

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

"Worship God"

Revelation 22:8, 9

Introduction

1. Of all the books of the Bible, the book of Revelation specifically states it is a revelation concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. Moreover, it is largely associated with His ministry which begins from the time of His return at the Rapture and continuing right into eternity.

2. Those who read, hear, and keep (all present tenses) the sayings of this book demonstrates not only results, but the very nature and character of those involved. It is God's people who love the Lord and His appearing who are interested in this book (1:3). That's the way it should be (2 Tim. 4:8).

3. The Holy Spirit Who ultimately wrote the book (2 Tim. 3:16, 17) affirms the reliability of it all (22:7) and another marvelous beatitude is extended in the final verses of the book (22:7).

4. With these precious considerations, what results are found in the divine text? Consider these:

1. SOMETHING REPORTED v. 8

Two verbs tell the story

a. Things Seen

The present tense participle and emphatic pronoun (ἐγώ ego) shows John "seeing" so as to perceive and discern mentally (cf. Heb. 2:9).

b. Things Heard

This is also a present tense participle governed by the emphatic pronoun. Hence, not only John' s eyes saw but his hears heard. These senses grabbed what was "signified," a verb noting that this book used "signs" to show the meaning of events relating to our Lord' s return. They were "signi-fied" (σημαίνω semaino). Look at any chapter (4-22).

2. SOMETHING RESPONDED v. 8

Using a temporal particle, the Spirit records that "when" John heard and saw (note reversed order of words), he responded:

a. He Fell Down (ἐπεσα epesa)

John' s position changed. The aorist describes an historical event (cf. 19:9, 10).

b. He Worshipped

The verb means to make obeisance, do reverence to (προσκύνησαι proskunesai). That the idea of prostration is meant is demonstrated by the adverb of place "before" (ἐμπροσθεν emprosthen). It was right at the feet of the angel who had exposed "these things" (used 2 times in v. 8). The verb "show" means to expose to the eyes (cf. 4:1; 22:6).

Note: much of modern "worship" is contrary to the description here. One is inclined to believe the present is more show than homage. Rather than a groveling at His feet,

there is an exhibiting of something questionable. Biblical worship is prostration before God.

3. SOMETHING REPUDIATED v. 9

a. It is Stated

The connective "then" is actually the common "and" (καί kai). The present imperative (ὄρα hora) clearly rejects John' s worship of the angel who showed him "these things." Since the present indicates linear action, the imperative here means "stop" worshipping me (the angel) – which John is doing!

b. It is Explained

Three plain statements are made here about angels and this one in particular.

1) He is a fellow-servant (cf. Heb. 1:14). Even though angels are a different creation of God, they are nonetheless "fellows" with the likes of John.

2) He is a fellow-prophet. This suggests he is identified as one communicating God' s mind and purposes to men. John is a cōpartner with the angel himself. What John writes is indeed true prophecy and is to be received as such.

3) He is a fellow-keeper. The verb, as noted (v. 7) means to guard as a prize, hence to cherish. The angel confirms his assent to the "sayings" of this book. Outstanding!

4. SOMETHING RESPONSIBLE v. 9

Two words in English and three in Greek (τῷ θεῷ προσκύνησαν to theo proskunesan) say it all – worship God! The aorist imperative makes it an action with the punctiliar action in time past. So here the idea is, worship God (end of story, once for all)!

Note: The Bible teaches:

1) We are forbidden to worship angels by commandment. The first commandment restricts worship to God alone (Ex. 20:1-6). This is reaffirmed in the N.T. (Col. 2:18).

2) We are forbidden to worship angels by angels (19:10; here).

3) We are forbidden to worship angels by their example (cf. Isa. 6:1-4; Rev. 4:6-11; 5:8-14).

4) We are forbidden to worship angels by position of Christ. Jesus Christ is the only Mediator between God and men (1 Tim. 2:5-6). Therefore, we are not to worship God through angels. Nowhere in Scripture are angels worshipped nor are we commanded to worship them.

Conclusion All that John saw and heard in this incredible book of Revelation elicits results: A report, response, repudiation, and a responsibility. Our study has provided comments on the "sayings" of this book. What results have surfaced? Have you personally received Christ as Saviour from sin? Have you grown in your devotion to Him? Do you really cherish your Bible as a treasure?