

Revelation 22:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

Analysis

The angel's self-identification as 'fellowservant' emphasizes equality among God's servants despite different roles. Angels and prophets both serve God; neither deserves worship. The command 'worship God' redirects all honor to its proper object. Reformed theology emphasizes that all created beings, regardless of glory or function, are servants—only the Creator deserves worship. The inclusive 'them which keep the sayings of this book' emphasizes believers' coequal status with prophets and angels as God's servants. Unity in service should direct collective worship toward God.

Historical Context

Hierarchical cultures naturally elevated mediators of revelation (prophets, angels). This angelic self-lowering countered human tendency to worship impressive spiritual beings. Early church fathers cited this passage against angel worship. The emphasis on keeping Revelation's sayings stressed obedient response rather than speculative fascination as proper reaction to apocalyptic visions.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does the angel's self-description as 'fellowservant' challenge hierarchical thinking that elevates some believers above others?
2. What does the command to 'worship God' (not admire revelations or honor mediators) teach about proper response to Scripture?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	λέγει	μοι,	Ὅρα	μή·	σύνδουλός	σου	γάρ
Then	saith he	unto me	See	thou do it not	fellowservant	of thy	for
G2532	G3004	G3427	G3708	G3361	G4889	G4675	G1063

εἰμι	καὶ	τῶν	ἀδελφῶν	σου	τῶν	προφητῶν	καὶ	τῶν
I am	Then	G3588	brethren	of thy	G3588	the prophets	Then	G3588
G1510	G2532		G80	G4675		G4396	G2532	

τηρούντων	τοὺς	λόγους	τοῦ	βιβλίου	τούτου·	τῷ	θεῷ
of them which keep	G3588	the sayings	G3588	book	of this	G3588	God
G5083		G3056		G975	G5127		G2316

προσκύνησον

worship
G4352

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 19:10 (Prophecy): 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.

1 John 5:20 (References God): And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Revelation 14:7 (Worship): Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Revelation 4:10 (Worship): The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

Exodus 34:14 (Worship): For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God: