

What does 'worshipping before your feet' mean?

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If someone
treats you badly,
just remember
that there is
something
wrong with
them, not you.
Normal people
don't go around
destroying other
human beings.

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Introductory Comments

In Revelation chapters 2 and 3 we find a number of almost 'hidden' inferences to the Temple which conjures up thoughts that these seven churches represent seven parts or aspects of the Temple.

In particular, Revelation chapter 3 has imbedded within its verses unmistakable and explicit Temple overtures. This view I represented to a minister in 1974 and eventually wrote an article about it titled *Amazing Temple Symbolism found within Revelation Chapter 3*.

Notice what Revelation 3:7-13 actually says:

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the **key** of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open **door**, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, **I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.**

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy **crown**.

Him that overcometh will I make a **pillar** in the **temple** of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is New Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

Note that certain key words have been highlighted above. It is these words that struck me as I studied this chapter and led me to investigate whether there were any parallels between these (pillars, crown, feet, door, key) and the Temple and if so, whether the other six churches also had parallels aspects to the Temple.

For instance a crown is referred to verse 11. Could this crown have inference to the crowns of the pillars of the Temple? The pillars, as described, may well have been crowned with a double capitol:

"Likely as not, the 'crowning' of the Biblical pillars [in the Temple] also consisted in a similar double capitol. The lower half was formed of four lotus leaves, while the upper half was formed in the shape of a semi-circular crown. The space between the two halves was occupied by the 'chain-work' and the 'pomegranates'" (Schedl, *History of the Old Testament*, page 333).

In similitude to the 'crowns' at the top, the pillars also possessed 'feet' at the bottom. Scriptures which back up this concept are:

"But in all Israel there was none to be so much praised as Absalom for his beauty: from the **sole of his foot even to the crown of his head** there was no blemish in him." (II Sam 14:25)

"So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils **from the sole of his foot unto his crown.**" (Job 2:7)

"Exalt ye the LORD our God, and **worship at his footstool**; for he is holy." (Ps 99:5. Cp Ps 132:7; Lam 2:1)

"The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box together, to beautify the place of my sanctuary; and **I will make the place of my feet glorious.**" (Is 60:13. Cp 66:1)

From the above we can see that in various scriptures the "crown-foot" analogy is in use and this typology is transferrable to the New Testament including Revelation chapter 3 as so many Old Testament typologies and principles are.

Why will some acknowledge Christians?

Who or what is this *Synagogue of Satan*? This particular group referred to has traditionally been viewed as those apostates within the Church of God whom have gained power or whom are

influential in bringing into the Church false doctrines and concepts (such as the trinity, immortal soul, Sunday observance and nowadays political correctness etc).

Many of these would be Canaanites and Babylonians – nothing but a thorn in the flesh to both physical and spiritual Israelites (refer to *The People that History Forgot* by Ernest Martin for further information).

These are those that are associated with the world's churches' philosophies and doctrines and have become part of them in due course much like the old Worldwide Church of God eventually did.

Yet Christ Himself "will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee." The impression this presents is that these evil-doers will acknowledge the Christians they had persecuted and oppressed – these antagonists may be within or without the church. This occurrence may be during this life or the next.

Christ sets us the example

"Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I *am* God, and *there is* none else.

I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth *in* righteousness, and shall not return, **That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.**

Surely, shall *one* say, in the LORD have I righteousness and strength: *even* to him shall *men* come; and all that are incensed against him shall be ashamed." (Is 45:22-24)

"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;

And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Phil 2:10-11)

The principle I am pursuing is this: perhaps there are some – whether they be of the Synagogue of Satan or your opponents in general – whom may finally come to see whom you really are. Due to misjudgment; gossip; covering up their own sins and a host of other possibilities, they were against you and with an energy slandered you; isolated you; lied about you to ministers; or ministers lying about you to their peers.

The principle is their eventual acknowledgement of God being with you. Indeed, the Greek word for *worship* in Revelation 3 is *proskuneo* = *prostrate, worship, bow down = respect*.

What this scripture appears to be saying is that Christians, as pillars, will be worshipped at their feet in the Kingdom. But it may also have a dual meaning which includes that through circumstance or hardship; or by viewing your good works and fruits – they are finally forced to see whom you really are – a true child of God and not what they have portrayed you as to their friends, inner group or families.

“Keep your conduct among the Gentiles [physical and spiritual] honorable, **so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.**

...

For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, **one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.**

For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and **suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.**

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.” (2Pet 2:12, 19-21)

Old Testament Revelations

“They shall worship at your feet” may be understood in the light of scriptures such as those below which show that this is an Hebraism:

“He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth.

They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before him; and his enemies shall lick the dust.

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.

Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him.

For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and *him* that hath no helper.

He shall spare the poor and needy, and shall save the souls of the needy.” (Ps 72:4-13)

This, like so many of the Psalms, is a millennial prophecy concerning the Messiah's claim to kingship and global worship. Literally and symbolically all must fall down before Him in worship and acknowledgement of Who He is and what He stands for. They will have little choice as He goes about His business to enforce world peace and order.

"I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways: he shall build my city, and he shall let go my captives, not for price nor reward, saith the LORD of hosts.

Thus saith the LORD, The labour of Egypt, and merchandise of Ethiopia and of the Sabeans, men of stature, shall come over unto thee, and they shall be thine: they shall come after thee; in chains they shall come over, **and they shall fall down unto thee, they shall make supplication unto thee, saying, Surely God is in thee;** and *there is none else, there is no God.*" (Is 45:13-14)

The above is a millennial prophecy of gentile nations falling down before Israel, submitting to them!

"Thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in *their* arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon *their* shoulders.

And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with *their* face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I *am* the LORD: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.

Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered?

But thus saith the LORD, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children." (Is 49:22-25)

In this particular millennial prophecy above, gentile kings are said to be bowing down in submission and acknowledgement toward Israel – the people of God who are also regarded as God's wife by Himself.

"The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box together, to beautify the place of my sanctuary; and I will make the place of my feet glorious.

The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee, The city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

Whereas thou hast been forsaken and hated, so that no man went through *thee*, I will make thee an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations.

Thou shalt also suck the milk of the Gentiles, and shalt suck the breast of kings: and thou shalt know that I the LORD *am* thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob." (Is 60:13-16)

After the second exodus Gentiles will bow down toward Israel – which in turn gains ascendancy and global world leadership.

"Thus saith the LORD of hosts; *It shall yet come to pass*, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities:

And the inhabitants of one *city* shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts: I will go also.

Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD."

Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days *it shall come to pass*, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, **even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew [= Judahite], saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.**" (Zech 8:20-23)

This prophecy has similar meaning to the aforementioned.

"Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him.

The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth *it is*, that your God *is* a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldst reveal this secret.

Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise *men* of Babylon." (Dan 2:46-48)

What happened to Daniel seems to portend what will happen to Christians as prophesied in Revelation 3. Once again both Old and New Testaments have similarities and similar themes.

Slander and lying about one to one's family and friend will come to an end horribly for these people. Screaming uncontrollably as if one were possessed due to serious mental health issues – imagine the abuse and lying and screaming at one because one stands up for the Truth – such is very sinister and bizarre indeed.

Another spirit is indeed working through such ones.

What Commentaries Reveal

Barnes' Notes on the Bible

"Behold, I will make - Greek, "I give" - *δίδωμι didōmi*; that is, I will arrange matters so that this shall occur. The word implies that he had power to do this, and consequently proves that he has power over the heart of man, and can secure such a result as he chooses.

Them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews - Who profess to be Jews, but are really of the synagogue of Satan. See the notes on Revelation 2:9. The meaning is ... they were really under the influence of Satan, and their assemblages deserved to be called his "synagogue."

And are not, but do lie - It is a false profession altogether. Compare notes on 1 John 1:6.

Behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet - The word rendered "worship" here, means, properly, to fall prostrate; and then to do homage, or to worship in the proper sense, as this was commonly done by falling prostrate. See the notes on Matthew 2:2. So far as the word is concerned, **it may refer either to spiritual homage, that is, the worship of God; or it may mean respect as shown to superiors.** If it is used here in the sense of divine worship properly so called, it means that they would be constrained to come and worship "before them," or in their very presence; if it is used in the more general signification, it means that they would be constrained to show them honor and respect. The latter is the probable meaning; that is, that **they would be constrained to acknowledge that they were the children of God, or that God regarded them with his favor. It does not mean necessarily that they would themselves be converted to Christ, but that, as they**

had been accustomed to revile and oppose those who were true Christians, they would be constrained to come and render them the respect due to those who were sincerely endeavoring to serve their Maker. The truth taught here is, that it is in the power of the Lord Jesus so to turn the hearts of all the enemies of religion that they shall be brought to show respect to it; so to incline the minds of all people that they shall honor the church, or be at least outwardly its friends. Such homage the world shall yet be constrained to pay to it.

And to know that I have loved thee - This explains what he had just said, and shows that he means that the enemies of his church will yet be constrained to acknowledge that it enjoys the smiles of God, and that instead of being persecuted and reviled, it should be respected and loved." [emphasis mine]

The reviling of true Christians by those that are false is something many have experienced. The tactics and very angry behaviours is of another spirit – one that stirs people up against true Christians behind their backs to their inner circle and family – as what happened to Christ Himself and many others down the centuries.

They have shown their hand to God. Well may they attend church and give sermonettes etc – that does not make them a true believer.

"Day and night they go about it upon the walls thereof: mischief also and sorrow *are* in the midst of it.

Wickedness *is* in the midst thereof: deceit and guile depart not from her streets.

For *it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it:* neither *was it* he that hated me *that* did magnify *himself* against me; then I would have hid myself from him:

But *it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance.*

We took sweet counsel together, *and* walked unto the house of God in company ...

"He hath put forth his hands against such as be at peace with him: he hath broken his covenant.

The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords.

Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved." (Ps 55: 10-14, 20-22. Cp Ps 69:24-27; 109:8; 143:3)

"My enemies say of me in malice, "When will he die, and his name perish?"

And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad.

All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me.

They say, "A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies."

Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.

But you, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!

By this I know that you delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.

But you have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in your presence forever." (Ps 41:5-12)

"Hear the word of Jehovah, ye that tremble at his word: **Your brethren that hate you, that cast you out for my name's sake**, have said, Let Jehovah be glorified, that we may see your joy; **but it is they that shall be put to shame.**" (Is 66:5)

"They shall put you out of the synagogues [or congregations]: yea, the hour cometh, that whosoever killeth you shall think that he offereth service unto God.

And these things will they do, because they have not known the Father, nor me." (John 16:2-3)

"Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

But beware of men: **for they will deliver you up to councils, and in their synagogues** [or congregations]; **they will scourge you;**

yea and before governors and kings shall ye be brought for my sake, for a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.

But when they deliver you up, be not anxious how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that hour what ye shall speak.

For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father that speaketh in you.

And brother shall deliver up brother to death, and the father his child: and children shall rise up against parents, and cause them to be put to death.

And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved.

But when they persecute you in this city, flee into the next: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone through the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come." (Matt 10:16-23)

"Ye serpents, ye offspring of vipers, how shall ye escape the judgment of hell?

Therefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: some of them shall ye kill and crucify; **and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues** [or congregations], **and persecute from city to city"** (Matt 23:33-34)

"Then shall they deliver you up unto tribulation, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all the nations for my name's sake.

And then shall many stumble, and shall deliver up one another, and shall hate one another.

And many false prophets shall arise, and shall lead many astray.

And because iniquity shall be multiplied, the love of the many shall wax cold.

But he that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved." (Matt 24:9-13)

"But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me.

For he that is not against us is on our part.

For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward.

And whosoever shall offend one of *these* little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea." (Mark 9:39-42)

"To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. **Deliver me, O LORD, from evil men; preserve me from violent men,**

who plan evil things in their heart and stir up wars continually.

They make their tongue sharp as a serpent's, and under their lips is the venom of asps. Selah.

Guard me, O LORD, from the hands of the wicked; preserve me from violent men, who have planned to trip up my feet.

The arrogant have hidden a trap for me, and with cords they have spread a net; beside the way they have set snares for me. Selah.

I say to the LORD, You are my God; give ear to the voice of my pleas for mercy, O LORD!

O LORD, my Lord, the strength of my salvation, you have covered my head in the day of battle.

Grant not, O LORD, the desires of the wicked; do not further their evil plot, or they will be exalted! Selah.

As for the head of those who surround me, let the mischief of their lips overwhelm them!

Let burning coals fall upon them! Let them be cast into fire, into miry pits, no more to rise!

Let not the slanderer be established in the land; let evil hunt down the violent man speedily!

I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and will execute justice for the needy.

Surely the righteous shall give thanks to your name; the upright shall dwell in your presence." (Ps 140:1-13)

The *Jamieson, Faussett & Brown Commentary* states

"9. I will make--*Greek* present, "I make," literally, "I give" (see on JF & B for Re 3:8). The promise to Philadelphia is larger than that to Smyrna. To Smyrna the promise was that "the synagogue of Satan" should not prevail against the faithful in her: to Philadelphia, that she should even win over some of "the synagogue of Satan" to *fall on their faces and confess God is in her of a truth*. Translate, "(some) of the synagogue." ... **Their worshipping before her feet expresses the convert's willingness to take the very lowest place in the Church, doing servile honor to those whom once they persecuted,**

rather than dwell with the ungodly. So the Philippian jailer before Paul." [emphasis mine]

The example of Paul should provide encouragement to authentic Christians who are harassed and bullied from within.

In this regard, I also find the *Matthew Henry Complete Commentary on the Whole Bible* comment on 2Samuel 3 to be of interest:

"God's choice (v. 18): *"The Lord hath spoken of David. Compare v. 9. When God appointed Samuel to anoint him he did, in effect, promise that by his hand he would save Israel; for that end he was made king. God having promised, by David's hand, to save Israel, it is both your duty, in compliance with God's will, and your interest, in order to your victories over your enemies, to submit to him; and it is the greatest folly in the world to oppose him."* Who would have expected such reasonings as these out of Abner's mouth? But **thus God will make the enemies of his people to know and own that he has loved them, Rev. 3:9.** He particularly applied to the men of Benjamin, those of his own tribe, on whom he had the greatest influence, and whom he had drawn in to appear for the house of Saul. He was the man that had deceived them, and therefore he was concerned to undeceive them. Thus the multitude are as they are managed. V. David concludes the treaty with Abner." [emphasis mine]

Geneva Study Bible throws further light on this intriguing topic

"Behold, I will make them {f} of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come {8} and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

(f) I will bring them to that case.

(8) That is, fall down and worship either you civilly, or Christ religiously at thy feet (this is how I would rather take it) **whether here in the Church (which seems more proper to the argument here) or there in the world to come**, for Christ shall truly fulfil his word." [emphasis mine]

From what this *Study Bible* is demonstrating, when the acknowledgement of those either people whether they be wicked or just in ignorance – despise you – they will be brought to acknowledge you as a child of God – either in this world or the age to come.

If they need to be punished in this life or the next, leave it up to God to do this.

“Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.

To me *belongeth* vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in *due* time: for the day of their calamity *is* at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.” (Lev 19:18-19)

“Dearly beloved, **avenge not yourselves**, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, **Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.**

Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Rom 12:19-21)

“For we know him that hath said, **Vengeance *belongeth* unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord.** And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” (Heb 10:30-31)

“See that none render evil for evil unto any *man*; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all *men*.” (I Thess 5:15)

“So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:

Seeing ***it is* a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;**

And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Thess 1:4-8)

God will wreak vengeance upon those whom, like thorns in the flesh, trouble God's true people. (Refer to II Cor 12:7; 2 Time 3:10-11; Num 33:54-56; Josh 23:12-14; Jud 2:2-4; Jer 4:2-4; Ezek 2:4-9; 28:21-25; Matt 13:3-9; Heb 6:4-8).

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over." (Ps 23:4-5)

Even when God demonstrates His love for one in front of their antagonists, they blind themselves to the reality and form a callous heart and continue with their slanders and maneuverings. Or as my departed Mother would say, "they have no feelings for others." A number of Scriptures refer to the terrible sin of callousness, viz Matt 13:15; Ps 119:70; Jer 17:9; Zech 7:11; Heb 5:11.

Their callousness – their heartlessness – is caused by sin. Sin which is unrepented of causes grief and suffering for others. Yet, they just don't care and justify their godless actions among themselves because they have seared their consciences with a hot iron! (cp II Tim 4:2)

Concerning this searing of conscience, *Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible* states

"... having their conscience seared with a hot iron; which exactly describes the above mentioned persons, **whose consciences are cauterized and hardened, and past feeling; and have no regard to what they say or do, make no conscience of anything, but under a cloak of sanctity commit the most shocking impieties;** and are men of the most infamous characters, and of the most enormous and scandalous lives and conversations; so that the metaphor may be taken either from the searing of flesh with an iron, or cauterizing it, whereby it grows callous and hard; or from the stigmas or marks which used to be put on malefactors, or such who have been guilty of notorious crimes." [emphasis mine]

Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers adds to our understanding

“Having their conscience seared with a hot iron.—Better rendered, *Branded in their own con-science as with a hot iron*. The image is drawn from the practice of branding slaves and certain criminals on their forehead with a mark. “*Qua nota turpitudinis non inusta tua vita est?*” (Cic. *Cat.* i. 6.) These men tried to teach the efficacy of a substitution of certain counsels of perfection in place of a faithful loving life. They based their teaching on wild Oriental speculations about the evil nature of all matter. They were often themselves evil-livers, who, **conscious of their own stained, scarred lives, strove with a show of outward sanctity and hypocritical self-denial to beguile and to lead astray others, and in the end to make them as vile as themselves.**” [emphasis mine]

Unrepented of, this vile hatred for true believers will result in judgment for the callous perpetrator.

Even lyrics by Dead Swan, a rock band, “You can only blame yourself” seems to apply to these people and their future

“You're lying to yourself, just like you always have, the words you said never meant a thing, I could see it from the start, you just want attention, absent friends and enemies are all that's left in your life, every day is like a knife cutting through your chest, constant frustration, you choked on the best years of your life, no love, no hate, no hope, all lies.”

Concluding Remarks

The Synagogue of Satan and others hate God's people; but leave it to God to deal with them. This does not mean that you cannot act in self-defence or warn others of their behaviours as Christ did of his enemies, the Pharisees. It does mean that we must not act 'kind-for-kind.'

“And **ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake**: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.” (Matt 10:22-23)

“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before *it hated* you.

If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, **therefore the world hateth you.**" (John 15:18-19)

Yet these that hate you – whether it be the creators of apostasy – the Synagogue of Satan; internal liars and persecutors; or others mildly mistaken about you – these will be brought to acknowledge that you are not what they made you out to be.

To get to that point the lessons they will have to learn may be very harsh – a severity that they should fear if only they knew in advance of their punishment.

In any event they will "worship" you. The word "worship" means *to make obeisance, do reverence to*. "Worship" comes from two words: *towards* and *to kiss*. The sense that we get here is that of deep respect – even a sense of awe. By experiencing the humility of prostration and kissing one's feet, these enemies demonstrate some sort of regret for their actions, it would seem. They will admit some day – in this life or the next – that they were wrong. Refer to I Sam 10:1; I Kings 19:18; Ps 2:12; John 5:23 for Biblical reference to "kissing."

You may have already experienced some of this sort of behaviour from enemies. It is best that they find the courage to regret their lies and actions now, in this life – otherwise a terrible judgment may be awaiting them. Some may completely repent and apologise for their behaviour; others may be apologetic in their behaviour toward you. This may be acceptable to God.

As with the Messiah at His return, so with His people:

"Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.

Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

Kiss [ie touch in obeyance] the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish *from* the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed *are* all they that put their trust in him." (Ps 2:10-12)

"For neither doth the Father judge any man, but he hath given all judgment unto the Son;

that all may honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which sent him." (John 5:22-23)

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