



## Sermon Series Notes

### “The Spirit of Prophecy: Jesus” (Revelation 19:10)

Danny Hodges – NT3611

Intro: The majority of the book of Revelation is about a seven year period of time known as The Great Tribulation. At the end of this period Jesus returns in His second coming and sets up His kingdom upon the earth. Isaiah prophesies that the government will be upon His shoulders, and of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. At some point during this time there is a wedding called “the wedding supper of the Lamb.” Jesus Christ is going to be married to his bride (the church) and we will enjoy an unending all expenses paid honeymoon for all eternity. That’s where we left off in our study a couple of weeks ago. Read Rev.19:9-10. I got to verse 10 and the Holy Spirit impressed me to hang there for a bit. This is a fascinating verse, with much we can glean from it for our eternal good.

v.10a How easy it is to worship something or someone other than God; This is John the apostle bowing to worship an angel. And this is not some fallen angel, and it is not Lucifer. This is one of God’s faithful, an angel with great authority, and great splendor (see Rev.18:1). And this is not just John the apostle falling at this angel’s feet to worship, this is John the aged, mature, committed to Christ to the point of being banished to the Island of Patmos apostle (Read Rev.1:9). John does not fall to worship this angel just once, but twice (see Rev.22:8-9).

We were created to worship (Read from The Air I Breathe?).

What happens here in Rev.19:10 tells us clearly how easy it is to worship someone or something other than God. That’s how deceptive our own hearts really are (Jer.17:9).

The Israelites worshipped a golden calf, and they did so after a miraculous deliverance from the bondage of slavery in Egypt; The people of Gideon’s day worshipped Gideon’s gold ephod he had made, and they did so after miraculously delivered them from the Midianites & those allied with them, an innumerable army (Judges 8:23-27); Then right after Gideon died they began to worship Baal (See Judges 8:33-34); The book of Judges is a record of the Israelites repeatedly being delivered from their enemies by God, and then after being delivered going right back to worshipping other gods. See Romans 1:21, 25.

Our great challenge is to worship God above all else.

Exodus 20:3 You shall have no other gods besides me.

John falls at the feet of *an angel* to worship. What might have happened had this angel allowed John to worship him? In Colossians the apostle Paul warns us against the worship of angels (See Col.2:18-19)

Colosse was situated on a major trade route and therefore had a steady stream of oriental traders with mysterious religious ideas. Gnosticism came out of these eastern religious ideas. The term is derived from the Greek word gnosis, which means knowledge. That gives us a clue to the foundation of this false teaching. Gnostics, believing that the created world was evil and therefore in opposition to the world of the spirit. The supreme God dwelt in unapproachable splendor in the spiritual world, and had no dealings with the world of matter. "Matter," they believed, kept mankind imprisoned within their material existence and barred the path of souls trying to ascend to the spiritual world after death. Only those who possessed a "divine spark" could hope to escape from their corporeal existence.

But even those who possessed this divine spark did not have an automatic escape. They needed to receive this enlightenment of "gnosis" before they could become aware of their own spiritual condition.

How is this false humility and worship of angels tied together? The Gnostics loved to act humble and say "We are not good enough to go directly to God, so we begin humbly with one of the angels, which, if we are in correct spirit, will elevate our requests through the hierarchy to God." (Hughes, p.84). The Gnostics would regularly remind people of how much they had "seen" in the spirit realm; I have heard people go into great detail and even regularly remind me of what things they have seen in the "spirit realm." And what do you naturally feel when they tell you these things? First, how spiritual they must be, and how unspiritual YOU must be!

If you talk more about angels, or your spiritual experiences, than about God, and especially Jesus, you have succumbed to deception, and "lost connection with the Head" (Jesus). A truly spiritual experience should make us more humble, otherwise we may end up with a false humility that talks more about our experience, our knowledge, & our focus ends up on worshipping something or someone other than God.

Note: The apostle Paul didn't tell anyone of his vision of heaven for fourteen years, and then only because he was "driven to it" by the Corinthians in order to defend his ministry! (See II Cor.12:2-6). Not only that, but God gave Paul a thorn in his flesh because of the "surpassing revelations" he was privileged to have, in order to keep him truly humble (II Cor.12:7).

Truly spiritual people call less and less attention to themselves. This is the mark of real humility. They do more than they say. Jesus was never mystical or proud after times alone with His heavenly Father, but was rather extremely practical.

Humility keeps our focus on God, not ourselves, our spiritual experiences, or the worship of anything or anyone other than God.

God at the TOP above all else.

How do I know if I am worshipping God above all else?

Worship = "worth-ship"

Worth = The level at which someone or something deserves to be valued or rated.

"Here's my advice, for what its worth."

We are devoted to what we **value** the most.

Follow the trail of your time, energy, affections, and money, and there you find a throne. And whatever or whoever is on that throne is the object of your worship.

Time – How do I spend my time? How much time do I spend serving others for God verses serving myself? How much time do I spend with God?

Energy – How do I spend my energy? Do I spend more energy watching a football game or at a sporting event than I do in worship? Shopping, playing sports, work, etc.

Affections – You cannot help but think of romantic relationships on this point; I think one of the most tempting times for a Christian is when they notice and began to have romantic feelings for the opposite sex. Of course in our day unfortunately it could be the same sex. For many in our day, a girlfriend or boyfriend takes priority over God. And of course sexual sin has to be considered here because it's such a powerful temptation. Sexual sin is idolatry.

Money – How do I spend my money? This is an easy one to evaluate, just look at your bank or checking record. Am I investing in anything that has eternal value? How much am I investing?

Greed which is idolatry (Col.3:5b);; Luke 12:15; 16:13-15; 18:18-25 (rich young ruler); Parable of the seed & sower, life's worries **riches** and pleasures; Achan; Balaam; Gehazi; Ahab; Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5).

See I Cor.7:31

- How much of my time does it take?
- How much of my money does it take?
- Would I give it up if I felt the Lord wanted me to?
- Is it leading me (or has it led me) into a clear violation of Scripture (sin)?

66 books, written over a period of some 1500 years by almost 40 authors in several languages containing hundreds of topics, yet having one main theme – man's sin, and the way to salvation only through Jesus Christ; See I Tim.2:5-6; Acts 4:12.

See Luke 24:25-44, noting vv.27 & 44

John 5:39-40; Acts 10:43

Psalm 40:7...in the volume of the book it is written of me...(Heb.10:7)

All OT verses on "the angel of the Lord"; Gen.18:10, 13-14a, 22, 26, 33; 19:1; 22:11, 15-18; 32:22-30; Joshua 5:13-15 (Moses - Law vv. Joshua – Jesus); Judges 6:11-12, 14, 16, 18b, 20-23; 13:3, 9-10, 13-22; Defeats Assyrian army (?); Zech.3:1-5.

Psalm 34:7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him...

He is the seed of the woman in Genesis who would crush the head of the serpent (Gen.3:15), and that seed would come through the lineage of Abraham (Gen.12?). In Gen.14 he is Melchizedek king of Salem & priest of God Most High. In Gen.22 he is typified in Abraham offering his one and only son on Mt Moriah.

In Exodus he is the Passover Lamb, & in Numbers the Rock that accompanied the Israelites in their wilderness wanderings (I Cor.10:1-4). In Deuteronomy he is the prophet like unto Moses. He is the fulfillment of all the sacrifices in Leviticus, sacrifices which could never take away our sin. In Joshua he is Joshua, the only one who could lead us into The Land of Promise (John 1:17). In Judges he is the deliverer of people prone to fall into sin again and again, & in Ruth the kinsman redeemer, typified in Boaz. In I and II Samuel he is typified in Samuel as prophet, priest, and judge; the Psalms are filled with prophecies about him;

In Psalm 2 he is the one who will one day rule the nations with an iron scepter.

Psalm 22:1 My God my God why have you forsaken me?

Psalm 22:16...they have pierced my hands and my feet; Before a Roman cross was ever invented!

Psalm 22: 18 They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.

Psalm 41: 9 Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.

Psalm 66:18 Ascended on high & gave gifts to men; Eph.4:8

Psalm 69 the one they hated without a reason, zeal for the Father's house would consume him.

In Psalm 110:4 he is a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek, without beginning of days or end of life.

In Proverbs & Ecclesiastes he is the wisdom of God. He is the bridegroom of the Song of Solomon, the suffering servant in Isaiah, where amazing details concerning his suffering are prophesied; Isa.53:9 assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; Isa.53: 12 Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors; In Jeremiah & Ezekiel the Word of God warning of judgment to come, & in Daniel the Son of Man who will soon come on the clouds of heaven (Daniel 7). In Jonah he is typified by Jonah who spent three days and nights in the belly of the great fish, just as Jesus would spend three days and nights in the earth after his crucifixion. The prophet Micah predicted the exact place he would be born; Micah 5: 2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." In Zechariah he is the angel of the Lord who takes off the filthy clothes of Joshua the high priest & puts rich garments on him, & in the process completely cleanses him of his sin (Zec.3), Zechariah also prophesies the exact amount of money he would be betrayed for, and what happens with that money; Zech.11: 12 I told them, "If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it." So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. 13 And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"--the handsome price at which they priced me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD to the potter. Also in Zechariah he is the King who the world comes to worship during the thousand year reign of Christ (Zech.14). In Malachi the prophet Elijah is prophesied to come just prior to Jesus' second coming (Mal.4:5-6).

The gospels give us the detailed account of his life, death and resurrection, Acts records his continuing work through his disciples. In Romans he is the one through whom we are justified freely by the grace of God

through the redemption he secured for us at the cross (Rom.3:24). In I Cor. We are told that all things are ours in him (I Cor.3), & in II Cor.5:17 he is the one who knew no sin but became sin for us, in order that in him we would become the righteousness of God. In Galatians he is the one who set us free from the law. In Eph.1:9-10 he is the one through whom God's ultimate will is fulfilled, that he would become the head over all things in heaven & earth, and the Savior who Paul the apostle desires for all of us to grasp the width, length, height, and depth of his love, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge (Eph.3:18-19). In Philippians he is the one through who we can do everything by the strength he gives (Phil.4:13). In Colossians he is the firstborn over all creation, and the one who holds everything together (Col.1:15-17). In I & II Thessalonians he is the one who inspires us to endure, because he is coming again soon. I Timothy he is the one mediator between God and man ( I Tim.2:5). And in II Timothy the one raised from the dead, descended from David (II Tim.2:8). In Titus he is the hope of eternal life promised before the beginning of time (Titus 1:2). In Philemon he is the one who makes one a willing prisoner of Jesus Christ, and in Hebrews our great and faithful high priest. In I Peter he is the one we love even though we have not seen him, and we are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy (I Peter 1:8). In I John he is the Word of life, and in Jude he is the one who "keeps us" in the midst of a godless culture. And in Revelation he is the one coming soon to bring about redemption for the entire creation. Come quickly Lord Jesus!

Angels long to look into these things (I Peter 1:10-12). Angels are fascinated with the unfolding story of redemption.

Jesus is the central theme of the Bible; See Rev.5:6; Jesus is at the center of the throne; So Jesus is the central them of all the Bible, and is at the center of the throne in heaven.His name is above every name, and at His name every knee will bow. He is the only Savior of world, and he is coming soon to set up a kingdom that will encompass the entire planet, and it is going to be an eternal kingdom. I highly recommend to everyone listening that you make Him the center of your life.

Is he at the center of your life? How often do you think about him? How often do you talk about him (Heb.13:15)? Do you confess him freely and fearlessly? Do you do everything in his name and for his glory (Col.3:23-24)? Paul the apostle considered everything a loss compared to knowing Him (Phil.3:7-8). May we do the same.

KEEP GOD AT THE TOP

KEEP JESUS AT THE CENTER

CONCLUSION

- Rev.19:10 shows us how easy it is even for a mature, committed & seasoned saint like the apostle John to worship someone or something other than God alone. It is a daily challenge. How are you doing?
- Are you worshipping God above all else?
- Is Jesus at the center of your life?