

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THIS?

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT WORSHIP

PSALMS 95

What is Worship?

- In Old Testament Hebrew, worship is *shachah* which means to bow down, surrender or to give reverence
- In New Testament Greek, worship is *proskuneo*, which means to kneel, to kiss toward, to give honor
- Old English defines worship as “worth-ship”
- “Worth-ship” means “The act of giving honor to one who is worthy”
- Worship is first mentioned in **Genesis 22:5 (NLT)** ⁵ ***“Stay here with the donkey,” Abraham told the servants. “The boy and I will travel a little farther. We will worship there, and then we will come right back.”***
- The *Law of First Mention* is a principle used in biblical interpretation which says; *“The first time a major word or theme appears in Scripture, it often establishes the foundational meaning for how that idea will develop throughout the rest of the Bible.”*
- This passage teaches a lot about what worship is:
 - Worship is sacrifice
 - Worship is obedience
 - Worship is surrender of what we love most
 - True worship will cost you something **2 Samuel 24:24 (NLT)** **24** ***But the king replied to Araunah, “No, I insist on buying it, for I will not present burnt offerings to the LORD my God that have cost me nothing.” So David paid him fifty pieces of silver for the threshing floor and the oxen.***
 - Worship is faith
 - Worship is a journey, not an event
 - Worship involves both surrender and expectation
 - Worship leads to revelation, Jehovah Jireh

Worship Begins with Recognizing Who God Is

Psalm 95:3-5 ***For the LORD is a great God, a great King above all gods. 4 He holds in his hands the depths of the earth and the mightiest mountains. 5 The sea belongs to him, for he made it. His hands formed the dry land, too.***

- To truly worship God, we must recognize who God is
- The psalmist tells us that:
- **God is great**
 - “For the Lord is a great God.”
 - Understanding the greatness of God helps us properly worship Him
- **God is King**
 - “A great King above all gods.”
 - No rival. No equal. Worship is allegiance to the true King.
- **God is Creator**
 - “In His hand are the depths... the mountain peaks... the sea... He made it.”
 - We worship God because He *created and sustains* all things.
 - As Creator, God made everything that exists out of nothing

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- Genesis 1:1 — “In the beginning God created...” God is the source, origin, and initiator of all life and matter
- Because He made everything, He owns everything.
- Everything that exists belongs to God ***Psalm 24:1 (NLT) The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.***
- As Sustainer, God keeps everything going
- God provides what creation needs to flourish
- Sustaining means God is actively involved—not distant.
- God is present, engaged, and involved in His creation
- Because of who God is, the psalmist calls us to an appropriate response...

Worship Involves Joyful Praise

Psalm 95:1-2 (NLT) 1 Come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. 2 Let us come to him with thanksgiving. Let us sing psalms of praise to him.

- ***Worship with celebration***
- “Let us sing for joy...”
- The psalmist invites God’s people to come into his presence for worship
- We are to come to Him making a joyful noise
- We enthusiastically and joyfully worship God because He is the *rock of our salvation*
- Our salvation is safe, secure, and supported by His strength and faithfulness
- ***Worship with thanksgiving***
- “Let us come before Him with thanksgiving...”
- Our worship should express our thankfulness to God who has done so much for us
- ***Worship with expression***
- “Shout joyfully... extol Him with music and song.”
- Worship should engage our whole person—mind, heart, and voice
- But worship isn’t only celebration—it’s also surrender...

Worship Calls for Humble Reverence

Psalms 95:6-7a 6 “Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the LORD our maker, 7 for he is our God. We are the people he watches over, the flock under his care...”

- ***Worship involves bowing and kneeling***
- “Let us bow down... let us kneel...”
- Bowing down in worship shows humility and reverence for God
- We kneel before the Lord our Maker because God made us
- Worship is the obligation that “the created” owe to *the Creator*
- ***Worship acknowledges God as Shepherd***
- “We are the people of His pasture...”
- A shepherd cares, protects, feeds and leads.
- ***Worship recognizes our identity***
- We belong to God

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- But loving God in worship also means listening to God in obedience...

Worship Demands Hearing and Obeying God's Voice

Psalms 95:7b-11 "...If only you would listen to his voice today! 8 The LORD says, 'Don't harden your hearts as Israel did at Meribah, as they did at Massah in the wilderness. 9 For there your ancestors tested and tried my patience, even though they saw everything I did. 10 For forty years I was angry with them, and I said, 'They are a people whose hearts turn away from me. They refuse to do what I tell them.' 11 So in my anger I took an oath: 'They will never enter my place of rest.'"

- ***Worship is not complete without obedience***
- "Today, if you hear His voice..."
- The psalmist exhorts believers to hear God's voice in the midst of worship
- Worship is more than what we say; it's how we *live*
- ***Do not harden your heart***
- Israel rebelled, complained, and resisted God.
- A hard heart is a heart that is stubborn, resistant, rebellious, unteachable, and unwilling to obey
- Humble worship and recognizing God as Creator should lead to a heart that's soft and surrendered to God
- ***Disobedience blocks the blessing of rest***
- Those who refused to listen and obey did not enter God's rest.
- Israel saw the work of God, yet they would not trust, and we are warned not to do the same
- Israel experienced extraordinary blessings, yet they still rebelled
- God grieved for 40 years over Israel
- Israel drifted from confidence in God as their Creator and Sustainer, to complete rejection of Him in their hearts
- We can have years of faithful church attendance and still wander into disobedience if our hearts are not soft and obedient toward God
- Spiritual experiences don't substitute for faithful surrender
- God gives us every reason to trust Him, and sometimes we still reject Him
- God wants us to learn from rebellion of the Israelites; they died in the wilderness never entering into the Promised Land
- Worship and obedience can't be separated
- Remembering what God has done protects your faith
- Israel forgot God's power and goodness, even after seeing miracle after miracle
- Remembering ignites our worship, strengthens our faith and guards our heart
- Psalm 95 is call to us; don't repeat Israel's mistake
- The same temptation exists today to doubt God
- Psalm 95 speaking loudly to us, hear and obey God while your heart is still soft

Other Important Aspects of Worship

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- We were created to worship God ***Isaiah 43:7 (NLT) 7 Bring all who claim me as their God, for I have made them for my glory. It was I who created them.”***
 - If we don't worship God we will worship something else ***Romans 1:25 (NLT) 25 They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.***
 - Worship is rooted in who God is, not our emotions or our circumstances
- Worship is both private and corporate ***Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT) 24 Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. 25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.***
- Worship is a lifestyle, not an event ***Colossians 3:17 (NLT) 17 And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.***
- Our worship should be seen in our decisions, our love, our giving, our work ethic, and our character
- Worship can be hindered by sin ***Psalms 66:18 (KJV) 18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:***
- Your worship is a weapon ***Acts 16:25-26 (NLT) 25 Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. 26 Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off!***
- Worship shifts our focus from the problem to God
- Worship invites God's presence into the battle ***Psalms 22:3 (NLT) 3 Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.***