

I AM THY FELLOW SERVANT, WORSHIP GOD

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Lesson: Revelation 22

“And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which showed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellow servant... Worship God” (Revelation 22:8,9).

One of the Lord’s twelve apostles, who followed Him in, the world, was John. Many years after the Lord had gone back into Heaven, to be the King of Heaven again, John was on an island called Patmos. There the Lord Jesus Christ came to John, and opened his eyes so that he could see into heaven. The Lord sent an angel to tell John everything he should write down. All that he wrote we can now read in the Book of Revelation, the last book in the Word of God. It is called the Book of Revelation because the Lord revealed many things to John.

In the last chapter of that book, after John had finished writing almost all of it, John fell down with his face on the ground to worship the angel that had told him all these marvelous things. But what did the angel tell John?

The angel told John, “See that you don’t do it. I am your fellow servant... Worship God.”

You see, angels are just like brothers and sisters to us. Angels and people are fellow servants. An angel is not really better than a good person on earth. We think that an angel is so wonderful, so perfect and so lovely—and yes, they are wonderful, perfect and lovely. But people can be wonderful, perfect and lovely, too. John’s angel knew this, and that is why he was angry with John when John made the mistake of worshiping an angel.

We should never worship an angel. We should only worship the Lord God. Angels were once people just like we are now. And people who are good, and who read and hearken to His Word, and love their neighbor, are called “human angels.” So you see, people do not have to die to become angels. You can be an angel even here on earth.

And where is the “heaven” you live in here on earth? It is the Church. The Lord’s Church on earth, where people worship the Lord as the one and only God, and do good and useful things to their neighbor, this Church is called “the Human Heaven” (*Divine Providence* 30). It is a heaven full of human

beings, or people. Men and women, and children who are helpful and obedient, are its angels.

Now, why did John worship the angel? It was because the angels who came to people a long time ago, gave the Word of God to people just by talking to them. Therefore, the angel was called the “Angel of Jehovah.” When an angel speaks the Word of God then it is the Lord God who speaks through the angel. The angel is just like a loudspeaker for the Lord. That is why people worshiped angels before.

But then people became wicked and angels could not visit them any more for they would not listen to the Word of God. They did remember the times when angels came and talked with people—and, of course, it still happened once in a while to those called “prophets.” They could still hear the angel’s words and wrote down the Word of God.

Those of olden times just heard about angels, but had never seen one. And one of the things they heard was that you could never recognize an angel right away because he looked Just like any ordinary person. Only when they disappeared or did some miracle could you be certain that you had seen an angel!

So people began to treat strangers and travelers very well. They gave the traveler the best place to sleep, gave him water to wash his feet after the journey and plenty of delicious food. Then, after they had done all these kind services for the traveler, they asked him who he was, where he was going and what his business was. If they were very lucky, he might turn out to be an angel! This actually happened to Abram, and to Lot, and other people mentioned in the Word.

That is why the angel told John not to worship him, an ordinary angel! Angels and people are fellow servants to the Lord. They are as brothers and sisters. People in the Church who worship the Lord God and flee from wicked things are like human angels, or “people angels.” Their heaven is the Church, called the Human Heaven.

So when we meet strangers or travelers we can pretend they are angels treating them as people did in the olden times for people, too, can be angels even here on earth. Just remember that all good people in the Church worship the Lord as their one and only God.