

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XVI

June 24, 2007

No. 25

## The Object Of Our Worship

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**How** should you react when your child comes home from school and informs you that one of the activities of the day was visiting with a “living goddess”? Should you chalk it up as harmless make believe? Rejoice that your child is being exposed to diversified cultural beliefs that will profit them in accepting others? Or, use the occasion to equip your child with the truth of the Bible in combating error?

Some parents have had this experience this past week as a 10 year old girl, named Sajani Shakya came to visit the Lafayette Elementary School in Washington, D.C. She is from the Katmandu Valley in Nepal. According to the Houston Chronicle, Both Hindu and Buddhist priests in this area choose a girl with such characteristics as skin “of golden color” and body shape “like a banyan tree.” At home she is worshipped as she sits on an “small ornate throne” in the “goddess house”. She has to rise early in the day for her family and other devotees to “pray to her.” People give money to her “as offerings” and seek to “touch her feet” when she is “carried through the streets”.

To Bible believers this is error and blasphemy. But to Eastern religions, who believe God is everywhere and in everything, the practice is reasonable. For they are worshipping an ideal, “purity”. these select young girls, represent “the idea of virginal, premenstrual purity”. Their belief is that the goddess Kali inhabits these young girls. Then, after the age of ten, when they reach puberty, the goddess leaves them. Then, the young ladies are free to work and to marry.

Two Biblical truths seem appropriate to bring to our children’s attention when faced with these beliefs bidding for acceptance in our society:

The first truth is that our worship is reserved for a PERSON, not an IDEAL. We need to be reminded that God has revealed Himself as a DIVINE PERSON. Notice the personal pronoun in the following statement of Jesus: “*It is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and **Him** only shalt thou serve*” (Matthew 4:10). The New Testament teaches us that worship is not for those who may even be conveying exalted and glorious messages, as Peter and God’s angel before John did; but

the sole object of our worship is God (Acts 10:25-26, Rev. 21:8-9). God is not divided up into gods and goddesses, each conveying an idea that we conceive as ideal. God says, “*I am He: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I am Jehovah and besides me there is no saviour*” (Isaiah 43:10-11). While God is certainly “pure” (Psalm 18:26), we do not worship “Purity”. We worship only one Being, not many ideals.

A second truth is that the object of our worship never ceases to be God. “*For I, Jehovah, change not...*” (Malachi 3:6). This cannot be said of young Sajani. She is being worshipped because of a particular ideal of purity. When her body changes she will cease to be a goddess. The object deserving of our worship does not cease to be God.

Parents be prepared to instruct when your child says as some third graders did, “it would be cool to be a god or goddess.” Or, when they tell you that they talked to a living goddess today and she likes “to play hide and seek” and “computer games”. Mommy, I feel closer to “God” than ever before.