

Worship and its place in the battle between darkness and light.

It may not come as too much of a surprise to make the following statement and may seem like pointing out the obvious, but nonetheless it is important to state.....

All worship which is not toward God will directly or indirectly be toward Satan.

Idolatry is the word we have seen in these study guides that describes giving pride of place in our hearts to anything or anyone other than God.

When something or someone else in our lives has more value and worth to us than God Himself then that one or thing has become an idol.

When we esteem or attach highest importance to something or someone other than God we have automatically fallen into idolatry.

Satan is behind all forms of idolatry.

Idolatry directly or indirectly exalts him .

It is Satan who is exalted through the idol and is given acquiescence in our hearts because he is the embodiment of idolatry. When he said in his heart he will be like the Most High he rejected the sovereignty of God and made an idol of himself. He gave birth to Idolatry and when it became a reality through him he was changed from Lucifer to Satan

In Arabic the word Satan means 'astray' or in Hebrew means 'adversary' or 'enemy'.

He went astray in his heart and mind. Idolatry went from being an abstract concept to a physical reality through his iniquity. Through his pride and on account of his beauty his 'right thinking' was corrupted and he became an enemy of God Almighty.

All scripture references are from The King James Bible version.

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This is where the battle for worship begins!

An idol cannot continue to be an idol without idolaters to give false worship so Satan set about recruiting idol worshippers.

War broke out in heaven as Satan using his position as anointed cherub, tried to recruit some of the angels.

He was subsequently defeated and cast out of heaven, with Him also went a third of heaven's angels.

Ever since war broke out in Heaven between Lucifer and the archangel Michael it has continued, but now it takes place in a different arena.

Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth he hath but a short time. Rev 12v12.

When Satan was cast out he and his fallen angels took the battle to earth (**Rev 12 v 7-9**) and especially towards those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony or Gospel of Jesus Christ. **Rev 12 Verse 17.**

Satan's splendour and pomp contributed to his misplaced vanity and towards him becoming conceited, **Ezekiel 28 v17.**

One of the most damnable forms of idolatry is self-worship!

So Lucifer suffered the most colossal delusion of grandeur the world has ever known and became Satan.

History is filled with people, political figures, rulers who became inflamed with their own self-importance and have exalted themselves to deity. More often than not they are brought low, meeting an untimely and shame-ridden death or often even committing suicide rather than face the real truth about themselves.

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Lucifer lost sight of the truth of who he was.

Despite his proximity to God he also lost sight of the truth of who God was and became inflamed with self-promotion.

He abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him, John 8:44

When he chose to 'disrobe' himself of the truth within which God framed all things he became a lie, an abomination of desolation.

It is understandable from here to see how he descends into full scale deception and delusion. He is capable from then on of only speaking lies because he has become a lie and the personification of it.

The Father of lies as Jesus describes him.

For he is a liar, and the father of it. John:8:44 (Segmented)

Satan cannot stand truth and in the same way he tries to keep it from Himself, he also goes about trying to keep it from us. One of the particular reasons why he is in the battle for worship is thereby trying to continually divorce himself from the truth of who He once used to be but has now instead become.

Upon an erroneous desire does Satan derive his being and has forged his existence. For this reason as **John 8 v 44** states, there is, will never and can never be any truth in him. He chose from the beginning not to abide in the truth and abandoned the very cornerstone and pivotal truth of all life. **The creation can never take the place of the creator!**

Thus Lucifer became Satan the personification of delusion. This is why he can speak only lies. If he ever quotes truth it is most assuredly to detract attention away from the lies. Delusion will give rise to nothing but lies. If existence is based on a delusion everything that happens in that existence will be deluded and lies become necessary to keep the delusion alive!

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When a person uses a delusion to shape their reality by virtue of that fact everything about their existence becomes a lie.

So this issue of worship was very much at the heart of what shaped the beginnings of time as we know it and continues to shape things to this day. Satan is still at work trying to become like the 'Most High'

Isaiah 14:13-14

Herein lies the battle.

The Roman and Greek empires in history exalted their own gods, Caesars and emperors above God, the Egyptian empire of the bible exalted their kings and pharaohs above God and in modern times the world has political dictators across certain nations.

God will always be the 'Most High' however and anyone deluded enough to challenge this truth will unfortunately only be acquainted with damnation.

Satan thus became 'the abomination of desolation' **Isaiah 14v19** .

The one upon whom God's ultimate rejection rests forever!

When Satan manifested through the serpent in the Garden of Eden to seduce mankind to sin, his plan was to use sin to separate us from God and His Love.

In that way we would become 'sitting ducks', making it possible for him through a veil to become an idol of worship to us instead.

So he transformed himself into a god of this world through the fall of man, falsely soliciting our trust thereby gaining that exalted position and throne he craved originally in heaven here on earth instead.

This is where the importance and power of the **Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ** comes into its own.

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Hearing, believing and understanding the Gospel is paramount in undoing this abdicated dominion Satan now has over all who do not turn back to the true God And Father of Jesus Christ.

(Please see study guide 8 for the full study of worship in the Gospel.)

God is a spirit and it is His Spirit that should be the focus of worship.

In other words God's invisible spirit should be the focus and focal point of worship as difficult as that is to visualize.

This however is how God intended it. Were it not so and we had a physical or tangible image for God we would again be tempted to make an idol of that form.

God was however clothed in flesh and came to us in the image of His son Jesus Christ, His express image. In Christ we have the nearest human representation of God's image possible, that if we see Christ we have also seen the Father. So this understanding can aid us in our worship with our 'conceptualization' of Him.

God cannot still nonetheless be limited to any particular form.

He is, 'I am'. Whatever He is cannot be defined within any one form!

We have a tendency though as people to try and put God in a 'discernible box', a natural temptation of ours towards idolisation.

For example, the Holy Spirit is not a dove or like a dove in shape or form.

However over the years we have thought of Him this way and symbolised Him this way in our communications with one another simply because we read in the gospels that he '*descended like a dove*' upon Jesus as He came up out of the waters of baptism in **Matt 3 v 16**.

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This is an inaccurate depiction of the Holy Spirit we may have misconstrued over the years, because it was the manner in which He descended that was being described here not his shape or form.

The way he came down, alighted or arrived is being compared to that of a dove, not His shape or form! A dove is light-footed and gentle in motion but many of us have visualised the Holy Spirit in a 'dove-like' form or image since hearing or reading about this scripture.

God is a spirit, not made by human hands, nor confined to the four walls of a temple.

Acts 7 v 48 – 50

'Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands: as saith the prophet, Heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest? Hath not my hand made all theses things?

We are not supposed to be able to put God into a box that's convenient for us.

He is meant to remain unfathomable however, part of His everlasting wonder!

We must worship His Spirit, albeit invisible to us.

We cannot see the air we breathe but we know it is there!

It should be the same with God!

He is Spirit, so as difficult as this may be for us to conceptualize that is how we direct our worship to Him.

By getting us to fixate on created things whatever shape or form they may take Satan has switched our focus away from the creator!

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So each time this happens we honour Satan, worshipping the creation rather than the creator. We give homage to the work Satan began before being cast out of heaven, exalting the creation above the creator. This is why Satan is behind all forms of idolatry, by fixing our eyes on created things we lose our value and appreciation for the creator of them! Satan was the first being ever in the history of time to do this.

Those of us in the world still estranged from God and not brought back into relationship with Him by his son Jesus are all automatically in idolatry. **Ezekiel 14 v5.**

We are all automatically born into idolatry because we are all born into spiritual separation from God on account of sin.

From birth none of us naturally retain a knowledge of God.

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

Romans:1:28

So from birth we are all naturally idolaters until we are brought back into relationship with God through the gospel of His son Jesus Christ.

The only reason we may seek after or come to love Him is because He makes the initial steps and reaches out to us with Love first.

We love him, because he first loved us.

1 John:4:19

None of us are born naturally seeking after Him.

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There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

Romans:3:11

That idolatry may take on different shapes, sizes and forms but essentially it all leads to giving someone else that worship that rightfully belongs to our creator and maker God.

If God Almighty the father of our Lord Jesus Christ is not our God, someone else eventually will be and though he may be veiled in various deceptive forms that person ultimately is Satan, Lucifer, the devil.

Until we are brought back into relationship and fellowship with God it is impossible to even begin to worship Him as we have not yet even acknowledged Him as anything to us, yet alone creator, maker, provider, healer or anything else.

Jesus talking to scribes, pharisees and teachers of the law, people who knew the scriptures well said they were '**of their father the devil,**' in **John 8 v44.**

Jesus said to the Samaritan woman, '**Ye worship ye know not what**' in other words 'you don't really understand why your worship is going wherever it goes.

So there is a war being waged between God and Satan for people's worship.

When what one person wants conflicts with what another person wants there is always potential for war and battles to win the war.

This is what is happening both God and Satan are vying for worship.

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We are in the middle!

Almost literally like a spiritual game of tug of war!

So mankind is born into a world where there already exists a struggle or battle between God and Satan to win the human heart. How is this battle waged? The answer is through worship! Win their worship and you've won their hearts! Win their hearts and you've won their worship!

So Satan wants like God to be the object of our worship.

'I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.' 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High'

Isaiah 14:13-14

However as believers we know only God has a rightful and justifiable claim to our worship but this is something Satan actively seeks to 'muddy' or discredit in our eyes as a scheme to win the war!

Satan because of his delusion has beguiled himself into a contest with God Almighty. One of the ways he tries to succeed and a main plan of attack is trying to deceive us about God.

Hallelujah however that Satan has no answer for God's secret weapon, His only begotten our Saviour Jesus Christ!

No wonder Satan is angry, I often wonder how did he delude himself into believing he could prevail against the Almighty?

And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

Revelation:12:5

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And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

Revelation:12:13

And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Revelation:12:17

Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

Revelation:12:12

‘He knoweth he hath but a short time’?

Satan knows his days of freedom to try and achieve his deluded aim, are numbered!

Satan was still full swing into his delusions when he even tried to seduce Jesus to worship him, another illustration of the heights his delusion took him to.

Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Spirit. **Matt 4:1 and Luke 4:2**

There Jesus was tempted by Satan who proceeded to offer to the one who holds the world in his hands, all the kingdoms of the world.

Satan tried to offer all power to the one in whom we live and move and have our being.

He also tried to offer glory to the one for whom the whole heavens and the earth declare the glory of a risen Lord!

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What deluded pride! Hubris!

All this in exchange if Jesus would only worship him! **Luke 4 v 1-14**

So Satan isn't letting up in his deluded desire to be worshipped.

God however also wants to be the object of our worship, in His case however justifiably so!

Giving credit to anyone else but God for our existence, our world, the sustenance he causes to come forth from the earth, for nature, the seasons, the miracle of new born babies and so on so forth is an insult to him and is why he abhors and is angered by idolatry.

And I will destroy your high places, and cut down your images, and cast your carcasses upon the carcasses of your idols, and my soul shall abhor you.

Leviticus:26:30

'And they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands.'

Acts 7 v 41

In this verse we have another illustration of idolatry, rejoicing in the **works** of our own hands.

There is no harm in rejoicing in our **work** or i.e. the **process**.

Idolatry is rejoicing in the **products**.

This we see all around us in the developed world, consumerism and the obsession with having stuff, getting better stuff, getting the latest stuff, upgrading stuff. Much of the attention we give to having products is driven by idolatry and not genuine need.

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People were created by God to be loved and things created by Him to be used. However in our world we see the opposite happening as a result of idolatry. People are being used and things are being loved!

God says, '**your idols of gold, silver, brass, stone and wood which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk**'. Rev 9 v 20

In other words if your carved idols and figurines are to have sight, hearing or movement you're going to have to come to me for the power to make them do it! Yet still I have no place in your esteem!

Your idols have less, if any, life than you yourselves yet you hold them high as objects of worship . The height of Folly!

The idols of the heathen are silver and gold, the work of men's hands.They have mouths, but they speak not; eyes have they, but they see not;They have ears, but they hear not; neither is there any breath in their mouths.They that make them are like unto them: so is every one that trusteth in them.

Psalm:135:15-1

Whether Satan realizes it or not, God is not about to sit back and allow anyone to take the credit for creation!

We are made in God's image which is why we don't like it either when someone tries to take the credit from us for something we have rightfully done.

We have copyright laws and patents to protect manufacturers, designers, creators and founders of products or services from being exploited, misrepresented, misappropriated and plagiarised so how much more will this apply to the creator of the world!

Only God however is worth rightfully giving worship to, if for no other reason for the fact he is creator!

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‘O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker.’ Psalm 95v6

Worship involves giving perpetual thanks and thanksgiving to God for all He does for and all He is to us. It is perpetual acknowledgement that He is the source of everything we are, have, will be and will have. We did not create ourselves nor are able to sustain our own lives to any point we desire. Who amongst us can control the number of our days?

Lucifer did not create himself either yet abandoned this truth. In so doing he degenerated into Satan as he embarked upon his mission to be like the most High. He cursed himself and the angels that followed him and were cast out of God’s presence.

Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

Romans:1:25

He lost sight by reason of his own beauty of why it is only God who is called ‘The Most High’.

There is none ‘Higher’ we will ever find!

Worshipping God is made real when we relate to Him as creator and show thanksgiving for His creation. When we look around and start to ask where everything comes from and humbly acknowledge that God is the source of all things, even before other things are then subsequently made by man, this is the beginning of worship.

For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

Romans:1:20

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Things that were and are made must have a maker! Man makes something from something else, only God creates something from nothing, that's the difference and that again makes Him worthy of worship!

The theory of evolution and the so called big bang theory is a satanic strategy in this ongoing war. It is designed to rob God of the worship due to him for his creative authority and redirect man's focus for worship to something or someone else. As we mention earlier in the text Satan's strategy of using lies to try and discredit God in our eyes is one he began with Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden and is still using today!

We can see therefore why Darwinian theories of evolution for example are Satanic lies which have made it easier for Satan to usurp God in our minds.

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Romans:1:21

And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Romans:1:23

So to conclude this study we see that a conflict exists between God and Satan for our worship.

This battle creates the spiritual climate into which we are all born.

And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast and they worshipped the beast saying, who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?

Rev 13v4

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Thou (Satan) hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

Ezekiel:28:13

The workmanship of Satan's tabrets and of his pipes was prepared in him in the day that he was created. Tabrets and pipes are relating to musical instruments so clearly Satan was created to cover God Himself with musical worship and he had an anointing for it!

Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

Ezekiel:28:14

An anointed angel positioned close to God!

Satan walked where God was and was privy to the holy sanctum of God's presence.

Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

Ezekiel:28:15

Satan had free will and exercised it towards iniquity.

By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

Ezekiel:28:16

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By his gaudy raiment and adorning, his precious coverings and ornaments his heart was inflamed with avarice creating violence. He could not remain in the Holy presence of a loving God and was driven out.

We are all living the consequences and repercussions of this but all also like Satan have free will. How we chose to exercise that free will is very much at the heart of how the battle is won.

For those of us who have accepted God's solution to the struggle and allowed His son Jesus Christ to be their commander in chief, their vanquisher, the battle is already won. Read the book of Revelation to confirm! We already know the ending and rejoice in knowing the battle belongs to and is ultimately won by the Lord.

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