

Revelation 22:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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 shewed me these things.

Analysis

John's repeated attempt to worship the revealing angel (also in 19:10) demonstrates how easily even spiritually mature believers can misdirect worship. The angel's correction emphasizes that only God deserves worship—created beings, however glorious, must not be worshiped. Reformed theology affirms the second commandment's prohibition of idolatry. John's mistake warns that impressive displays of divine glory through created mediators can tempt worship of the mediator rather than God. The repetition emphasizes this temptation's persistence and the need for constant vigilance.

Historical Context

First-century syncretism blurred lines between honoring and worshiping angels, saints, or other spiritual beings. Early Christian theology had to clearly distinguish veneration from worship. John's corrected mistake provided authoritative precedent that no created being, regardless of glory or role in revelation, should receive worship. This countered developing angel cults in Asia Minor.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How can you guard against subtle forms of idolatry—directing worship toward created things or people rather than God alone?
2. What does John's repeated mistake teach about the persistence of idolatrous temptations even for mature believers?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἐγὼ Ἰωάννης τοῦ ἑβλεψα ταῦτα καὶ ἤκουσα
And I John which saw these things And I had heard
G2532 G1473 G2491 G3588 G991 G5023 G2532 G191

καὶ ὅτε ἤκουσα καὶ ἑβλεψα ἔπεσα προσκυνῆσαι
And when I had heard And saw I fell down to worship
G2532 G3753 G191 G2532 G991 G4098 G4352

ἔμπροσθεν τοῦ ποδῶν τοῦ ἀγγέλου τοῦ δεικνύοντός
before which the feet which of the angel which shewed
G1715 G3588 G4228 G3588 G32 G3588 G1166

μοι ταῦτα
me these things
G3427 G5023

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 19:10 (Worship): And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Revelation 1:1 (References John): The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

