

SHOULD JESUS BE WORSHIPPED?

(Excerpt from my book, "The Book of Revelation Decoded", pages 172-179)

In Revelation 5:7,8, we read:

"⁷And He came and took (the scroll) out of the right (hand) of the One who was sitting on the throne. ⁸And when He took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one having harps, and golden bowls full of incenses, which are the prayers of the saints." (AT)

Explanation of verses 7 and 8

When the Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ, took the book out of the hand of God, **the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb** --- a classic form of worship which belongs only to God; and **unlike the angel of Revelation 22:8,9, the Lamb accepted it.**

Should Jesus be worshipped?

Let us consider the following points:

1. If Jesus were a created being, in other words, part of the creation, the answer is: **NO!** The worship of his person would constitute **creature worship!** God is and always was against those who **"... worshipped and served the created thing rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever"** (Romans 1:25 --- from the Greek text).

2. If Jesus were “**another god**” (with small “g” as those who do not know Him proclaim), “lesser” than the Father, and outside the uncreated Godhead YHWH, the answer is: “**NO!**” If Jesus is not God in essence and One of the Godhead YHWH, then, the worship of His person, as “**another god**”, would constitute an act of disobedience to the Commandments God YHWH gave to Moses: “*You shall not have any other gods beside Me. You shall not make a graven image for yourself, of any likeness which is in the heavens above, or which is in the earth beneath, or which is in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow to them, and you shall not serve them; for I am YHWH your God, a jealous God ...*” (Exodus 20:3-5).

“**To bow**” means: to bend the head or body in respect or recognition; **to express religious respect**.

“**To worship**” means “**to serve** “. (The verb for “worship” in Greek is “λατρεύω” (latrevo), from the noun “λάτρις” (latris), which means “a hired menial”). Check Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, Greek Dictionary, page 44, and word number 3000.

When one “**bows**” before a person or thing **in religious devotion**, he expresses **religious worship** and respect toward that person or thing. When one “**worships**” a person or thing, it means that “**he serves**” that person or thing --- that he is a “**servant**” of that person or thing.

From the above information, we realize that God YHWH does not allow His people to “*bend the knee*” or to “*bow*”

out of religious devotion”, to “*worship*”, or “*to serve*”, any other “god” except Him alone; He is a jealous God and **He exacts this exclusive devotion.**

Note: Since I am dealing with the subject of worship, I must also explain that **prayer is worship**. Anyone who prays to a created being is guilty of creature worship!

Do the Scriptures show that the Lord Jesus Christ is worthy to be worshipped or served?

Let us consider the following scriptures:

1. When Daniel the prophet had a vision regarding “*the Son of man*”, Jesus in the flesh, he wrote: “... *And behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of the heavens. And He came to the Ancient of Days. And they brought Him near before Him. And dominion was given to Him, and glory, and a Kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should worship Him.*” (Daniel 7:13,14)

From the above verses, we see that while God had forbidden the worship of others, this passage clearly states that all peoples, nations and languages, **will worship or serve Jesus!** (Strong’s word #H6399)

2. Although in Isaiah 45:22,23, God says: “*Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. I have sworn by Myself, the word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that to Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear*”, in the letter to Philippians, chapter 2:10,11, Paul says:

“at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those of Heaven, and those of earth, and those under the earth; and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, (“Lord”=YHWH: Romans 10:9,12-14) to the glory of God the Father.”

In other words, while in the Old Testament, God says that *“there is no other God beside Me”*, and He swears by Himself that **every knee will bow to Him**, in the New Testament we read that **every knee will bow to Jesus!**

3. In the letter to the Hebrews, we read **about Jesus:**

“And let all the angels of God worship (Grk “προσκυνώ” [proskeno]) Him.” (Hebrews 1:6)

PLEASE NOTE

The Greek word for *“worship”* (προσκυνώ) found in the above verse is the same word for *“worship”* found in Revelation 22:9. There we hear the angel saying to John: *“... Look, stop! I am your fellow-slave, and of your brothers the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this Book. Worship (προσκυνώ) God.”*

4. In Matthew 14:33, we read that the disciples of Jesus who were *“... with Him in the boat, fell before Him and worshipped Him.”* If Jesus were not Truly God and God by nature, equal to the Father and One of the True Godhead YHWH, then, YHWH the Father would not have allowed others to worship him.

5. From Romans 1:1 we learn that **the apostle Paul was a worshipper** (a servant or slave) **of Jesus Christ!**
6. From James 1:1 we learn that **James was a worshipper** (a servant or slave) **of God and of Christ!**
7. From 2 Peter 1:1 we learn that **the apostle Peter was a worshipper** (a servant or slave) **of the Lord Jesus Christ!**
8. From Jude 1:1 we learn that **Jude was a worshipper** (a servant or slave) **of the Lord Jesus Christ!**
9. From Acts 7:59 we learn that **Stephen prayed to Jesus!** As **prayer is worship**, we realize that **Steven worshipped the Lord Jesus Christ!**
10. From 1 Corinthians 1:2 we learn that **all the first Christians worshipped Jesus because they were praying to Him!** Let us read that verse:

“to the assembly of God which is in Corinth, those having been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called-out saints, with all those calling on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, both theirs and ours:” (LITV; “to call upon” means “to pray to”).

11. **The priests of the True God YHWH worship or serve only Him. They are forbidden to be priests of angels or of other gods.** However, when we read Revelation 20:6, we see that those who will take part in the first resurrection **will be priests of God**

and of Christ. Therefore, since God YHWH allows His priests to **also be priests of Christ**, since YHWH allows His priests **to worship Jesus**, then, beyond any doubt, Jesus, **the only begotten** --- not the only created --- **Son of God is God by nature and worthy to receive worship!**

The disciples of the disciples of the Lord Jesus believed that Jesus is God, and God's Son, and **they were happy to worship Him**. Let us examine the writings of Polycarp and Justin.

Polycarp

Polycarp lived from 65 to 155/6 A.D. He became a Christian at an early age, and later a disciple of the apostle John. He was appointed, by John, to the position of Bishop over the church in Asia. The following words are taken from a letter written to the churches about his death:

“And Polycarp answered: *Eighty-six years have I served Him, and He has never done me any harm. How could I blaspheme my King and my Savior?*” (Chapter 9; from the Greek text).

He also said, “... *Him we worship because He is the Son of God.*” (Martyrdom of Polycarp, Chapter 17, Verse 12; from the Greek text)

Justin

Justin lived from 95 to 165 A.D. He was a Gentile and became a Christian in his mature years. He became one of the greatest defenders of the Christian faith. He died as a martyr.

In Justin’s writings, Jesus is repeatedly called God, and said to be the object of worship. Speaking about those who are Christians by name only, Justin, in his “Dialogue with Trypho” said that they are “*atheists, impious, unrighteous, and sinful, and confessors of Jesus in name only, instead of worshipers of Him.*” (Chapter 35)

In the above book, he also wrote regarding Christ that “*He deserves to be worshipped as God and as Christ.*”

In his “Apology”, ii, page 51c, he wrote: “*Him ... the word of God together with God we worship and love.*” (From the Greek text)

Therefore, we see that the first Christians had acknowledged that Jesus is One of the true Godhead YHWH, and they worshipped Him even if it would lead to their death. Beyond any doubt then, the Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of the Living God, is God in essence and **deserves to be worshipped.**

Is it important for one to understand the above conclusion?

Absolutely! Recognizing the fact that Jesus is God in essence and praying to Him (calling on His Name), is a matter of eternal life or eternal condemnation (Romans 10:1, 9,13,14; John 8:24; 6:40; 3:16; Romans 8:1). Those who have been misled on this subject by the so-called “Christian” religious institutions they have trusted, **must pray to God the Father to reveal His TRUE Son to them so they can pray to Him and be saved** (Galatians 1:16; John 6:44; Romans 10:14).