits of God (4:5).

**[3]** The conquering Jesus, announced as 'the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David' and appearing as a slain Lamb with 7 horns and 7 eyes, which are the 7 spirits of God. Jesus takes the 7-sealed scroll from God the Father on the throne (5:1-7).

**[4]** The 24 elders sitting on thrones, dressed in white, wearing golden crowns and holding harps and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. The elders worship God, cast their crowns before his throne and sing a 'new song' praising the worthiness of Jesus to open the scroll (4:4, 10-11; 5:8-10, 14).



**[5-8]** The 4 living creatures, each with 6 wings and full of eyes all around and within, holding harps and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. The living creatures perpetually praise the Creator God and sing a 'new song' praising the worthiness of Jesus to open the scroll (4:7-9; 5:8-10, 14).

**[5]** The 1st living creature looks like a lion (4:7).

**[6]** The 2nd living creature looks like an ox (4:7).

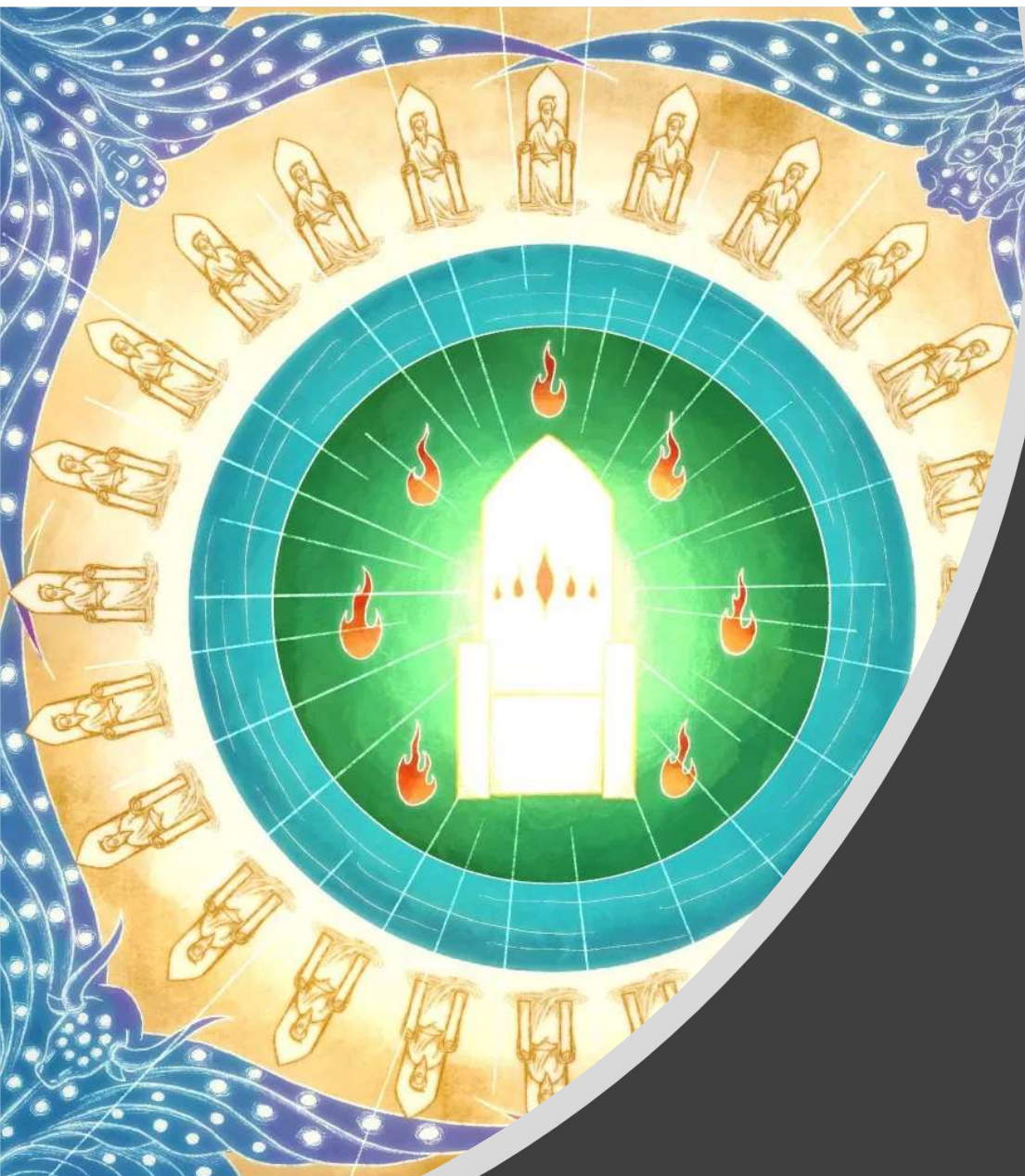
**[7]** The 3rd living creature has the face of a man (4:7).

**[8]** The 4th living creature looks like an eagle in flight (4:7).

**[9]** 1000s of 1000s of angels praising the worthiness of Jesus (5:11-12).

**[10]** Every creature in heaven and on earth, under the earth and in the sea, praising Jesus and God the Father (5:13).





# 7 Scenes Worship

(Ezekiel, Isaiah, Daniel, Psalms)

**4:2-7,8-11**

**5:8-14**

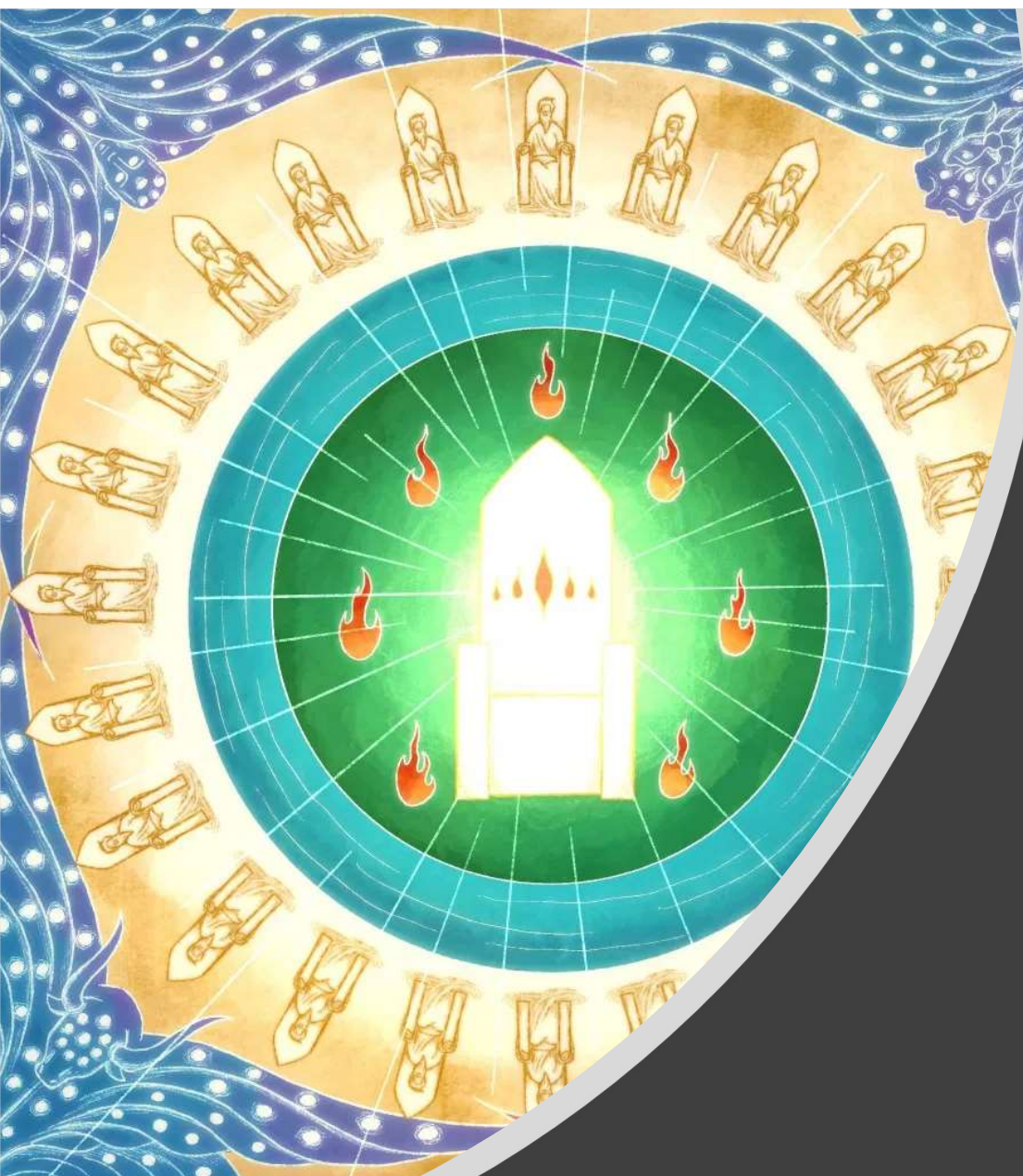
**7:7-12,13-17**

**11:15-18**

**14:1-5**

**15:2-4**

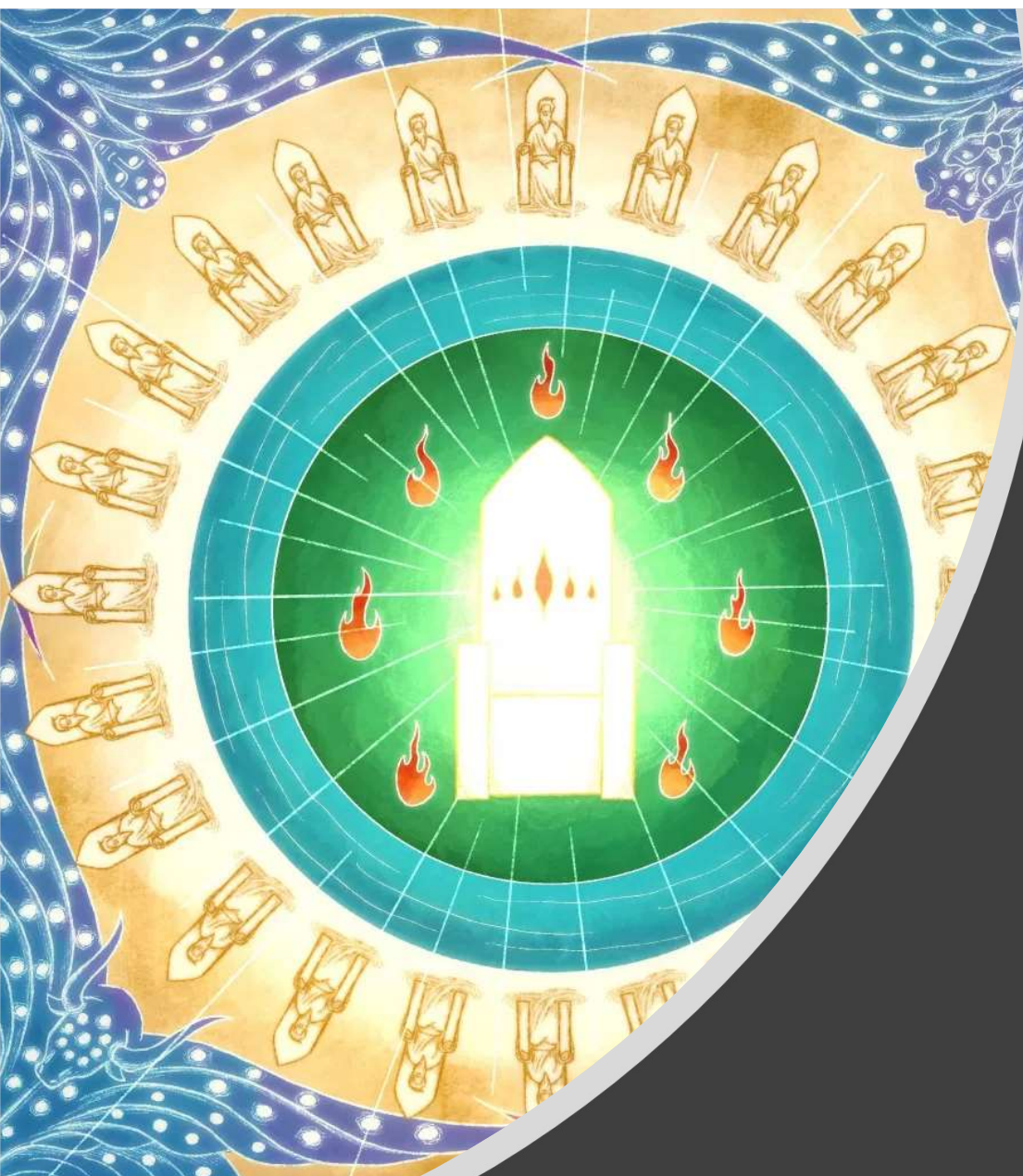
**19:1-8**



**All the 'action' starts  
from heaven in  
worship**

**Every dramatic  
development is  
punctuated by  
worship**

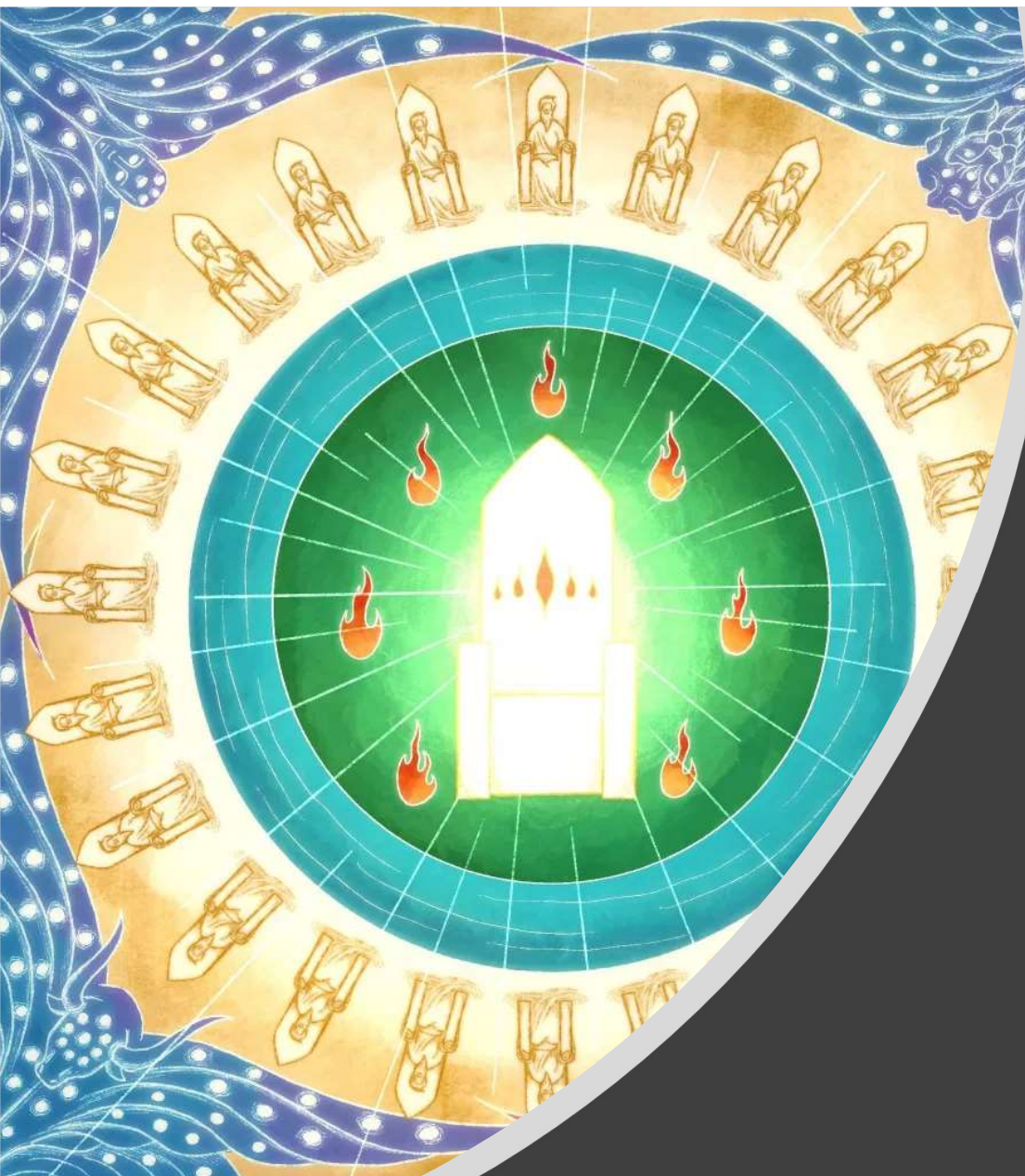




Worship scenes in  
Revelation show the  
truth – there is only  
one power in the  
universe worthy of  
worship and awe

**-GOD-**

Every other power is  
a pretender



**In the first century, the Roman Empire was immensely powerful. It had conquered the known world. It alone was powerful and rich with technological marvels like the Roman Roads and aqueducts.**

It seemed good to the Greeks of Asia, in the opinion of the high priest Apollonius of Menophilus Azanitus: “Since Providence, which has ordered all things and is deeply interested in our life, has set in most *perfect order* by giving us Augustus, whom she filled with *virtue* that he might benefit humankind, sending him as a *savior*, both for us and for our descendants, that he *might end war and arrange all things*,



and since he, Caesar, by his appearance (excelled even our anticipations), surpassing all previous benefactors, and not even leaving to posterity any hope of surpassing what he has done, and since the birthday of the *god* Augustus was the *beginning of the good news* for the world that came by reason of him

(\*The *beginning of the good news* of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. (Mk 1:1)\*)



**Honouring the Emperor and showing your  
'faith' in emperor and empire were key parts  
of participating and showing loyalty and being  
a 'good citizen'**

**To refuse to participate when ordered to was  
punishable by death**





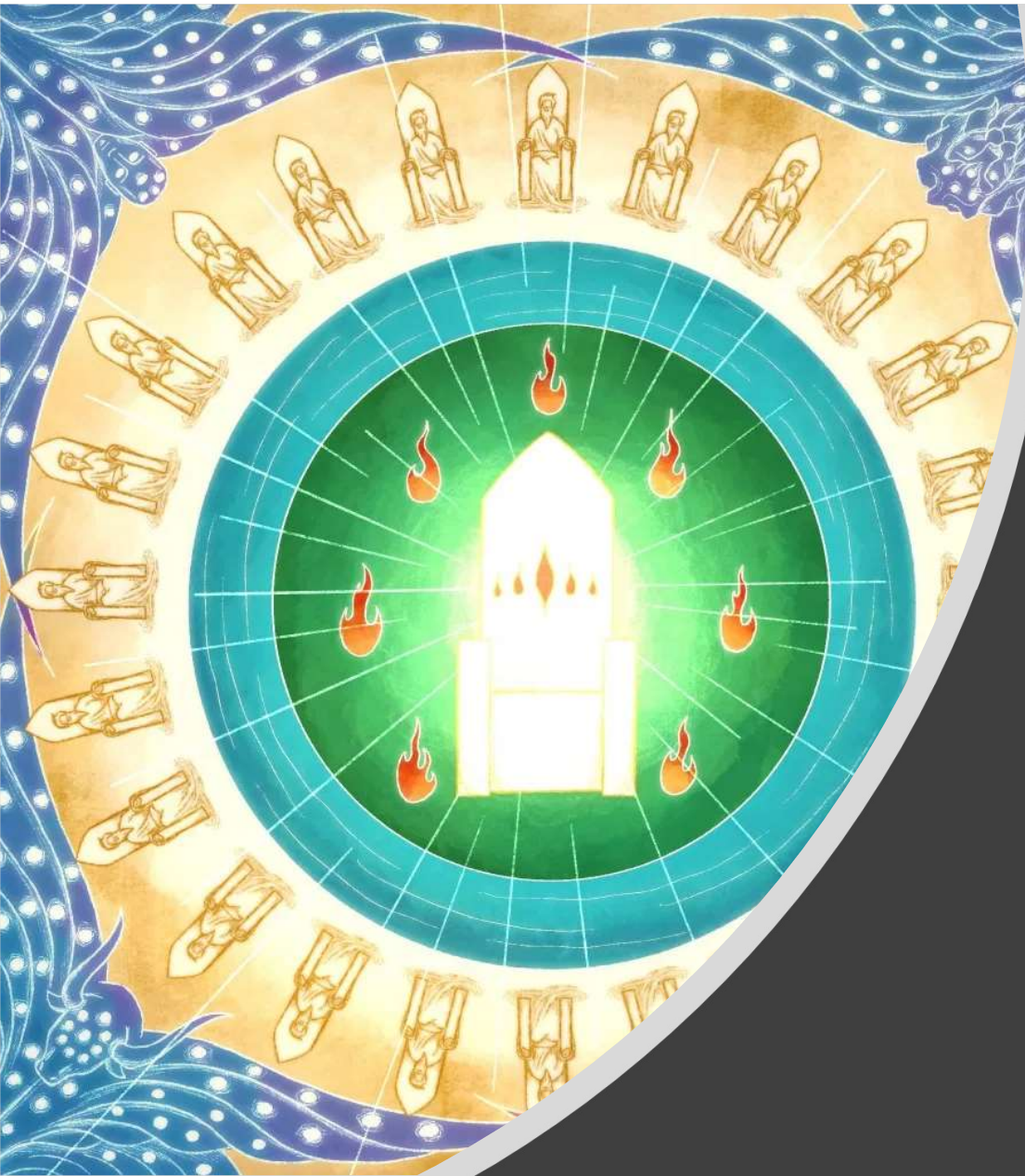
**Table 11**  
**THE LOCATION OF THE IMPERIAL CULT IN THE SEVEN CITIES**

<i>Asian City</i>	<i>Imperial Temple</i>	<i>Imperial Altar</i>	<i>Imperial Prie.</i>
Ephesus	✓	✓	✓
Smyrna	✓	✓	✓
Pergamum	✓	✓	✓
Thyatira		✓	✓
Sardis	✓	✓	✓
Philadelphia	✓		✓
Laodicea		✓	





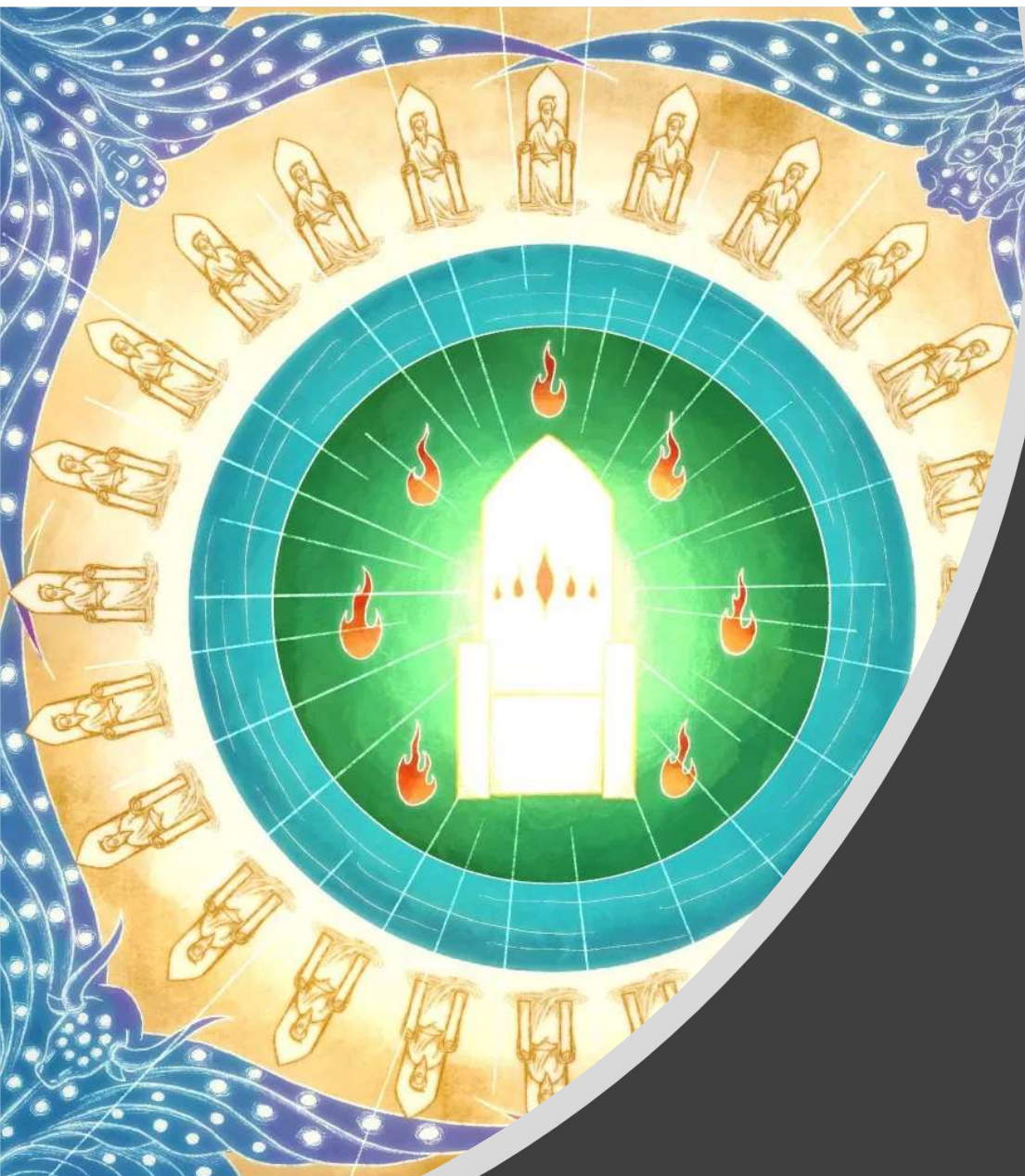




# The Mythology of Rome

**Empire  
Peace &  
Salvation  
Eternity**





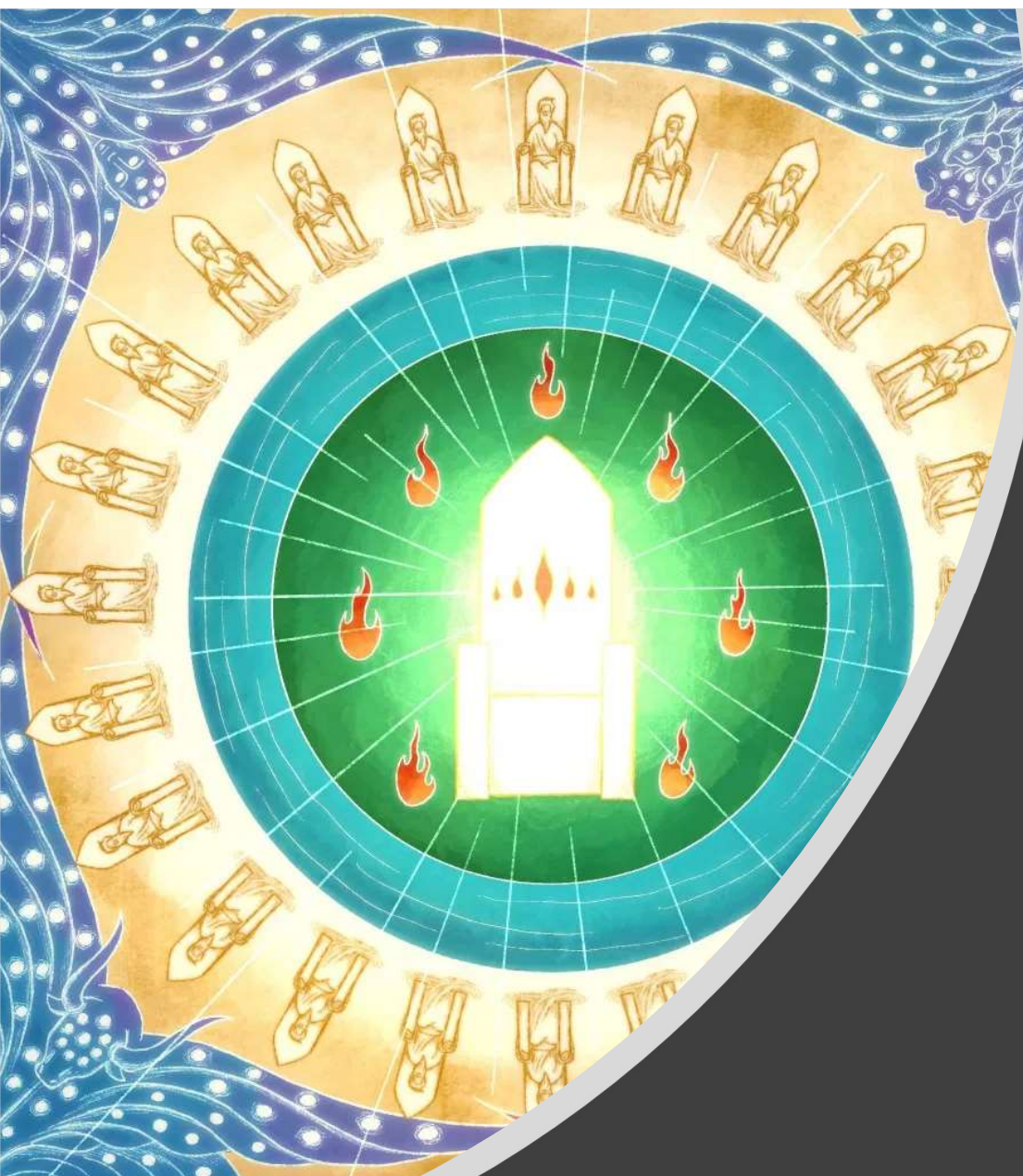
## mythology

n.

A body or collection of stories belonging to a people and addressing their origin, history, deities, ancestors, and heroes.

n.

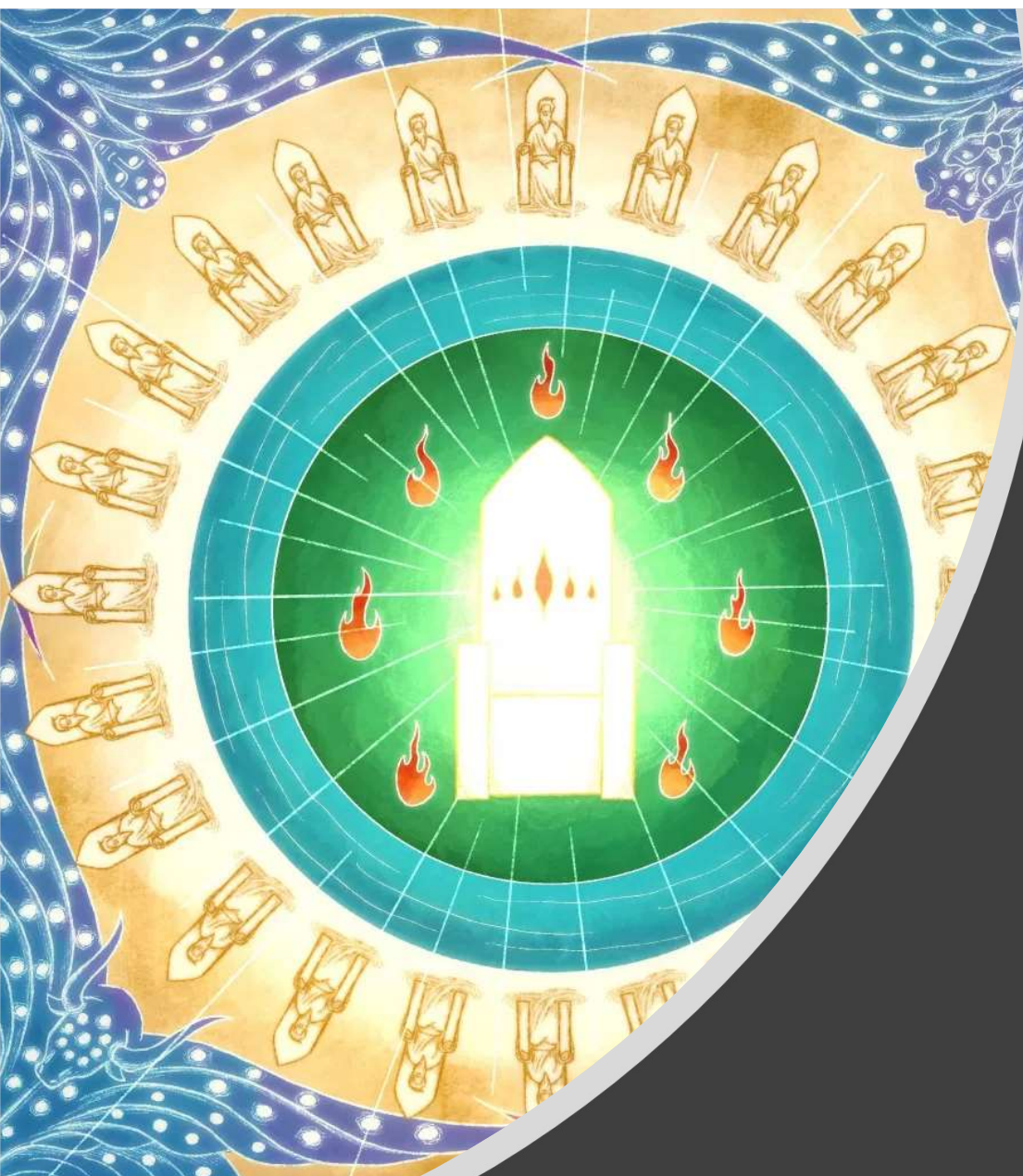
A body of beliefs associated with an event, individual, or institution.



‘The achievements of the *god Augustus*, by which he subjected the *whole earth* to the *imperium of the Roman people*.

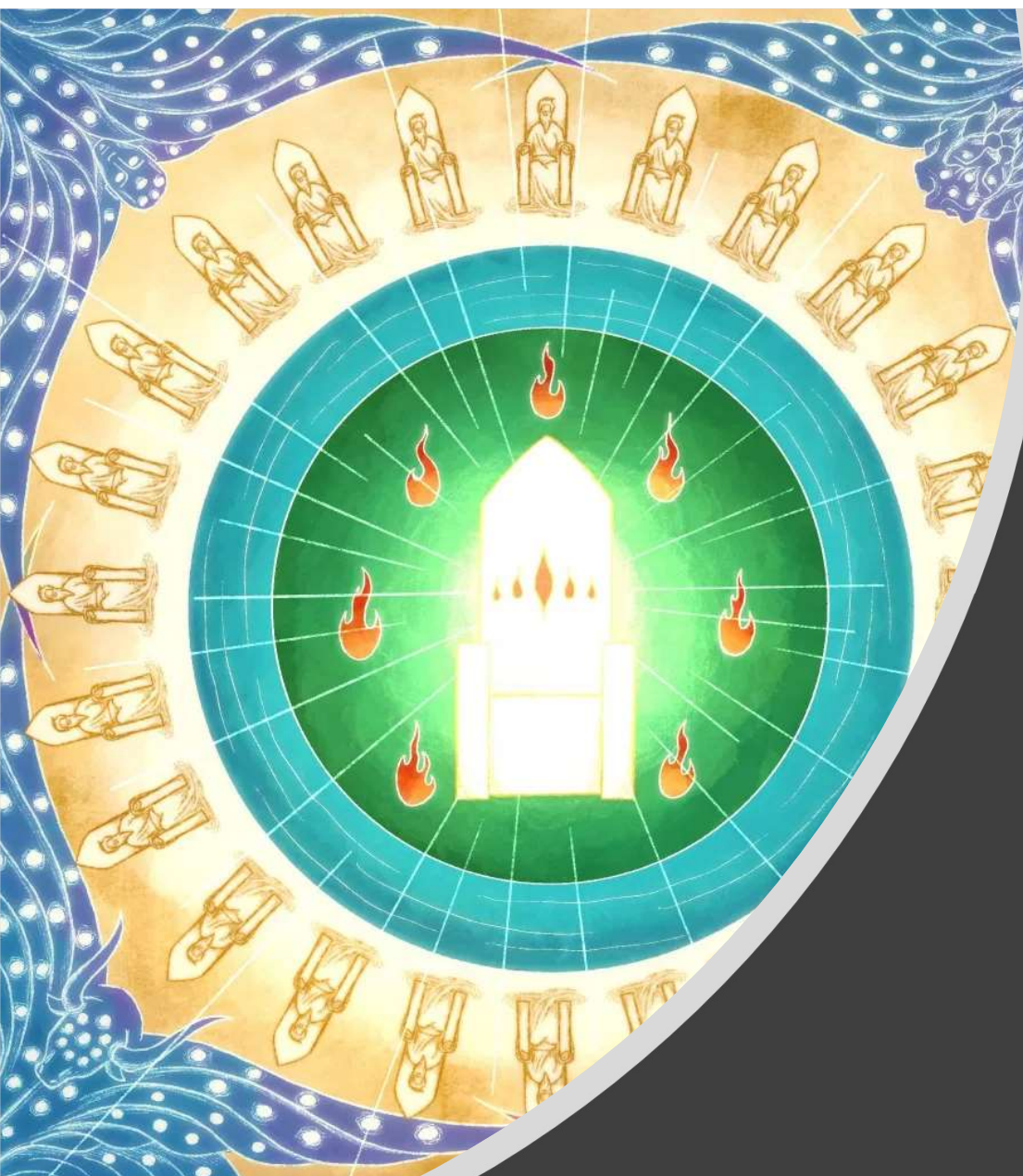
‘*imperium*’ is latin word for empire





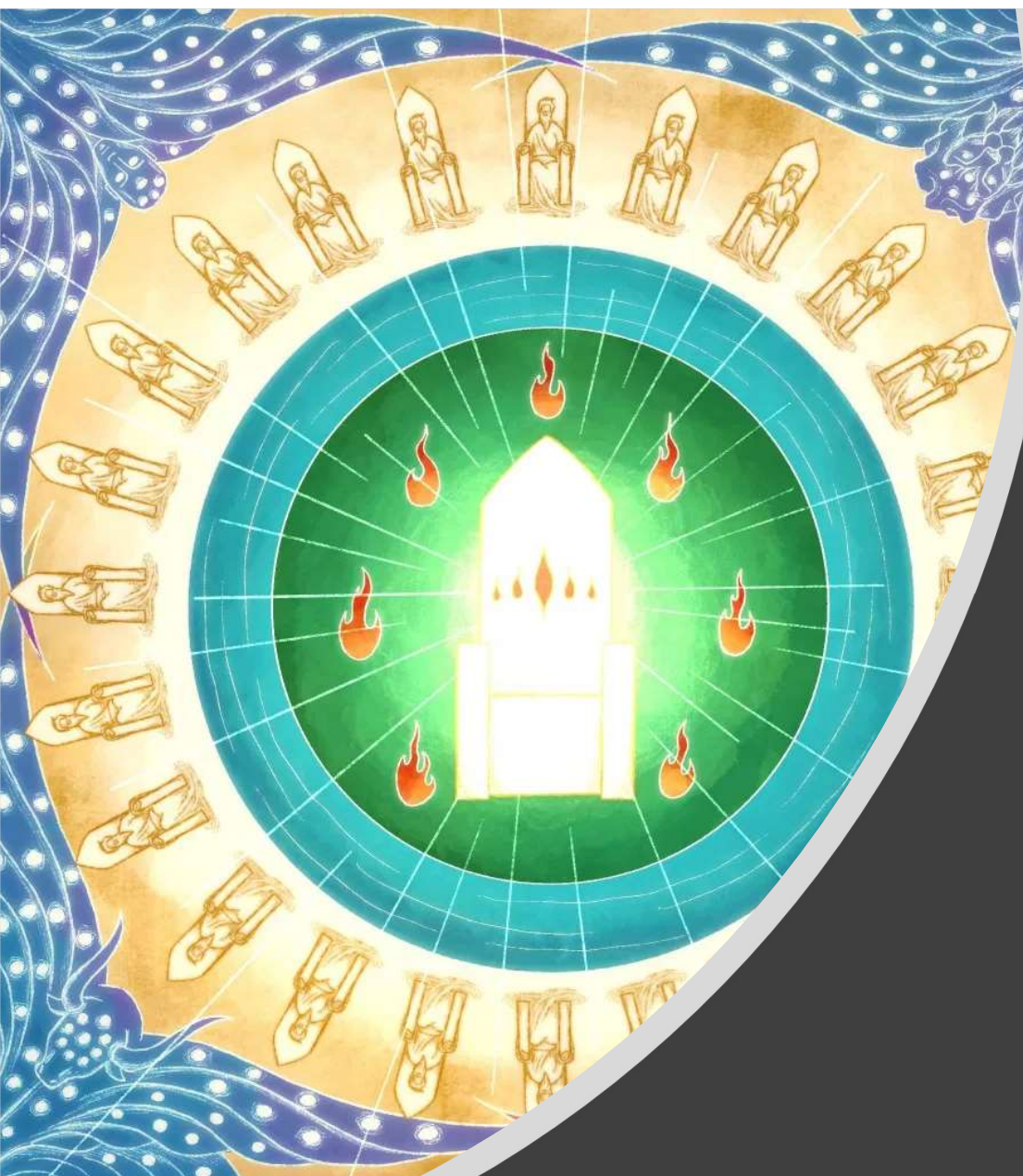
**Then the seventh angel  
blew his trumpet, and  
there were loud voices  
in heaven, saying,**





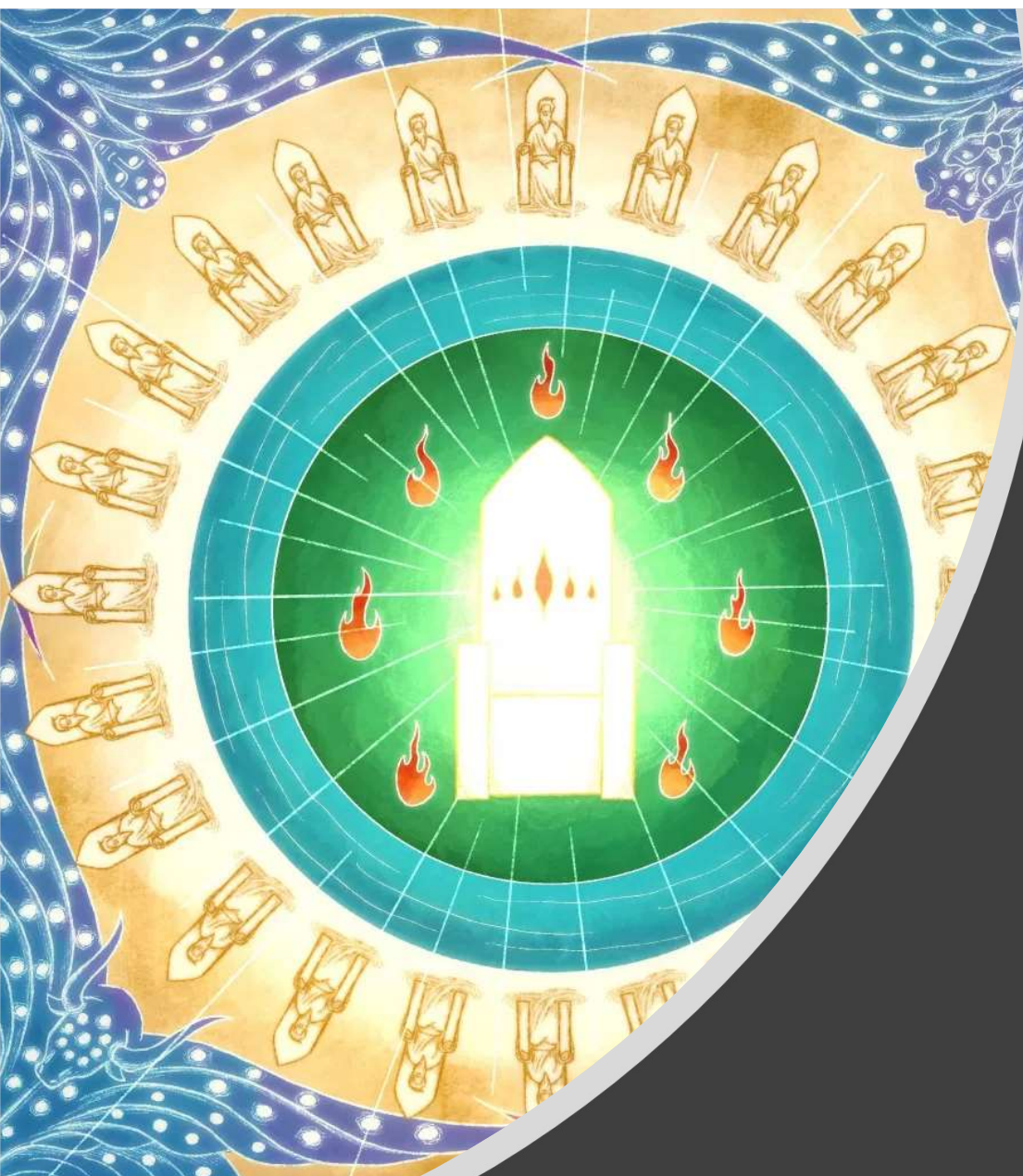
‘The *basileia* of the world has become the *basileia* of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will have rule (*basileusi*) for ever and ever.’ (Rev 11:15)

‘*Basileia*’ is the Greek word for empire



**The boundless grandeur of the Roman Peace, which displays in turn not men only with their different lands and tribes but also their mountains and peaks soaring into the clouds, their offspring and also their plants.**

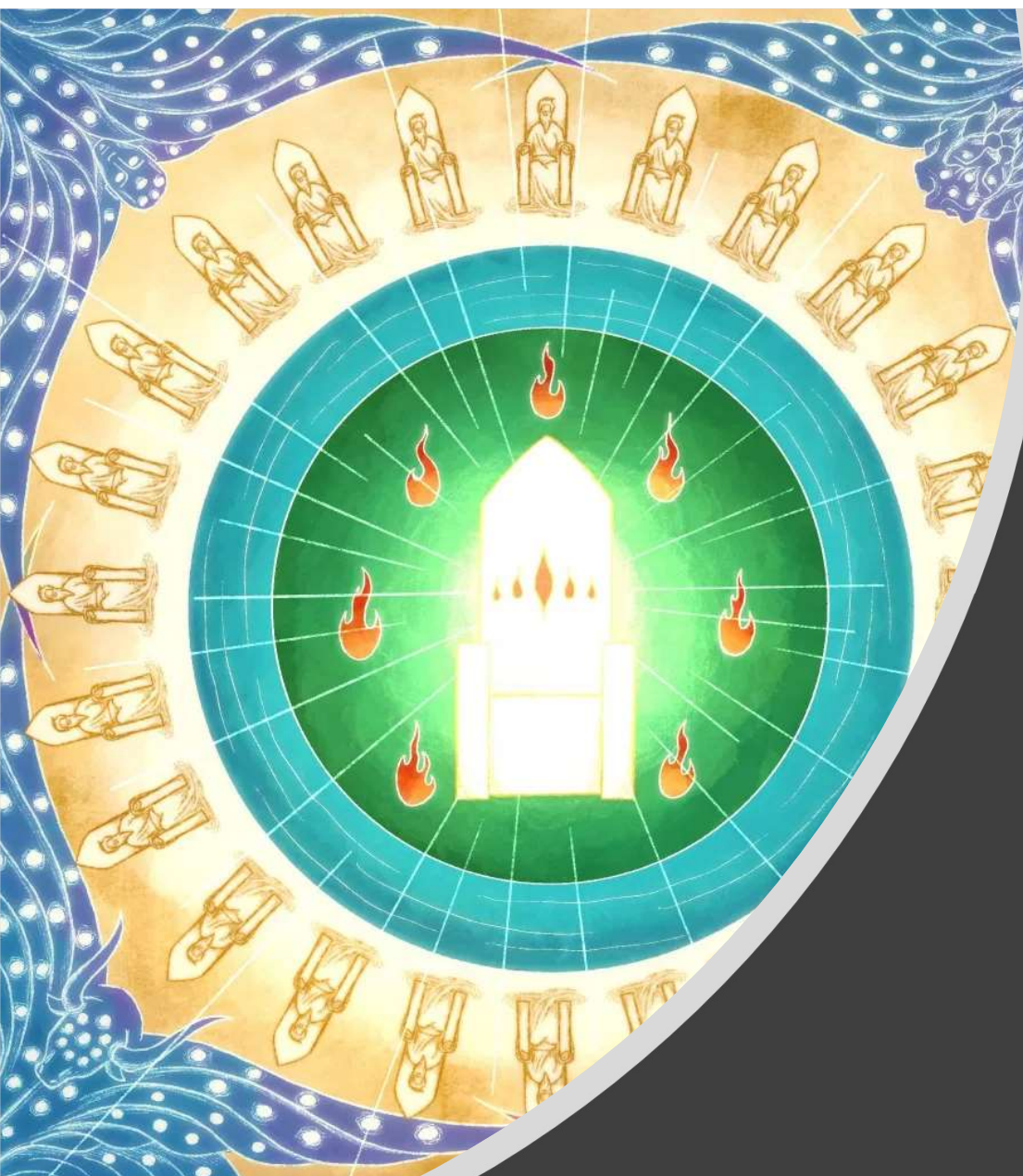




**May this gifts of the  
gods last I pray forever!  
So truly do they seem  
to have given to the  
human race the  
Romans as it were a  
second sun.**

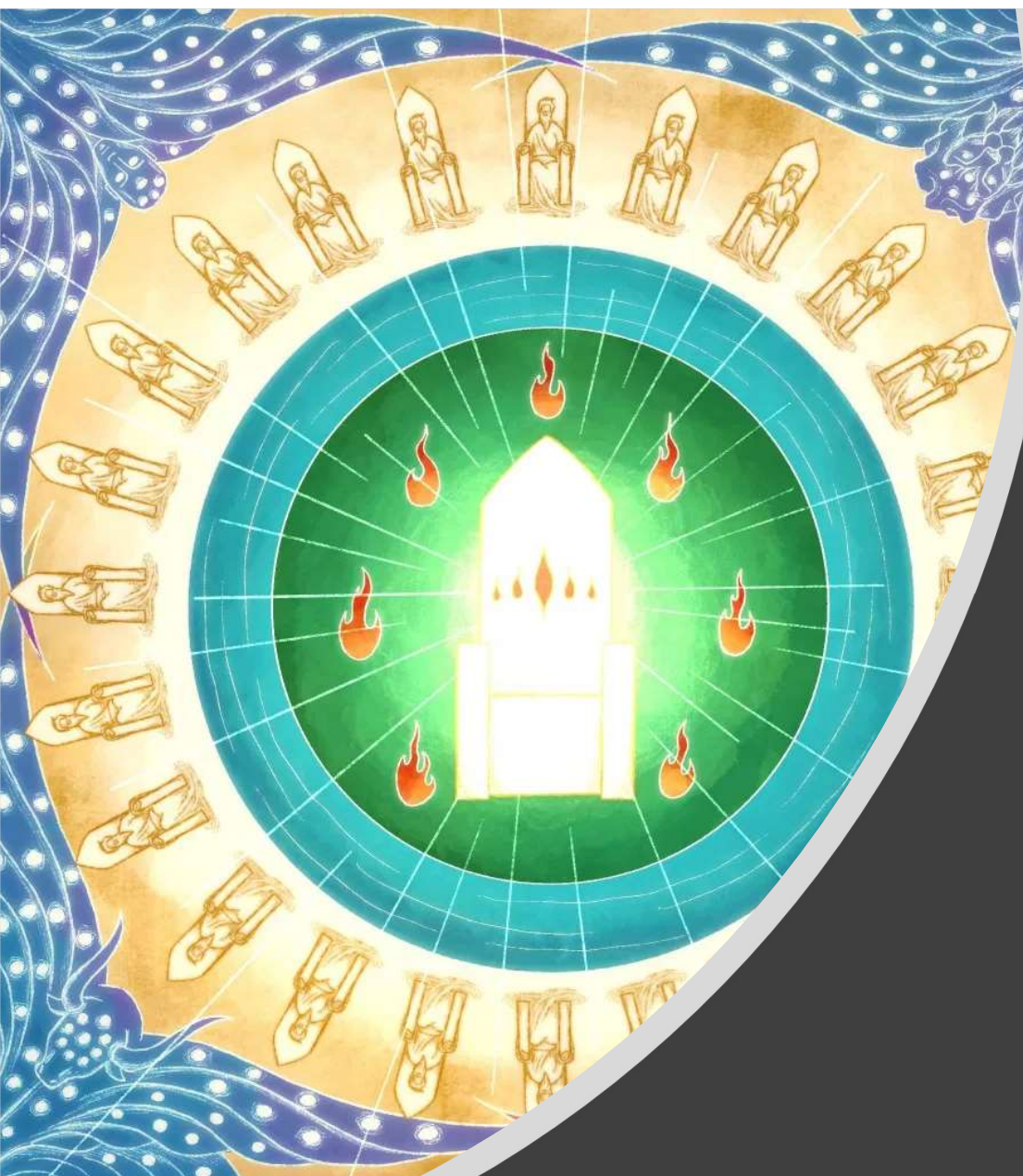
**(Natural History,  
Pliny the Elder  
1<sup>st</sup> Century)**





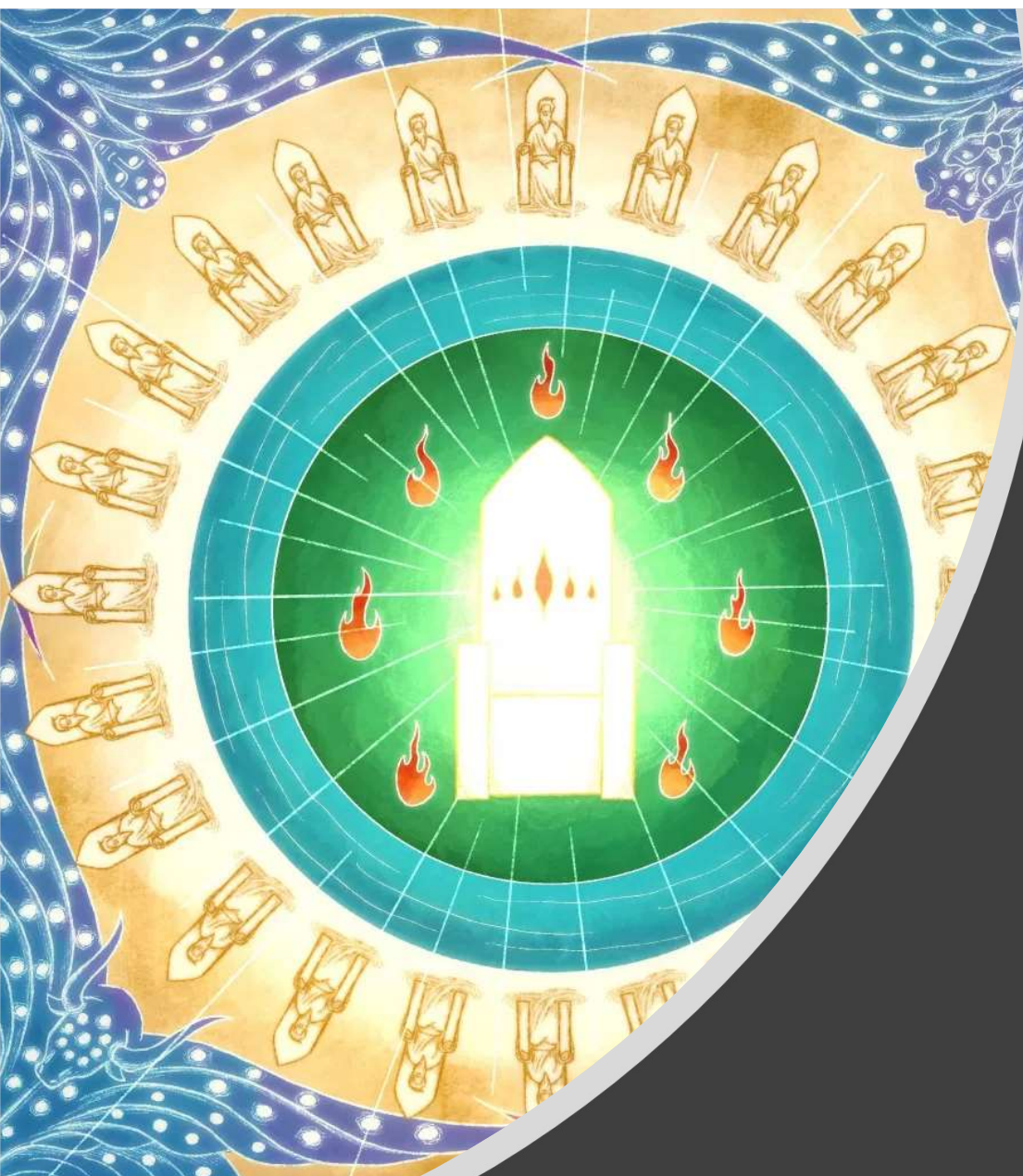
For this reason they are  
before the throne of God,  
and worship him day and  
night within his temple,  
and the one who is  
seated on the throne will  
shelter them.

They will hunger no more,  
and thirst no more;  
the sun will not strike  
them,  
nor any scorching heat;



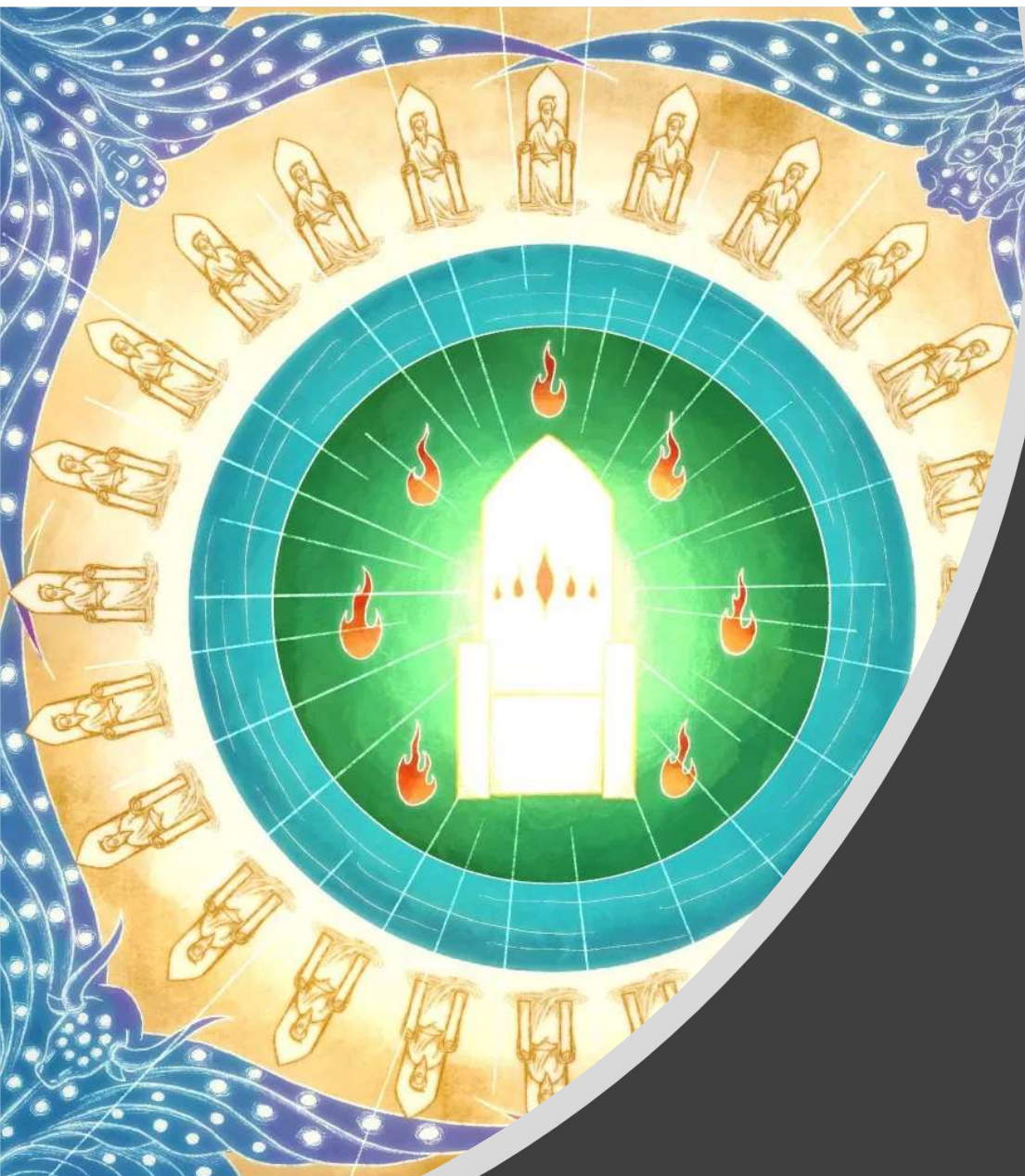
**for the Lamb at the  
centre of the throne  
will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide  
them to springs of the  
water of life,  
and God will wipe away  
every tear from their  
eyes.’(Rev 7)**





**‘See, the home of God is  
among mortals.  
He will dwell with them;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be  
with them;  
he will wipe every tear  
from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and  
pain will be no more,  
for the first things have  
passed away.’ (Rev 21)**

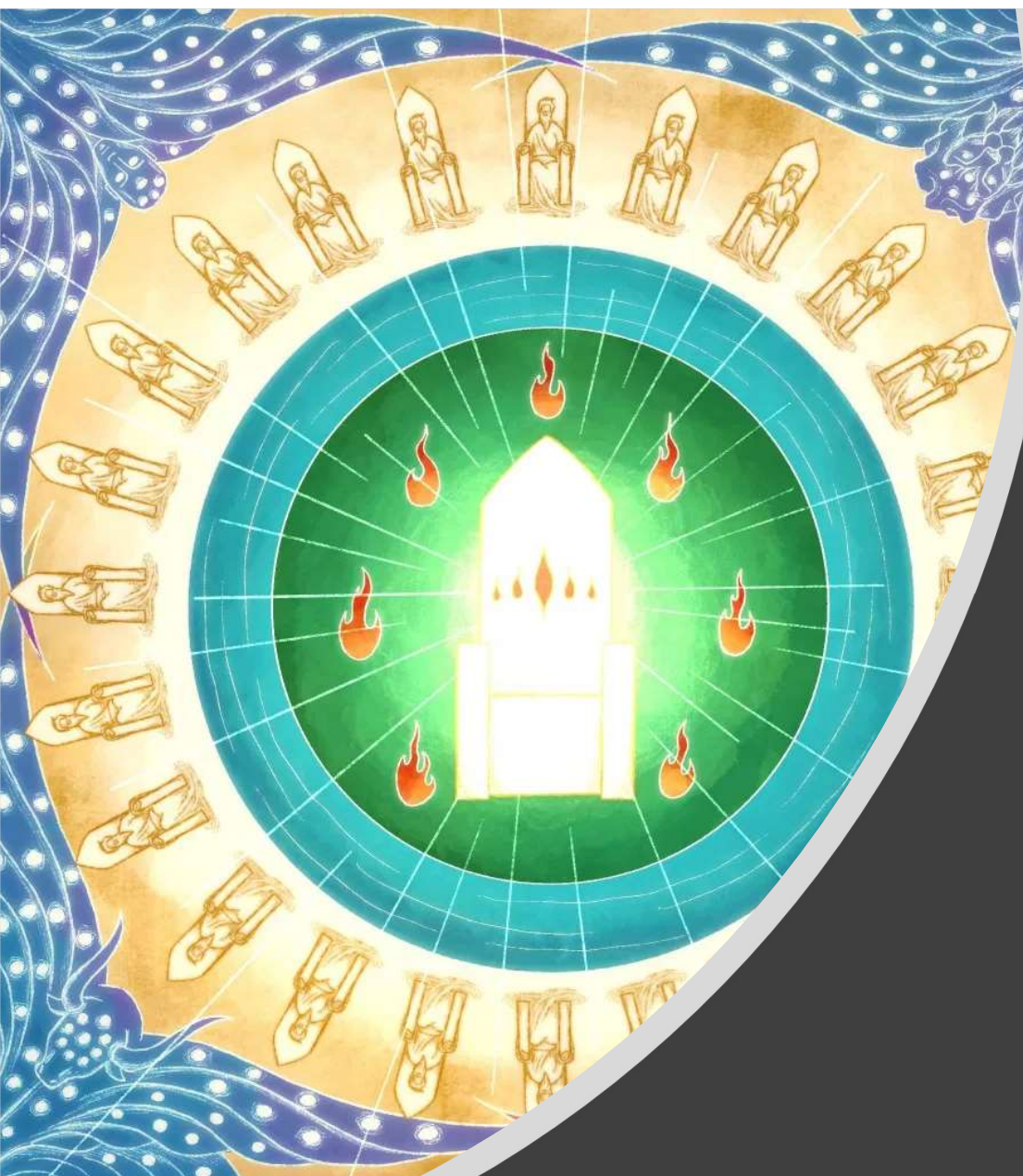




Rome is the  
embodiment of cosmic  
order on earth  
(Cicero)

Rome was  
*'ubs aeterna'* & *'Roma  
aeterna'*

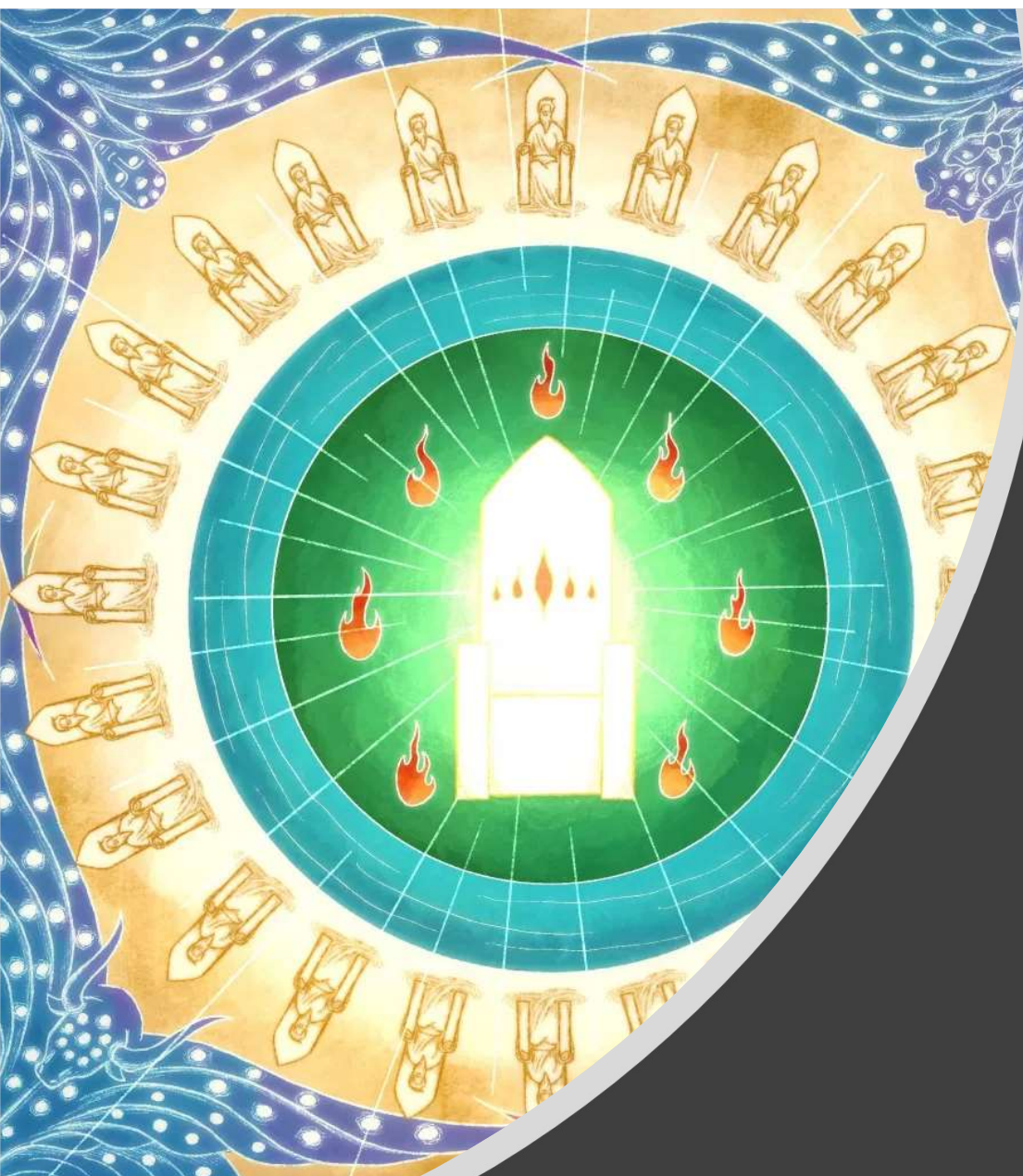
The eternal city  
Eternal Rome (empire)



‘I am the **Alpha** and the **Omega**’, says the Lord God, **who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.**

YHWH in some Greek manuscripts is written as ‘**IAΩ**’

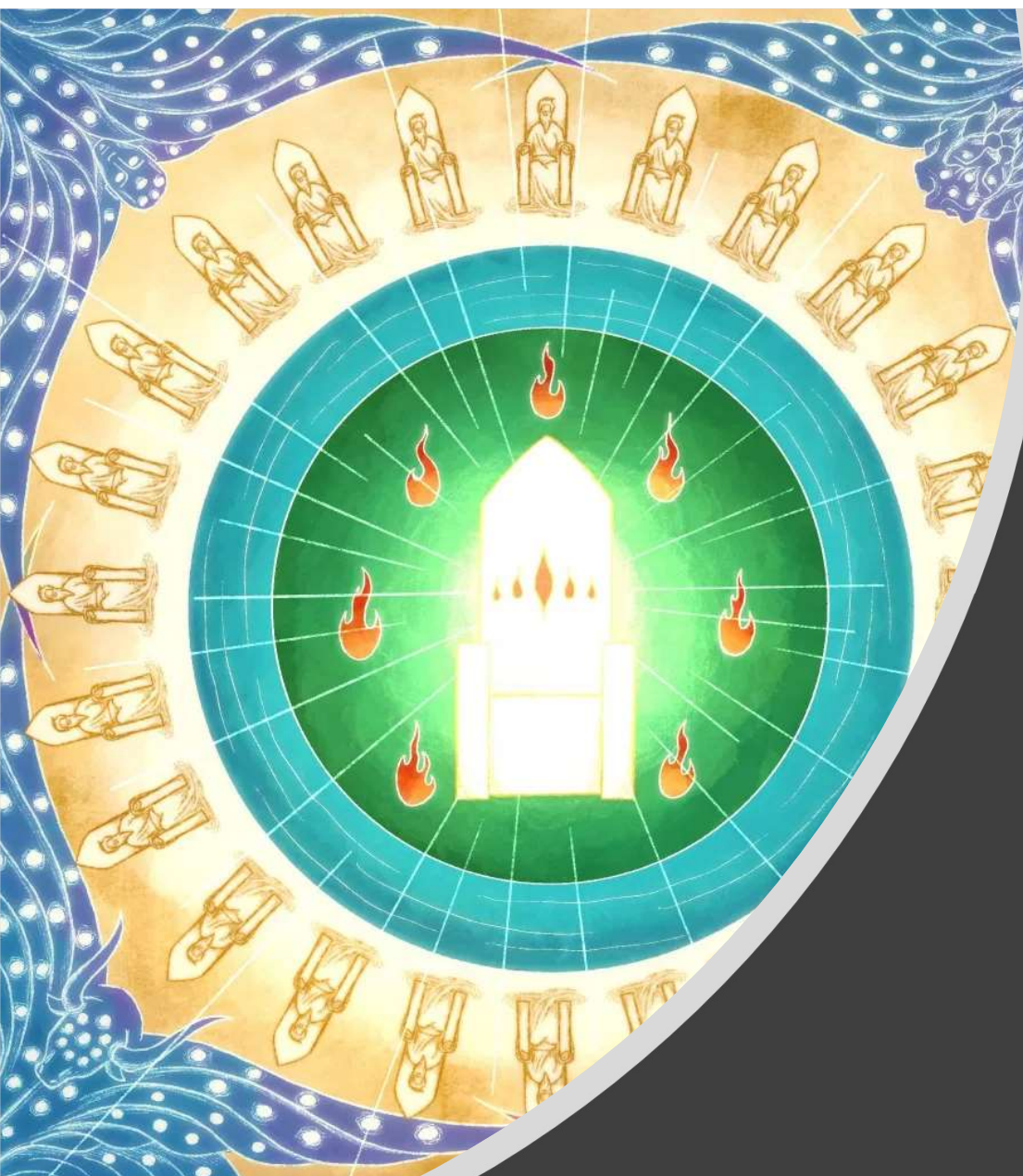




because if you ***confess  
with your lips that  
Jesus is Lord*** and  
believe in your heart  
that God raised him  
from the dead, you will  
be saved.

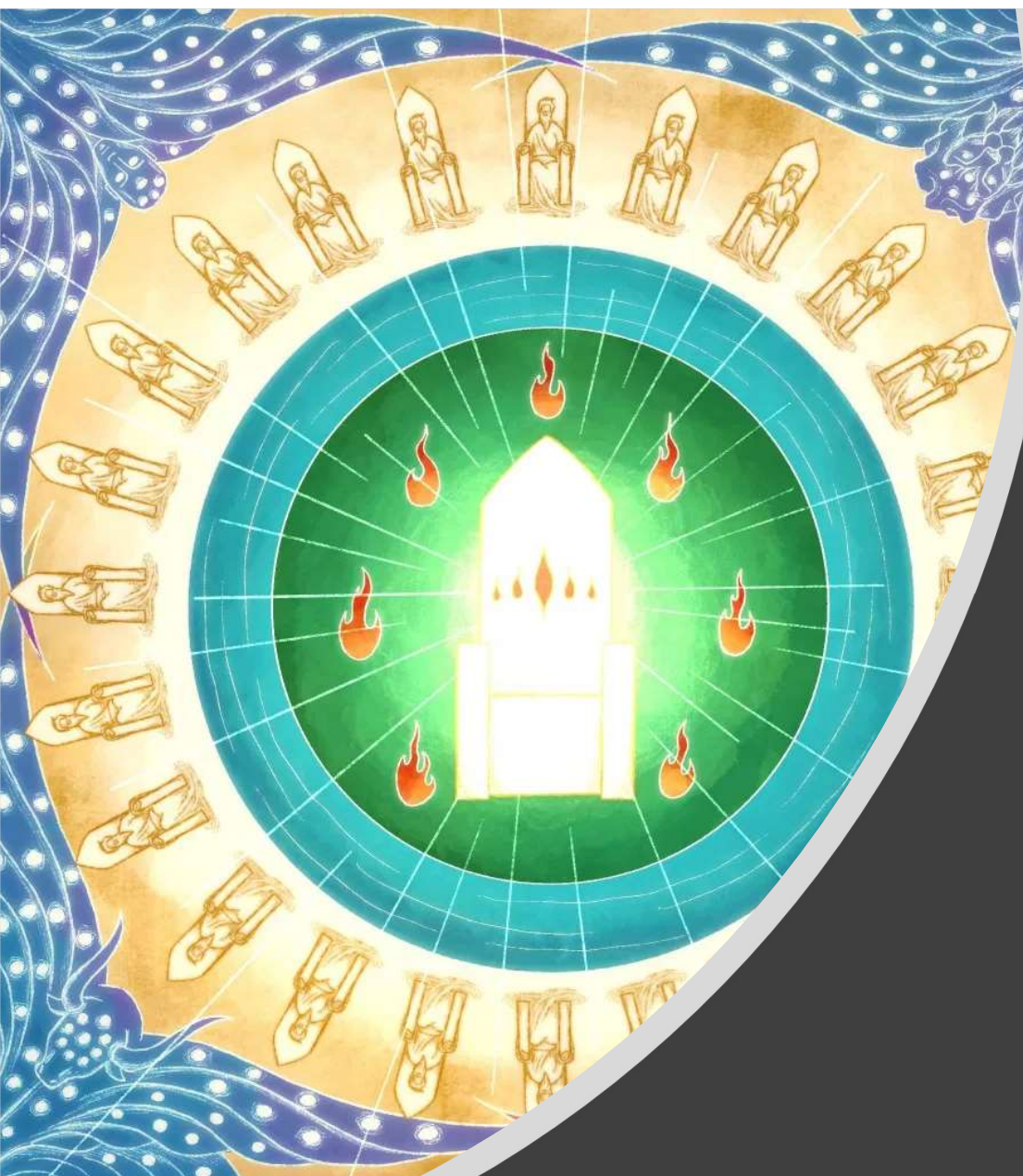
(Rom 10:9)





I appeal to you  
therefore, brothers and  
sisters, by the mercies  
of God, ***to present your  
bodies as a living  
sacrifice***, holy and  
acceptable to God,  
which is your spiritual  
worship.

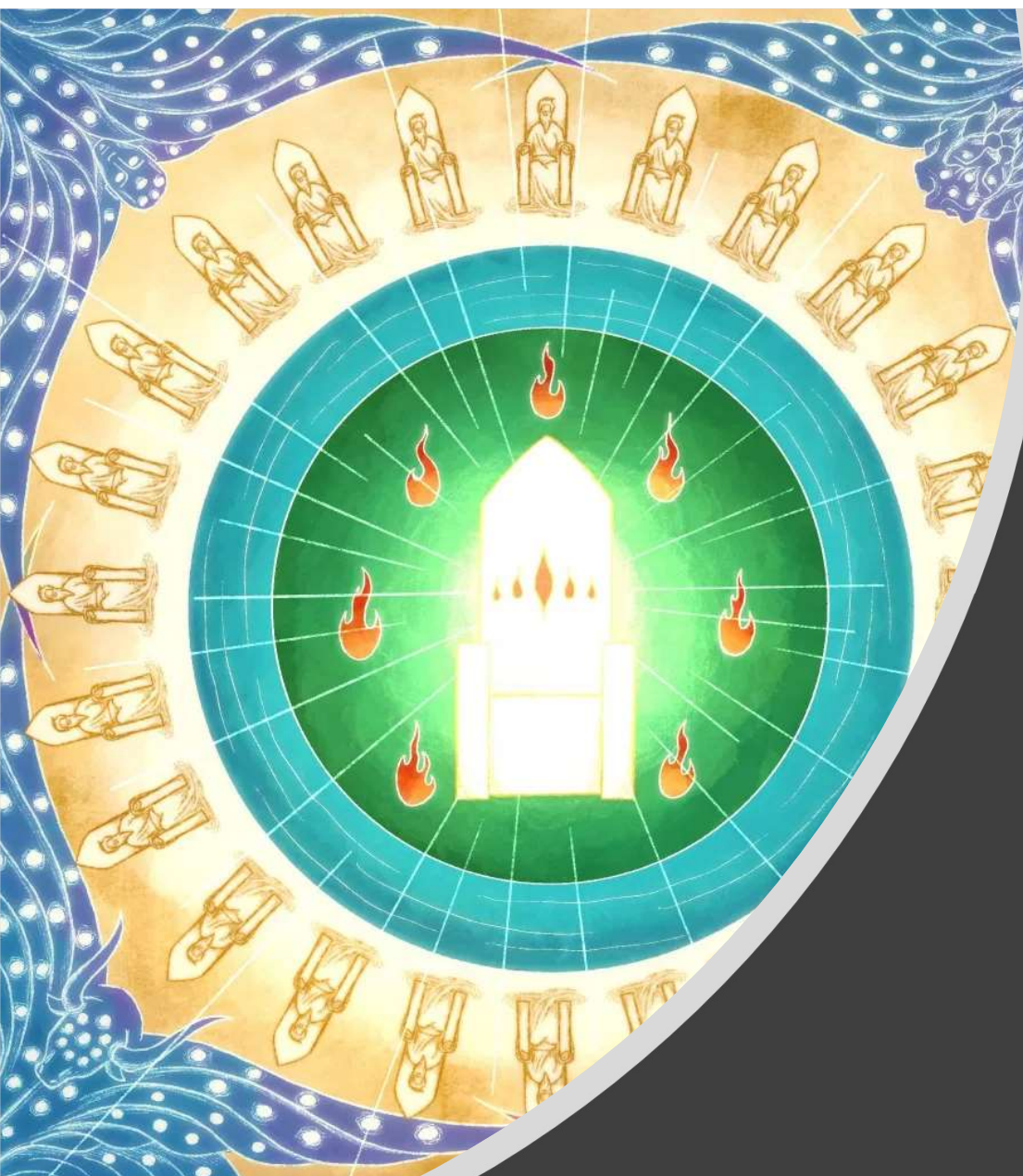
(Rom 12:1)



## The test of Roman faith

*Citizens were supposed to burn incense to Caesar. The annual rite meant taking a pinch of incense, tossing it in a fire and saying, 'Caesar is Lord.'*



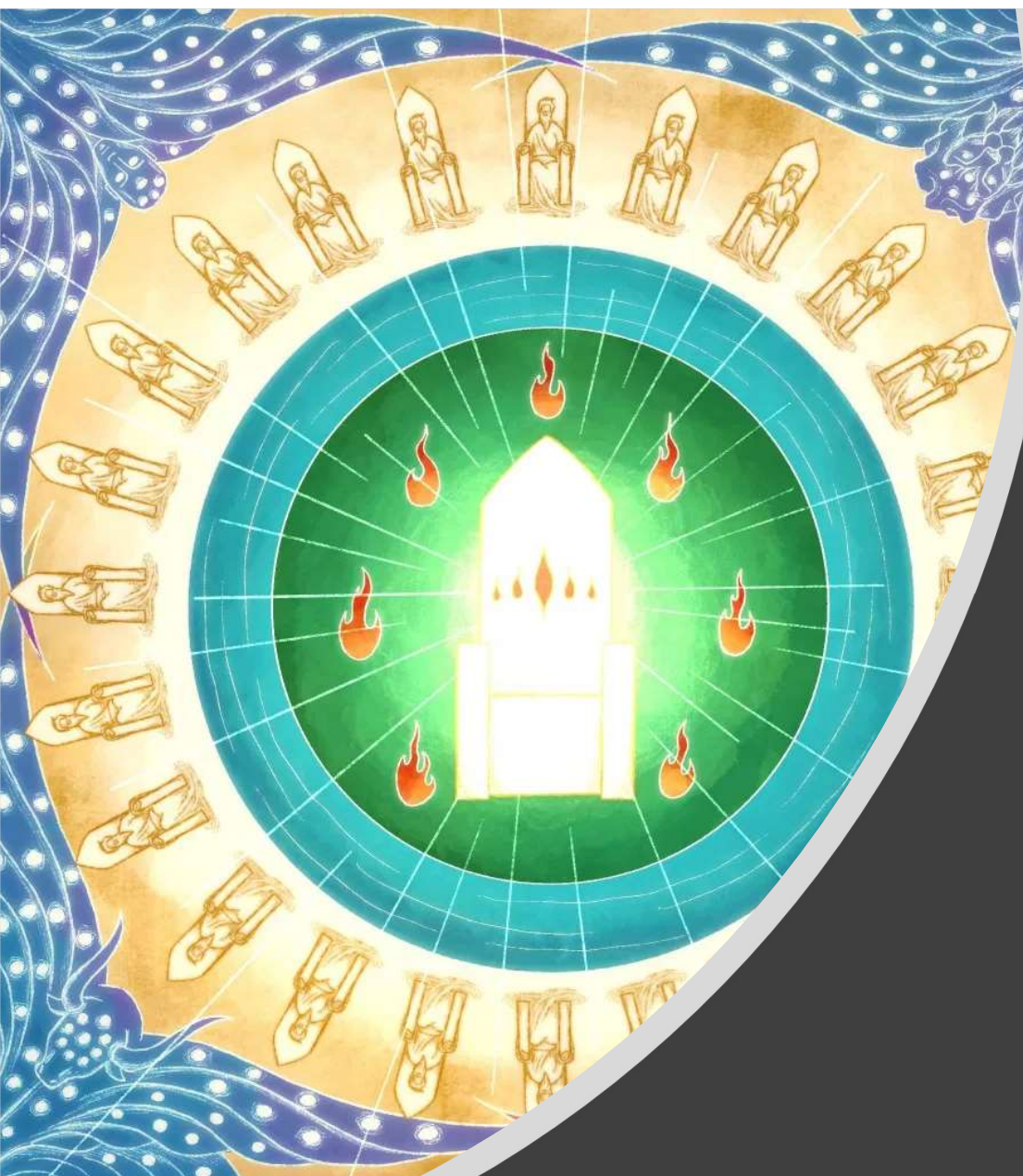


**Worship in Revelation  
forces us to ask the  
question**

***Who will we put our  
faith (loyalty) in?***

***The Empire of this  
world?***

***The Empire of the Lord?***



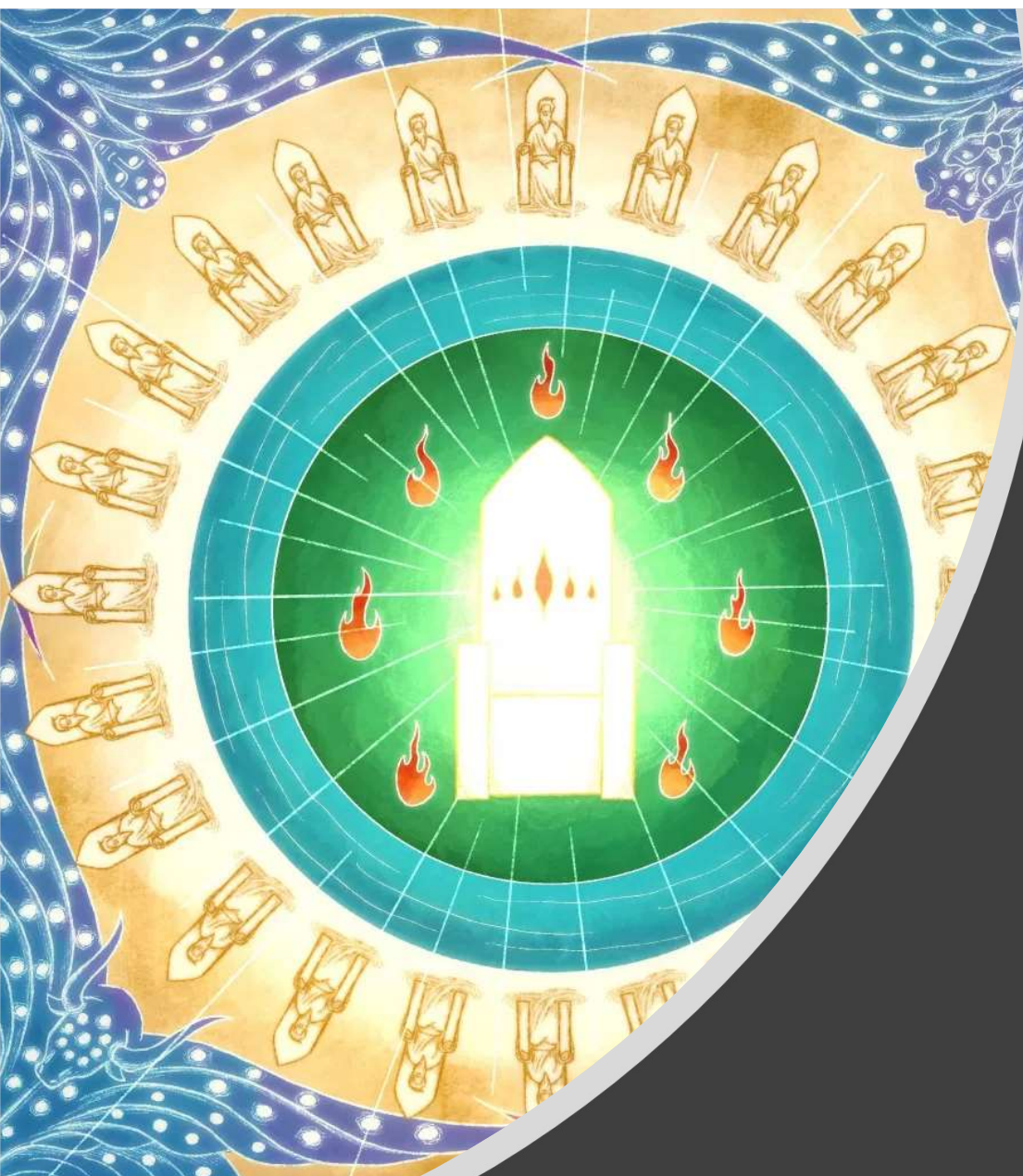
**To the churches of 1<sup>st</sup>  
century, Revelation's  
worship shows the  
truth**

**-even though Rome is  
all powerful**

**-even though they  
are small**

**- Even though they  
maybe persecuted**

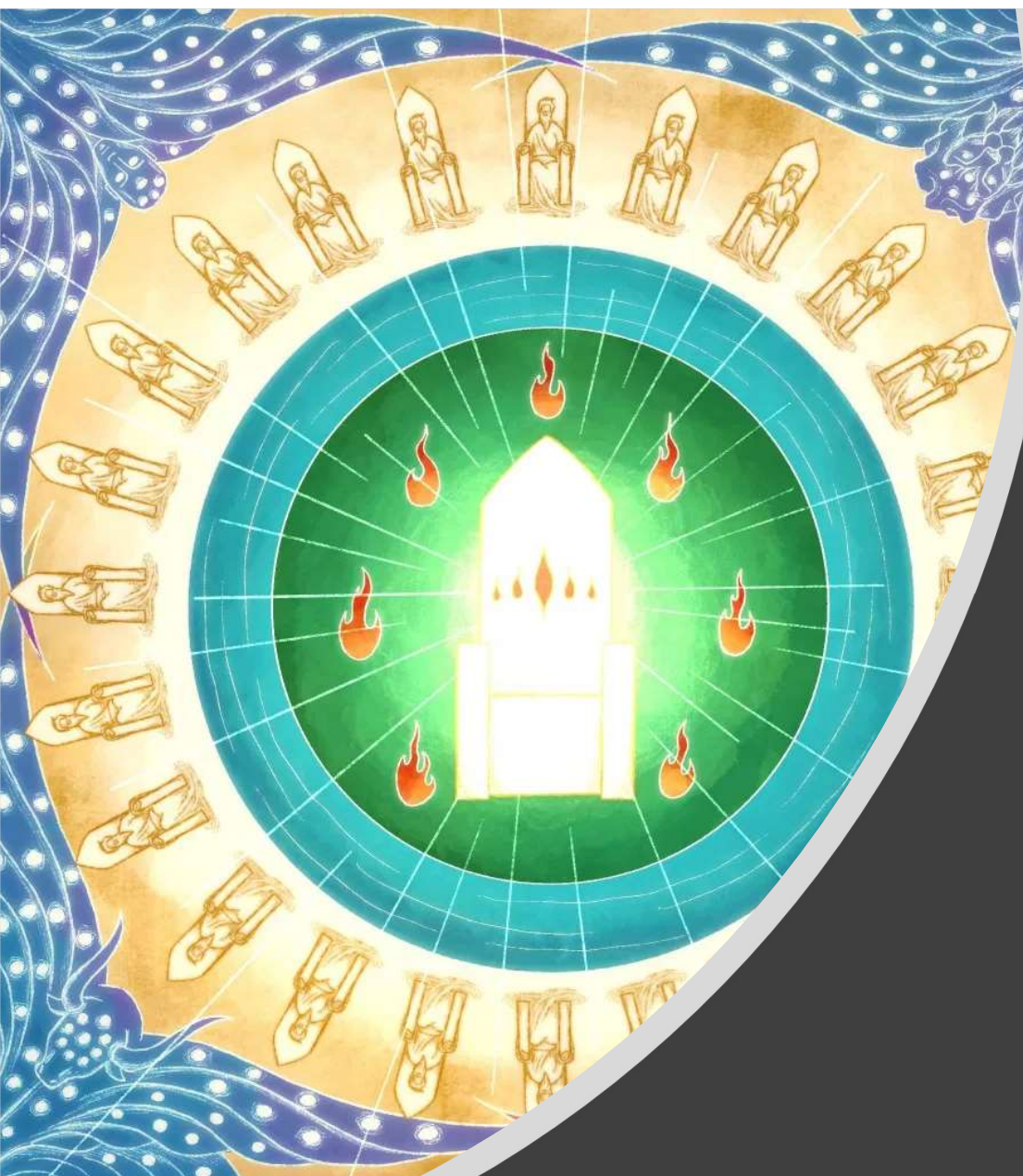




**When they worship,  
they join with the  
heavens in declaring  
the truth.**

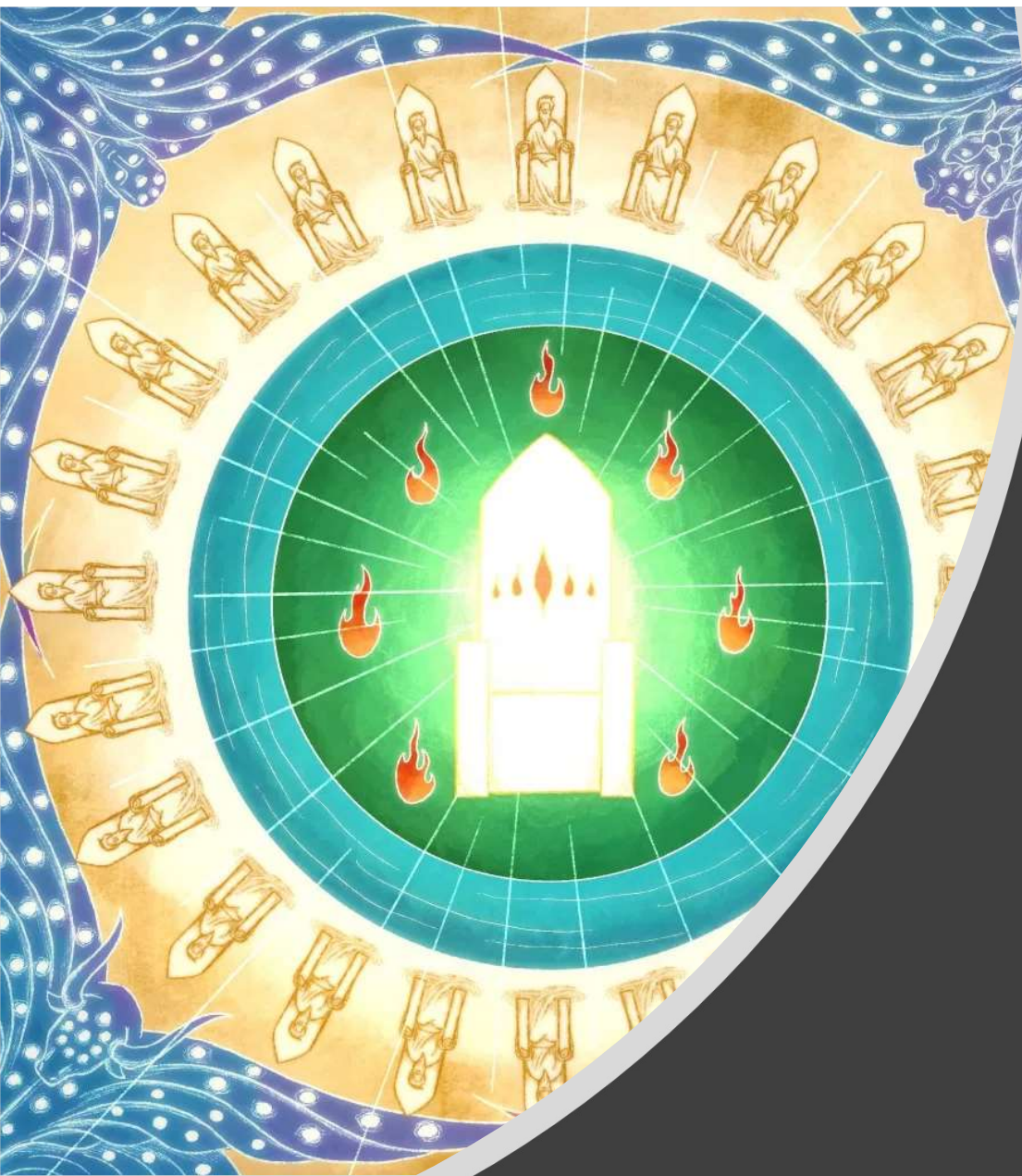
**Jesus is LORD**

**And God is the only  
true power who will  
bring Rome to  
account.**



**Who will WE worship  
with our  
Bodies  
Minds  
Passion  
Lives  
?**





**Who do we believe  
can bring  
Peace and happiness  
to our lives?**

**The economy and our  
western 'lifestyle'**

**Or God?**