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## Worship Pt 1 Worship God– there are consequences to idol worship

This is a new study on the topic of worship. In this teaching we establish three points - (I) It is written- worship the LORD thy God and him only, (ii) the outcome of our worship is to glorify the name of the LORD, and (iii) Israel sinned and made a calf and worshipped the molten image. First we look at the meaning of worship-

There are 188 occurrences of the word worship in the scriptures.

A little more detail on our three points-

### 1. It is written- worship the Lord thy God and him only

“Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve” (Matt.4:10).

We worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness- Ps.29: 2.

Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu and seventy elders of Israel were commanded to worship - Ex 24:1- “And he said unto Moses, Come up unto the Lord, thou, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel; and worship ye afar off”.

Israel were commanded to have no other gods, nor make any graven image nor- bow down themselves to them, nor serve them

[3] Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

[4] Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Ex.20: 3,

All the gods of the nations are idols

“For all the gods of the people are idols: but the LORD made the heavens” (1 Chr.16: 26).

Q Why?

A Because God is a Jealous God

Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; (Ex.20: 5). See also - Deut.5: 9, 6: 15, 29: 20

### 2. The outcome of worship is to glorify the name of the LORD

All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name” (Ps.86: 9).

When we worship the LORD and give glory due to his name

1 Chronicles 16:29 Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. See also Psalm 29: 2

When we worship we exalt the LORD our God for He Is holy

“Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship at his footstool; for he is holy” (Ps.99:5).

### 3 Israel sinned and made a calf and worshipped the molten image

[28] Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

[29] And he set the one in Beth-el, and the other put he in Dan.

[30] And this thing became a sin: for the people went [to worship] before the one, even unto Dan. (1 Kgs 12: 28-29). See also Ps. 106:19 T

“And this thing became sin unto the house of Jeroboam...” (1 Kgs 13: 34).

Israel loved, served, walk after, sought and worshipped the sun, moon and host of heaven and they shall be for dung upon the earth

“And they shall spread them before the sun, and the moon, and all the host of heaven, whom they have loved, and whom they have served, and after whom they have walked, and whom they have sought, and whom they have worshipped: they shall not be gathered, nor be buried; they shall be for dung upon the face of the earth” (Jer. 8: 2).

#### Illustration

Imagine holding up a wafer biscuit (cake) and worshipping it as God. That is what the Roman Catholic does when they take their Eucharist. They claim that the wafer becomes the body of our Lord Jesus Christ and so they hold it up and worship it as if it were Jesus. To adopt such an understanding is blasphemy. It puts the Roman Catholic institution on par with the Israel when they were worshipping the host of heaven and made her cakes to worship her.

#### Question of the scriptures

What are the consequences to worshipping a false god?

#### Answer from the scriptures

The consequence of worshipping an idol -

\* We provoke the Lord to anger

[52] Ahaziah the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria....

[53] For he served Baal, and worshipped him, and provoked to anger the Lord God of Israel, according to all that his father had done. (1 Kings 22:51, 52)

\* you change your glory into the similitude of that which you worship

“Thus they changed their glory into the similitude of an ox that eateth grass” (Ps. 106:20).

\* We bear the image of the earthy - that which we worship- 1 Corinthians 15:49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

\* The Lord will be terrible to all worship the host of heaven- for he will famish ALL the gods of the earth-

[5]- “And them that worship the host of heaven upon the housetops Malcham.

[11] The Lord will be terrible unto them: for he will famish all the gods of the earth; (Zeph. 1: 5 and 2: 122).

\* The Lord brought evil upon Israel because they forsook the Lord and taken hold upon other gods and worshipped them, and served them

“And they shall answer, Because they forsook the Lord their God, who brought forth their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have taken hold upon other gods, and have worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath the Lord brought upon them all this evil” (1 Kg. 9: 9).

\*they are confounded- they boast themselves of idols- Ps. 97:7 Confounded be all they that serve graven images, that boast themselves of idols: worship him, all [ye] gods.

With the diversity of people groups in New Zealand, let us be mindful of warning those from countries where they worship false gods, that there is only one true God, and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and one way to know Him, and there are consequences to serving idols!

And let us beseech them in love, and with compassion knowing that they are no different to the men, who in Isaiah's time, in the blindness of their hearts, made a god, fell down to it, worshipped, and prayed, asking their god to deliver them (Is. 44: 17-19). And that was Israel!