

"This will become a classic."—ANNE RICE, author of *Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt*

SIMPLY CHRISTIAN

†

Why Christianity Makes Sense

N. T. WRIGHT

Simply Christian

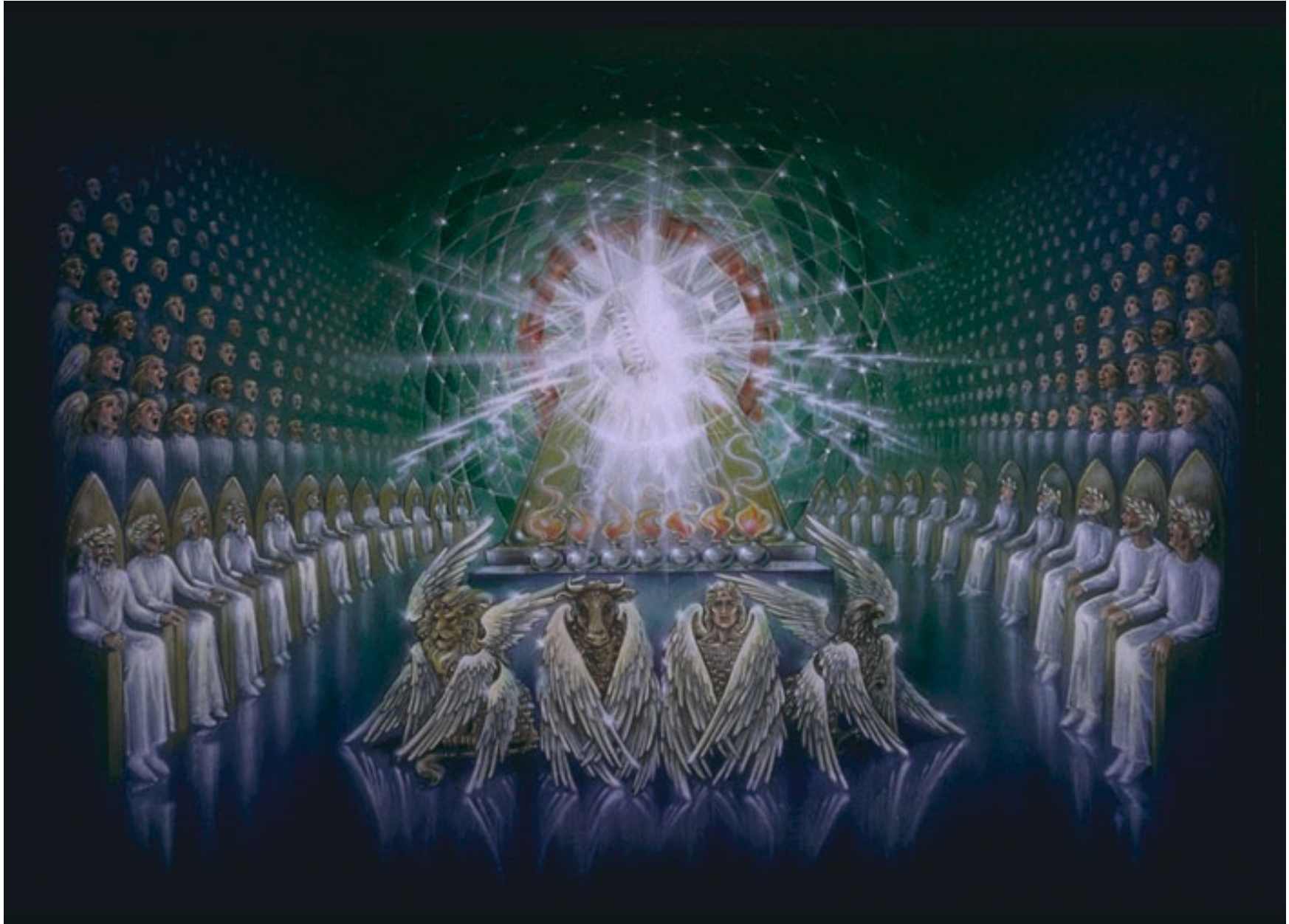
4 November 2012

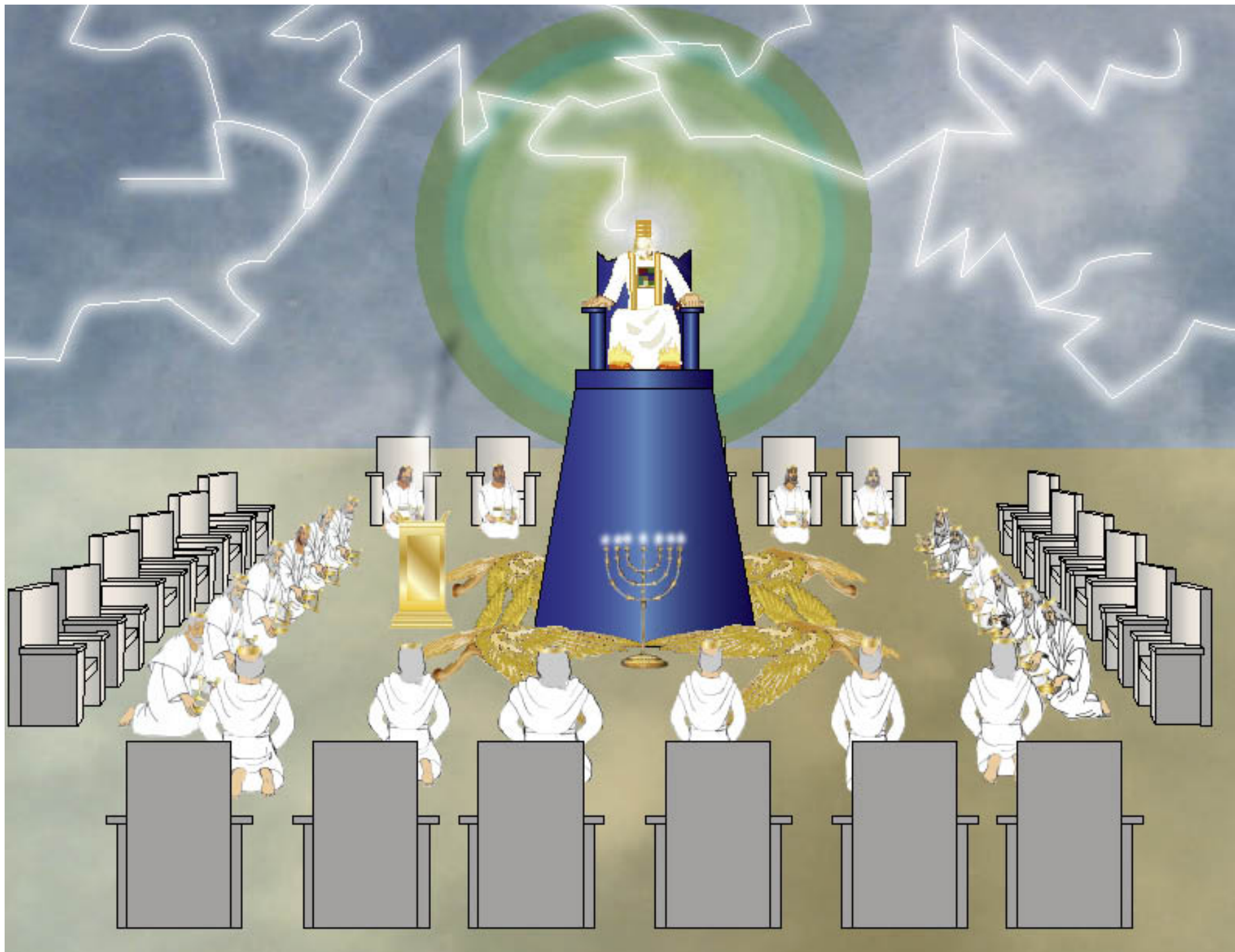
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Part Three: Reflecting the Image

- Worship
- Prayer
- The Book God Breathed
- The Story and the Task
- Believing and Belonging
- New Creation, Starting Now

God's Throne





You've gotta serve somebody

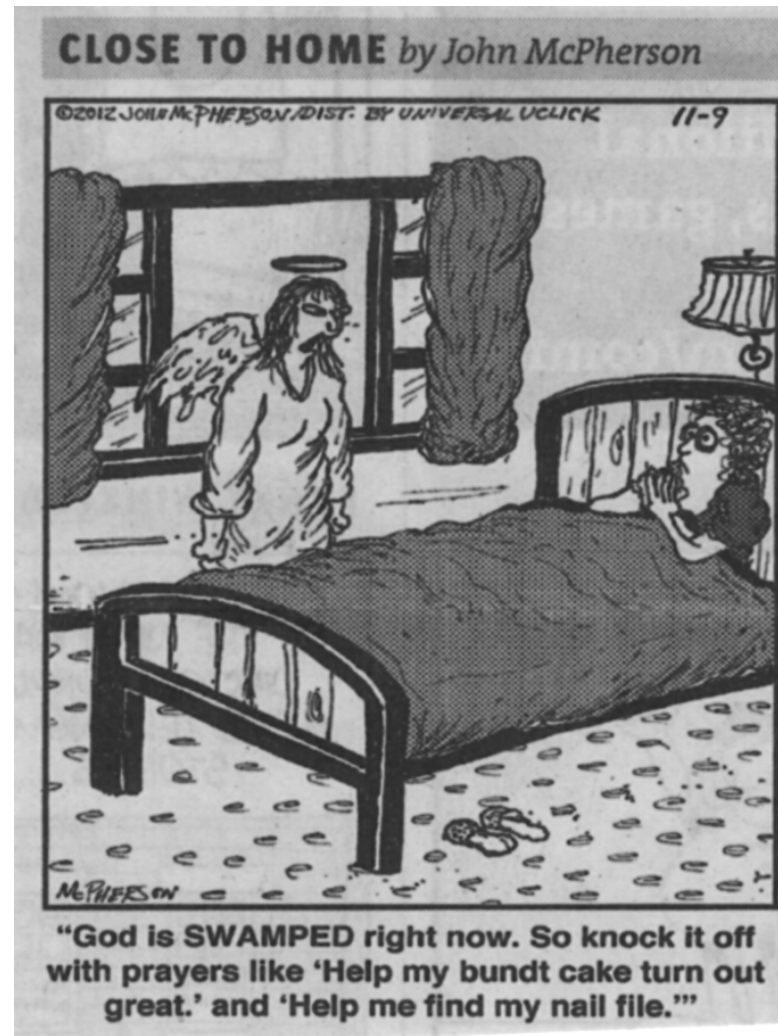
You may be an ambassador to England or France
You may like to gamble, you might like to dance
You may be the heavyweight champion of the world
You may be a socialite with a long string of pearls.

But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes indeed
You're gonna have to serve somebody,
It may be the devil or it may be the Lord
But you're gonna have to serve somebody.

Might be a rock'n' roll addict prancing on the stage
Might have money and drugs at your commands, women in a cage
You may be a business man or some high degree thief
They may call you Doctor or they may call you Chief.

But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes indeed
You're gonna have to serve somebody,
Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord
But you're gonna have to serve somebody.

Prayer



The Lord's Prayer
King James Version (KJV)

These are the words from the Lord's prayer in Matthew 6:9-13, taken from the King James Bible (Authorized version of the scriptures):-

9 Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

10 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer Words
(traditional)

Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen.

A modern version

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your Kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours.
Now and for ever.
Amen.

Romans 8:26-28

²⁶Meanwhile, the moment we get tired in the waiting, God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. ²⁷He knows us far better than we know ourselves, knows our pregnant condition, and keeps us present before God. ²⁸That's why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good.

Pathways into Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

- This is called the Jesus prayer.
- It is deeper than it first seems. It is a wide petition asking God to send his merciful presence.
- You can substitute the name of person for “me”.
- Praying it repeatedly is a way to center yourself on God and block out other distractions.

Two prayers suggested by Wright.

Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, set up your kingdom in our midst.

Holy Spirit, breath of the living God, renew me and all the world.”

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee O lord;
And by thy great mercy
Defend us from all perils and dangers of this night;
For the love of thy only Son,
Our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Shema

“Hear, O Israel, YHWH our God, YHWH is one; and you shall love YHWH your God with all your heart.”

- This is called the Shema because the opening word in Hebrew is Shema (translated hear).
- It is not what we sometimes think of as prayer, but it is in the sense that it is an act of worship and commitment.
- You could also use Jesus’ words on this topic.

Facebook input

Hail Mary, full of grace.

Our Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,
Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

St Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.

Where there is injury, pardon.

Where there is doubt, faith.

Where there is despair, hope.

Where there is darkness, light.

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,

grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;

to be understood, as to understand;

to be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive.

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

Amen.

God, I offer myself to Thee to build me and to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help; of Thy power, Thy love and Thy way of life. May I do Thy will, always.
Amen

St. Patrick's Breastplate

I bind unto myself today
The strong Name of the Trinity,
By invocation of the same
The Three in One and One in Three.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

I bind unto myself the Name,
The strong Name of the Trinity,
By invocation of the same,
The Three in One and One in Three.
By Whom all nature hath creation,
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word:
Praise to the Lord of my salvation,
Salvation is of Christ the Lord.

Full version at:

http://prayerfoundation.org/st_patricks_breastplate_prayer.htm

Glory be to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, so it is now, and so it shall ever be, world without end.
Hallelujah, Amen.

A benediction:

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you wherever he may send you.
May he guide you through the wilderness and protect you through the storm.
May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you.
May he bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.

Converted to an individual's prayer:

Lord Christ, may your peace go with me where ever you send me.
Guide me through the wilderness. Protect me through the storm.
Bring me home rejoicing at the you wonders you have shown me.
Bring me home rejoicing once again into your presence.

Prayer resources on the WEB

- <http://www.covchurch.org/resources/category/prayer/>
- <http://www.beliefnet.com/Faiths/Prayer/index.aspx> Not all Christian
- <http://www.24-7prayer.com/>
- <http://www.worldprayers.org/> Not all Christian
- <http://www.catholic.org/prayers/>
- <http://www.cptryon.org/prayer/>
- <http://www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Prayer-Center.aspx>

Next week

- Read
 - Chapter 13 *The Book God Breathed* (12 pages)
 - Chapter 14 *The Story and the Task* (14 pages)
 - I'll post some notes I took while reading the book on the BLOG (simplychristian.eklund.io)
- I will also post the material from today on the BLOG.