

# Worship God – FOT Day 7

Allen Hirst

Recorded October 16, 2022

For those of us who have been watching the news and reading articles and watching world events, you have likely noticed things have changed dramatically over the last few years. For most of us, nothing like world events of today and the ramifications have ever been seen by any of us in our lifetime. Everything from the claims of who has the authority to determine what is good for our children and the content of their education to the ethics of who can determine when a human is no longer valuable to society and can be euthanized.

Concerning Europe, I have heard warnings of potential death of many from exposure this winter due to the cold over the lack of ability to fuel or heat their homes. Others warn of mass starvation because of lack of ability to purchase fertilizers and other petroleum-based products necessary to produce, store and transport food.

These potential catastrophes are being forced on societies around the world in the name of saving the planet from the harm of global warming. We seem to be living in “perilous times”. Recently, many of us heard of our President warning a group of potential financial contributors that, quote:

*“We have not faced the prospect of Armageddon since Kennedy and the Cuban missile crisis”.*

Biden was speaking of the current potential threat of nuclear war based on Vladimir Putin’s threat to begin using nuclear weapons wherever necessary to win his war in the Ukraine. President Biden is also quoted as saying, speaking of Putin, as a guy I know fairly well, quote:

*“He is not joking when he talks about potential use of tactical nuclear weapons or biological or chemical weapons because his military is, you might say, significantly underperforming.”*

He also said,

*“I don’t think there is any such thing as the ability to easily use tactical nuclear weapons and not end up with Armageddon.”*

Armageddon is referenced in the Book of Revelation as a place where the kings of the earth will gather to battle and will end up facing God’s intervention in their destruction. Some believe that the gathering to Armageddon encompasses more than all the armies marching to a valley in the Middle East. Rather they believe the gathering includes all the armies of the earth. The point here is that the world leaders believe the consequences of their actions may bring on the destruction of all the armies of the earth

and consequently, all or most of humanity. They are speaking of the last days of the societies of this world. The last days before God's intervention and defeat of the world governments. Current world events and attitudes indicate that we may be in the time called "*The Last Days*". Time has proven that none of us can know for sure if we are in the last days, but we always have to be ready.

**2 Timothy 3:1** *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:*

*2) For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful,*

*3) unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,*

*4) traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,*

*5) having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!*

*6) For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts,*

*7) always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. (NKJV)*

Casual observation of society today indicates to me a significant trend towards the moral depravity we see described here in 2 Timothy. As conditions of morality decline, those who seek to follow the way of Christ will suffer persecution. Continuing in verse 12.

*12) Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.*

*13) But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. (NKJV)*

As members of society, we are influenced by all of the same factors experienced by others. As a result, we often get involved with attitudes and actions that are contrary to God's way of righteousness. In Revelation 3:3 God specifically instructs the Church of Sardis concerning what is important.

**Revelation 3:3** *Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore, if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. (NKJV)*

Remember these instructions to the Laodiceans to repent apply to all of us of all ages.

*19) As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore, be zealous and repent. (NKJV)*

The next few chapters describe the punishments that are in store for the people of the world in order to correct their minds and attitudes toward God and His ways of righteousness. Despite the punishments administered, some will not repent and will seek to follow others in rebellion against God. In their rebellion they will honor and worship Satan and others in support of their rejection of God. Beginning in verse 20, this is speaking of a time after some of the punishments have been administered. God describes the attitudes of those who continue to rebel. As we go through these verses in Revelation, I want you to notice the reference to *worship* which is going to be the emphasis of this sermon

**Revelation 9:20** *But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. (NKJV)*

They are unwilling to repent or stop the worship of demons, things they made for themselves to worship as their gods.

*21) And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts. (NKJV)*

Those who do not repent will be forced to worship Satan and the powers he will be allowed to use to enforce his will on the earth.

**Revelation 13:4** *So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" (NKJV)*

They are afraid of the beast. The dragon here is Satan. For a time, Satan will be allowed to have the upper hand. Satan and the Beast Power will also be allowed to make war against those who do repent and desire to serve God.

*8) All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (NKJV)*

The final end of those who worship Satan and his Beast Power, will be destruction. The Beast and his false prophets will suffer eternal destruction in the Lake of Fire.

**Revelation 19:20** *Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.*

*21) And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the*

*mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh. (NKJV)*

By going over these verses, I want to make the point that who and what we worship is important to God and has significant consequences for each of us. As we proceed, we are going to find that the subject of worship is a sensitive issue with serious ramifications. The subject of worship is important now and will be important during the Millennial reign and eternally beyond. God allows for worship. God allows for others to be worshipped under certain conditions and times. We must be careful to understand where and when the worship of others is allowed. We will always need to use wisdom and discretion based on knowledge and understanding when bestowing honor on anyone.

We are here today to celebrate the final day of the seven days of the annual Feast of Tabernacles. This is the seventh and final day of the Feast of Tabernacles. As a part of our observing these days, we have been commanded to feast and “*rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days*”. And for review, let’s go to:

**Leviticus 23:39** *Also on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you shall keep the feast of the LORD for seven days; on the first day there shall be a sabbath-rest and on the eighth day a sabbath-rest.*

*40) And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days. (NKJV)*

We have been here for the last six days and still are here today rejoicing before God. A very important concept to be aware of throughout this sermon, is who the words translated from the English translation as, “*the LORD*” refers to. The two words translated “*the LORD*”, are translated from the Hebrew letters representing God’s Holy name.

In Zechariah 14 a focus of our being here this week has been to celebrate and rejoice before the LORD God Almighty for these seven days. Rejoicing before the Lord is actually a focus on all the commanded assemblies that we observe throughout the year. These days of the Feast of Tabernacles represent the rule of God’s government on this earth. Eventually, even Yehovah Himself, will rule from Jerusalem.

**Zechariah 14:8** *And in that day it shall be that living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, Half of them toward the eastern sea and half of them toward the western sea; In both summer and winter it shall occur.*

*9) And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. [Again, the LORD is translated from the word Yehovah, so instead of saying the LORD, we can say “Yehovah shall be king over all the earth”.] In that day it shall be— “The LORD is one,” And His name one. (NKJV)*

By using the Hebrew name, we could read this as “Yehovah is one,” and His name “one”. We do not worship them – we worship Him. In this verse, both times the word *one*, is used there translated from the Hebrew word which is pronounced something along the line of *ecad*. Strong’s #259. Here the word is used as an ordinal number. An ordinal number denotes sequence from priority. The meaning here is that Yehovah alone is the Most High King or the Highest King. No other king or authority is greater than Yehovah; also, no other name is or ever will be greater than the name of Yehovah. We see in other places that God’s name is Holy, and my personal belief is that no other person or entity will be allowed to use God’s name as his own. No one else will be called by God’s name, Yehovah.

I want to go down further and read, starting in verse 16. This is speaking prophetically concerning the seven-day festival we are finishing up with today. The Feast of Tabernacles will be kept in the future after the Day of the Lord. The time frame of this scenario is after the nations that reject God have fought against Him and have been defeated. This is speaking of a time when Yehovah will be ruling from Jerusalem.

**Zechariah 14:16** *And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. (NKJV)*

Every year, all the nations shall go to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of Hosts. This is the same king who we read about in verse 9, who shall be king over all the earth.

*17) And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain. (NKJV)*

If the family of Egypt will not come and enter in, they shall have no rain. They shall receive the plague with which the Lord strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. Our God and King expects to be worshipped. Everyone must worship the King, the LORD of Hosts. We are to worship Yehovah.

In Zechariah, we saw that Yehovah will command all families of the earth to worship Him. Yehovah is the same God Who delivered the tribes out of Egypt and made a covenant with Israel that Israel would be a special people. Israel agreed to be God’s example to all families and generations of the earth. Using Israel as an example, is to show the advantages and blessings of following God’s way as compared to the punishment and suffering for not obeying God’s commands. Notice in verse 4,

**Deuteronomy 6:4** *“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!” (NKJV)*

Two things I want you to notice here. As we saw in Zechariah, the two words, *The LORD* are translated from God's name *Yehovah* and the word *one* is translated from the Hebrew word, *ecad*. So as in Zechariah 14, *ecad* is used here as an ordinal number denoting superiority above all. In a series of persons or titles, *ecad* denotes "the first" or "the greatest" in the series. What this verse is saying is that Yehovah is the greatest of all, Yehovah is superior to all others. He is *number one*. This is an important concept we must understand and know why we believe it.

For example: My oldest grandson attends a non-denominational private Christian high school. He called his grandmother the other day wanting to discuss what they were teaching him in school. They are now studying about the Holy Spirit and the Trinity. Each of us at any given time may be called upon to explain why we reject the Trinity doctrine. For me, understanding that the word Yehovah is the Almighty God's name and exclusively His name, has given me clarity on this verse and further clarity as to why the Trinity doctrine is a false doctrine. The Trinity doctrine teaches that, instead of Yehovah referenced in Deuteronomy 6:4 as a singular unique entity with a unique exclusive name, He shouldn't be thought of as a plurality. That is an indivisible unity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Mainstream Christianity describes that concept in terms of what is called *compound unity*. Compound unity might be explained by the analogy of H<sub>2</sub>O, water as possibly being liquid, solid as in ice or vapor at the same time. Under some conditions, you can see these states of water occur at the same time within a single body of water. They also erroneously use scriptural references where the Hebrew word *ecad*, is used in conjunction with a collective noun, such as family. The problem with their explanation is that Yehovah is not a *collective* noun. Yehovah is an *absolute* noun absolute noun an idea or referring to one single individual.

Deuteronomy 6:4 refers to one distinct entity whose name is Yehovah. He is superior to all others and as we saw in Zechariah 14:17, must be worshipped. Yehovah wants to be revered and worshipped. God expects us to know and internalize His commands and His expectations. Every individual must know who we worship and what He stands for. Look at Deuteronomy 10. I want to drive home the point that God has expectations for each of us. These verses describe the nature of God and what He expects from us as we develop our nature. God expects our priority to be service and worship of Him.

**Deuteronomy 10:12** *And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,*  
13) *and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?*  
14) *Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the LORD your God, also the earth with all that is in it. (NKJV)*

What belongs to God extends beyond the earth and includes everything that exists. Verse 17.

*17) For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. (NKJV)*

So, there are two things I want you to notice in that verse.

First, when other nations and families of the earth see the example of how God deals with Israel, they can know God will be fair and even-handed with all people. He will show no partiality.

Second, as we saw in Zechariah and chapter six of Deuteronomy, Yehovah God is superior to everything else. There are other gods as we just saw in verse seventeen.

In verse one of Psalm 82, Almighty God is referenced as the *Judge* among the gods. The judge is the one who makes the final authoritative judgments among all others. The judge is above all others in that all others must submit to his authority. Look at Psalm 82.

**Psalm 82:1** *God stands in the congregation of the mighty; He judges among the gods. (NKJV)*

Verse 6.

*6) I said, "You are gods, And all of you are children of the Most High. (NKJV)*

This verse, "*You are gods*", was quoted by Jesus in John 10:33. If you look at Exodus 20, I believe that we are near the pivot point that James Smyda referred to on his Day of Atonement sermon. He characterized the symbolic meaning of the Feast of Trumpets as a pivot point where God begins to subdue and take over the rule of all nations. He will require that all nations submit to His sovereignty which is above all nations, families and people. I also think that in this end time, God has given additional clarity concerning His role and his relationships to everything else that exists. Yehovah is above all else and He demands our worship. He demands that we do not elevate anyone or anything above Him in our minds or our actions.

**Exodus 20:1** *And God spoke all these words, saying:*

*2) "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*

*3) "You shall have no other gods before Me. (NKJV)*

As we just noted, Jesus Christ is a God Being. In addition, God also calls us gods. However, Jesus Christ is not Yehovah, *The God*. We must not exalt any other human to

be a level of Almighty God. We must never exalt Jesus or anyone else before Yehovah. The focus of our worship is toward God the Father. Never doubt that Yehovah Who is also known as *Almighty God* or *The LORD of Hosts*, is above all other gods. Yehovah will be worshipped by all other gods and all other living creatures. Creating our own gods to worship is also condemned by God. To do so, will bring on the wrath of God and our condemnation.

*4) You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;*

*5) you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me*

*6) but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. (NKJV)*

As we noted, the subject of who to worship and when worshipping, exalting or honoring another, might be allowed, is a sensitive issue with serious ramifications. We will need understanding and ability to exercise wisdom in order to make wise decisions on this very serious issue. Our worship matters to God.

For example: If Satan would have convinced Jesus to worship him, then God's entire plan of offering Jesus as the price of redeeming from the creation for the penalty of sin, would have been forfeited. I want to review some Biblical specifics concerning *worship* in the book of Romans. God commands that we are never to worship anything that is created.

**Romans 1:18** *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness ... (NKJV)*

Continuing in verse 22.

22)

*Professing to be wise, they became fools,*

*23) and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.*

*24) Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,*

*25) who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.*

*(NKJV)*

The creature is what has been created. God is the Creator. We dare not worship the creation. Rather, we must worship the Creator. In addition to what God has created, we are not to worship or bow down to the creation of our *own* hands.



**Deuteronomy 4:13** *So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone.*

*14) And the LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that you might observe them in the land which you cross over to possess.*

*15) "Take careful heed to yourselves, for you saw no form when the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire,*

*16) lest you act corruptly and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure: the likeness of male or female, (NKJV)*

This practice is not uncommon even in our modern society. My wife spent most of her professional career working for a hospital system that is loaded with statues and artifacts representing possible mediators of influence with God and Jesus Christ.

*17) the likeness of any animal that is on the earth or the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air,*

*18) the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground or the likeness of any fish that is in the water beneath the earth. (NKJV)*

We are not allowed to bow down to the likenesses of anything that God has created. We are not allowed to worship the sun, moon, planets or any of the stars.

*19) And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the LORD your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage. (NKJV)*

In Leviticus 19 God forbids us to worship or even become familiar with demons.

**Leviticus 19:31** *'Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God. (NKJV)*

Look at Leviticus 20. Worship is serious business as far as God is concerned.

**Leviticus 20:27** *A man or a woman who is a medium, or who has familiar spirits, shall surely be put to death; they shall stone them with stones. Their blood shall be upon them. (NKJV)*

And just a note, if we are not careful, we can be deceived. Becoming familiar with demons is clearly prohibited throughout the scriptures. In the Book of Timothy, Paul reveals that in the latter times, some will depart from the faith giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.

In Colossians 2 we are also commanded not to worship angels.

**Colossians 2:18** *Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, 19) and not holding fast to the Head, [Now the Head as we know is Jesus Christ] from whom all the body, [The body is the church] nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God. (NKJV)*

There are examples in the Bible of humans coming into contact with angels. Angels are created beings created to service God and to service His children. When Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, saw the angle Gabriel standing at the right side of the Altar of Incense, he was troubled and fearful, yet he did not bow down and worship the angel. Obviously, he knew better than to worship an angel. In the Old Testament, in the Book of Daniel, Chapter 8, Daniel did fall down before the same angel Gabriel that appeared to Zacharias. When he fell on his face before the angel Gabriel, he fell in fear. He did not fall down to worship.

**Daniel 8:15** *Then it happened, when I, Daniel, had seen the vision and was seeking the meaning, that suddenly there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. 16) And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, who called, and said, "Gabriel, make this man understand the vision." 17) So he came near where I stood, and when he came I was afraid and fell on my face; but he said to me, "Understand, son of man, that the vision refers to the time of the end." 18) Now, as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he touched me, and stood me upright. (NKJV)*

Daniel had fallen in fear. He was unable to stand without assistance in the face of the angel, yet it does not say that Daniel worshiped the angel. If you turn back to Acts 10. We are also not permitted to worship other men. In the Book of Acts, the Apostle Peter admonished Cornelius not to worship him because he was only a man.

**Acts 10:25** *As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. 26) But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I myself am also a man." (NKJV)*

In this next example, the Apostle Paul and Barnabas cried to the inhabitants of the City of Lystra. They said, "*Worship the Creator God and not man.*"

**Acts 14:11** *Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!"*

Continuing in verse 14.

*14) But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out  
15) and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them,  
16) who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. (NKJV)*

So, lets summarize:

World events indicate that we may be very near the time of the last days. There have been many times in history when times were so bad that others have thought they were in the last days. We know that eventually that time will come, and we must be ready. "Being ready" means we have learned to the best of our ability God's expectations for us and have repented from our errors and rebellious attitudes of sin and covetousness. These feast days, The Feast of Tabernacles will be kept forever into the future, even when Yehovah is ruling on this earth from Jerusalem. We must worship the Lord Yehovah above all others. We must not worship anything created including anything that God has created. We all must not create anything ourselves to venerate and worship.

God expects us to be growing in understanding and wisdom. Life forever, will be dynamic, full of challenges and require decisions controlled by wisdom. We are being trained and tested for that now.

From Revelation 3, lets introduce an exception into what we have already covered. Yehovah will expect others, at His command to be honored and worshipped. Revelation 3 is in a reference to God's faithful servants. I want to begin in verse 8.

**Revelation 3:8** *"I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.  
9) Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. (NKJV)*

So, these are humans who are going to be worshipped. There are other scriptures which indicate that God will require people to bow down and worship His servants. Any worship that is allowed of any other person, other than Yehovah, must and will be to the glory of Yehovah. In Deuteronomy 18, Jesus Christ is not above Yehovah, yet there are examples of Him being worshipped. We know that Jesus Christ is an eternal being that has always existed. He is the one through whom God created everything that has been

created. He became part of the creation by the power of God through Mary. In Deuteronomy, Moses was prophesying concerning Jesus.

**Deuteronomy 18:15** *“The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, (NKJV)*

Continuing in verse 18.

*18) I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.*

*19) And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him. (NKJV)*

Remember when God healed the lame beggar? The people were looking at Peter and John amazed at what had happened. Peter explained that the beggar had been healed through faith in the name of Jesus Christ who was sent by God so that their sins could be blotted out, if they would repent. So, we will come back to this, but note, Yehovah had been proclaiming this through His holy prophets since the world began, speaking of Jesus.

**Acts 3:22** *For Moses truly said to the fathers, ‘The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you.*

*23) And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.*

*24) Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days. (NKJV)*

Then it goes on to say that this prophet, who is from among our brethren, is also the seed promised to Abraham.

*25 continued) ... You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’*

*26) To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities.” (NKJV)*

Jesus is the person being described here in Acts. Let’s list some of the attributes of Jesus which we know about from this description.

- He became a human, so He is from among our brethren. He was sent by God and is therefore, a servant of God.
- He obeyed God and kept His commandments. When He prophesies or instructs, we had better listen or we will be destroyed.

- In addition, we know that He has been resurrected and born to eternal life as the first of the First Fruits and lives in heaven.
- He is not Yehovah. He was never the God of the Old Testament. After his resurrection, Jesus affirmed to Mary Magdalen that Yehovah was His God. His God is the same God that we worship as our God. The Father in heaven.
- Jesus Christ also worshipped God the Father with prayers and supplications.
- He worshipped God in sacrifice when He gave up His life as Yehovah's sacrifice for our redemption.
- He is our High Priest, forever.
- In Philippians 2 we see Jesus Christ is worthy of honor and glory. To Christ, every knee shall bow to the glory of God the Father...

and speaking of Jesus Christ in Philippians 2:9.

**Philippians 2:9** *Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name*

*10) that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11)*

*and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. 12)*

*Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13) for it is God who*

*works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. (NKJV)*

It is important to note, as we saw in Acts 3 and here in Philippians, there are times when Yehovah will choose to honor others and expect them to be honored by all. Whenever that happens, the honor must and will be to the honor of God the Father.

As a human example of honoring the greater by showing honor to the lesser, consider Joseph, who was sold into slavery in Egypt and was imprisoned. His race and his prison record would have likely resulted in his receiving the least amount of respect and honor by the native Egyptians. The fact that they did honor Joseph, speaks to the fact of their highest esteem for their Pharaoh. Based on their esteem for Pharaoh, they honored and obeyed Joseph. By honoring Joseph, they were honoring their Pharaoh.

Jesus Christ will be honored and worshipped above every one else, with Yehovah being the only exception. When Jesus Christ is in the presence of Yehovah, our focus and worship must be toward God the Father and not toward Jesus Christ.

So that there is no confusion on this topic, I believe that Jesus Christ Himself emphatically clarified this issue twice in the Book of Revelation. So, I want to walk through why I think that. Look at Revelation 22 and as we read this bear in mind that we must not bow down before angels. Angels are created beings. As we saw in Romans 1, we are absolutely forbidden to worship any creature. A creature is anything created. All

the apostles knew this and would never, knowingly, bow down to any created being. We will begin by reading verse 6 of Revelation 22:

**Revelation 22:6** *Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets [So pause there – who is the Lord God of the holy prophets?] (NKJV)*

Turn back to Acts 3:18

**Acts 3:18** *But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. (NKJV)*

Continuing in verse 20.

*20) and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, 21) whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. (NKJV)*

So, lets go back now to Revelation 22. The Lord God of the holy prophets is the God of the Old Testament. Verse 6.

*Revelation 22:6 Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. [Notice that Yehovah's angel has servants] 7) "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." (NKJV)*

The one who has sent this message is coming quickly. The message is from Yehovah to his angel to be given to the angel's servants.

*8) Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. 9) Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God." (NKJV)*

The instruction here is to worship Yehovah. The angel is emphatically stating that when compared to Yehovah. He the angel is not worthy of worship.

Many believe that the Apostle John made a mistake by worshipping an angel. They believe that John was so overwhelmed by what he saw, that he fell down and worshipped a created being, an angel. As we have already seen, such a mistake breaks the fundamental commandments of God concerning worship and idolatry.

We are at the end of the Book, the end of the Bible. By this time in his life, John would have known better and was mature enough to control his emotions. When you consider the whole Book of Revelation, and all that he saw there, I think he would he have been able to control his emotions. He had already seen a lot. How could John make such a horrible mistake after all that he had been through and seen? Could it be that the mistake was not as it might seem at first glance? Notice in verse 6. The person revealing this information to John is saying that God Almighty sent the message to His angel. The angel was sent by God, not by Jesus Christ. Who is this angel? To understand that, lets go back to the beginning of the Book of Revelation. Let's turn back to Revelation 1. We are going to begin with verse one.

**Revelation 1:1** *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God [The Yehovah] gave Him [So He gave it to Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ is revealing what God gave Him to reveal] to show His [Christ's] servants—things which must shortly take place. [Christ is to show this information to His servants] And He [Yehovah] sent and signified it by His [Yehovah's] angel, [Christ.] to His servant John, (NKJV)*

The word *signified* used here, conveys the meaning that “the importance of the message is marked or stamped by the status or the standing of the one who was being sent”. God could have sent anybody of higher status, other than Himself, than Jesus Christ. The One being sent and is signified by, is Jesus. The word *angel* here means “messenger”. The word pronounced *Anglos* or Strongs 32. The one being sent is God's messenger, the angel, which is Christ.

Continuing in verse 1: The message is being sent to His, Christ's, servant, John. The three main characters here in verse one are, God Yehovah, Jesus Christ the angel who is the revelator or messenger, and John, the servant of Jesus. Continuing in verse 2, John is identified as the one bearing witness and

*2) who bore witness [John bore the witness] to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. (NKJV)*

John is bearing witness to the message from God through the testimony of Jesus Christ. The angel is not another revelator. Jesus Christ is the revelator. Jesus Christ is the angel here in Revelation 1. This is the same angel described as sent by God in Revelation 22:6. In 1 Corinthians 8 this revelation is not being passed down through a chain of command of created spirit beings. The pattern of the Book of Revelation is the same as throughout the Bible. The information is from God and is revealed through Jesus Christ to His servants.

**1 Corinthians 8:5** *For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), 6) yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we*

*for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live. (NKJV)*

So, back to Revelation 22. John says that he fell down to worship the angel. The angel stops John from worshipping him and says that he is a fellow servant and a brother. Then he says, *“Worship God.”*

That is interesting to me. This angel is not a created spirit being. Created angels are ministering spirits sent to help those humans that will inherit salvation. Humans who are given the Holy Spirit, are inheritors with Christ. Angels that God created, are not our brethren. They are created spirit beings. So, what spirit being is know as our brother? Our brother, who is a spirit being, is Jesus Christ. He has been resurrected. None of the created angels are our brethren. None of them are of our brethren. Angels are ministering spirits for our benefit. We will have charge over angels. Revelation 22 is the second time the Apostle John was corrected in this matter. Let's look at the first time which is in Chapter 19:10

**Revelation 19:10** *And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. (NKJV)*

This individual identifies himself as a fellow servant and of the brethren of John. John's brethren who have the testimony of Jesus, are the Church. Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church and as head of the Church, is part of the Church.

*10 continued) Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” (NKJV)*

Prophecy is teaching. Jesus Christ is our example. He shows us the way. We are to become like our elder brother, Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ in His role as the spirit of prophecy is the revelator of information from the Supreme Almighty God, our Father in heaven. These attributes are strikingly similar to the attributes of the prophecy from Moses of a prophet like him that we saw in Acts 3.

John, at the time this book was written, was still alive as a flesh and blood human. He had not been resurrected and born again into eternal life. At that time, the only flesh and blood human who had been resurrected to spirit, or even until now, was and is our elder brother and High Priest, Jesus Christ. Logically, we conclude that the Apostle John bowed down and worshipped before this angel because he knew the revealer, as Jesus Christ and had worshipped Him before.

Jesus, as we saw, is worthy of worship and will be worshipped. The apostles and the others had a history of worshipping Christ without correction. Jesus is making a clarification here. The focus of our worship must be to the Almighty God. Now kind of summarizing in Isaiah 45:18,



**Isaiah 45:18** ... *"I am the LORD, and there is no other.*

21) ... *And there is no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me.* [This is all speaking of Yehovah.]

22) *"Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.* (NKJV)

The goal of Jesus Christ is not our worship for Himself. The goal of Jesus Christ is to bring us to God the Father and God the Father is to be the focus of our worship. Jesus Christ is worthy of our worship, but He says, *"Worship God"*. God is the Lord of Hosts who according to 1 Corinthians 8:6, is the one true God. Jesus Christ brings us to God and is our mediator.

**Revelation 22:10** *And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.* [This is something we need to understand now.]

11) *He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still."*

12) *"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.*

13) *I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."* (NKJV)

He instructs us from Yehovah that the time is short. Judgment is coming and we will be judged by His commandments.

14) *Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.* (NKJV)

We must keep God's commandments if we are to receive eternal life. But outside, are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murders and idolators and whoever loves and practices the lie.

Continuing in verse 16.

16) *"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you [So Jesus Christ is revealing what God the Father has revealed to Him. Jesus's testimony is being brought to us by the servant of Jesus, John. So, continuing to testify to you] these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."*

17) *And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.*

18) *For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this*

*book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; (NKJV)*

In verse 18, John who was referenced as a servant of Jesus the messenger, or angel, then he testifies that what he has written is true. We must all take heed for ourselves that we do not venerate anything above God our Father including any other god being or anything created. For our clarification and edification at the end of the book, Jesus Christ says, "*Worship God!*"