to promote to the priesthood and kingly office before  
Him. But, as they confess the superior worthiness  
of Jesus, in His becoming incarnate and subjecting  
Himself to death from loyalty to the throne and  
from love to men; so they discern also the superior  
place taken by those over whom the worthiness of  
Christ has spread its mantle. His superabounding merits  
avail to elevate and to clothe others. The elders  
stand only on their own merits, which avail for themselves, but for none beside. They are already reigning,  
offering incense, as priests, and seated on thrones, when  
they anticipate the future kingdom of these, the ransomed of Christ. The rule of men is to begin in the  
new or millennial age; and that of angels is to be excluded. Heb. ii. 6. This the elders foreknow, and  
acquiesce with all readiness, nay, with joy, in the appointment of redeemed men as about to supersede them.  
There is no jealousy on the part of the elect angels.  
“Thy will be done on earth, *as it is in heaven!*”  
 Henceforth the elders do not act: though they display foresight of what is to come.  
  
 11. “And I saw, and heard the voice of many angels around  
the throne, and the living creatures, and the elders: and the  
number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands;  
saying with a loud voice—12. ‘Worthy is the Lamb that  
was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength,  
and honour, and glory, and blessing.’”  
  
 The leaders of the angels begin the song; the rest  
follow. There is full loyalty to Christ throughout the  
ranks of the elect of angels.  
  
 13. “And every creature which is in the heaven, and on the  
earth, and underneath the earth, and upon the sea, and all things  
in them, I heard saying, ‘Unto the Sitter upon the throne, and to  
the Lamb, be blessing, and honour, and glory, and might, for ever  
and ever!’ 14. And the four living creatures said, Amen. And  
the elders fell down, and worshipped.”  
  
 The four living creatures in like manner take the