

# “Book of Revelation—Part 9”

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with what was intended to be a nine-part series about the book of Revelation. At the beginning of the Bible study, I announced that I was adding three more studies to now make it a 12-part series. After announcing that decision, I continued with Part 9—which was about “Revelation 19:9-10.”

## **Revelation 19:9-10**

■ Revelation 19:9—He (an angel) said: “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’ ”—And he said to me: “These are the true sayings of God.”

■ Revelation 19:10—John wrote: “And I fell at his feet to worship him” and the angel responded: “See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

The angel speaking in Revelation 19:10 resisted being worshipped.

At this point, let me mention two lessons from Revelation 19:10 that all religious people (including those individuals who claim to be leaders) should remember.

- Followers of God should not worship any of God’s servants.
- Followers of God should resist being worshipped.

## **Role of angels**

■ Hebrews 1:1—Before the Son of God came, God often spoke to the fathers by the prophets.

■ Hebrews 1:2—After the Son of God came, God regularly spoke to His disciples by His Son—whom He has appointed heir of all things.

■ Hebrews 1:3—The Son of God purged our sins and sat down at the right hand of God.

■ Hebrews 1:4—The Son of God fulfilled a higher role than the angels.

■ Hebrews 1:13—The angels were not invited to sit at the right hand of the Father.

■ Hebrews 1:14—But the angels are valuable serving spirits sent forth to serve those who will inherit salvation.

It is exemplary that the angel in Revelation 19:10 did not want John to worship him.

At this time, let's look at two biblical examples of humans following the angel's example of not wanting people to worship them.

### **Gideon chose not to rule**

The first example is Gideon in the Old Testament.

I must admit that his story is a mixture of good decisions and bad decisions. Here are some good reports about him.

■ Judges 6:14—The Lord sent Gideon to save Israel from the Midianites.

■ Judges 6:25-30—Gideon tore down an altar of Baal, cut down the wooden image and built an altar to the Lord.

■ Judges 8:22-23—When the people asked Gideon and his family to rule over them, he refused.

That last scripture is the one that I want to mention in a discussion about Revelation 19:10—Gideon turned down the leadership role.

However, here are some of the bad reports that immediately followed.

■ Judges 8:24—Gideon made a request for the earrings from the people that they plundered.

■ Judges 8:26—The weight of the gold earrings that he requested was 1,700 shekels of gold.

■ Judges 8:27—Then Gideon made the gold into an ephod and set it up in his city (Ophrah).

Although Gideon should be criticized for collecting the gold and making an ephod, he should be credited for not wanting to rule over the people.

### **Paul and Barnabas reacted**

■ Acts 14:8-10—In Lystra, God healed a crippled man through Paul.

■ Acts 14:11—When the people saw what Paul had done, they said: "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men."

■ Acts 14:12—The people referred to Barnabas as Zeus and they referred to Paul as Hermes (because Paul was the chief speaker).

■ Acts 14:13—The priest of Zeus (whose temple was in the front of their city) brought oxen and garlands to the gates—intending to sacrifice with the multitudes.

- Acts 14:14-17—Barnabas and Paul reacted strongly against the idea of the priest of Zeus and the citizens wanting to worship them.

### **Revelation 22:8-9**

Let's look at another example of angels rejecting worship that is found in the book of Revelation.

- Revelation 22:8—John wrote: "When I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things."
- Revelation 22:9—The angel said: "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."

### **Reminders about worship**

At this point, let me repeat the two lessons that I mentioned earlier in this article.

- Followers of God should not worship any of God's servants.
- Followers of God should resist being worshipped.

And let me remind you what the angel said in Revelation 19:10 and in Revelation 22:9.

- "Worship God."