

What is Worship

The Bible says that: they bowed the head and worshipped; they rose up and worshipped; he fell on his face to the earth and worshipped; he worshipped the LORD there; he went yearly to worship and to sacrifice; they worshipped and praised the Lord; the congregation worshipped and the singers sang; they confessed and worshipped. John says, “if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.” Notice that in every instance, worship is not what they did but that they worshipped and did something else.

Isaiah says “And the residue thereof he maketh a god, even his graven image: he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth it, and prayeth unto it, and saith, Deliver me; for thou art my god.” God warns Israel not to “walk after other gods and serve them and worship them.” Note that worship of other gods includes being served with mans hands. Through out the Scripture worshipping God does not involve serving with mans hands.

The Bible says to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. David says that in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple. David says that “All they that be fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him: and none can keep alive his own soul.” He goes on to say “O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.” He also says to “Exalt ye the LORD our God, and worship at his footstool; for he is holy.” The Levites sanctified themselves in holiness. Jeremiah says, “Mine heart within me is broken because of the prophets; all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man, and like a man whom wine hath overcome, because of the LORD, and because of the words of his holiness.” Paul says we are to perfect holiness in the fear of God.

In the New Testament they worshipped him saying ‘Of a truth thou art the Son of God’. She worshipped him saying ‘Lord, help me.’ In Revelations the elders worshipped saying “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.” In bowing down to worship addressing Jesus as Lord they are acknowledging him as supreme in authority.

Jesus says we are to worship him in spirit and in truth. He says that the words that he speaks are spirit. Jesus asks the Father to “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” John says that “the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.” Jesus said that “If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.” The Greek word here for ‘keep’ is not a word of action but to cherish enough to guard and preserve from change as in the ‘keepers’ that were sent to guard Jesus tomb. Paul says that God is not worshipped with mans hands.

Therefore to worship God is to acknowledge him as supreme in authority. In doing this we will cherish his Word enough to saturate our lives with it and guard it and protect it from being altered. In so doing we will be sanctified thereby ‘worshipping the Lord in the beauty of holiness’.

That ye shall say, It is the sacrifice of the LORD's passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses. And the people bowed the head and worshipped. (*Exodus 12:27*)

And all the people saw the cloudy pillar stand at the tabernacle door:
and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man in his tent door. (*Exodus 33:10*)

And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my Lord unto his servant? (*Joshua 5:14*)

Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there. (*1 Samuel 1:28*)

And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever. (*2 Chronicles 7:3*)

And all the congregation worshipped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded:
and all this continued until the burnt offering was finished. (*2 Chronicles 29:28*)

And they stood up in their place, and read in the book of the law of the LORD their God one fourth part of the day; and another fourth part they confessed, and worshipped the LORD their God. (*Nehemiah 9:3*)

Now we know that God heareth not sinners:
but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth. (*John 9:31*)

And the residue thereof he maketh a god, even his graven image:
he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth it, and prayeth unto it, and saith, Deliver me; for thou art my god. (*Isaiah 44:17*)

And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish. (*Deuteronomy 8:19*)

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. (*1 Chronicles 16:29*)

Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
(*Psalms 29:2*)

O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness:
fear before him, all the earth. (*Psalms 96:9*)

But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy:
and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple. (*Psalms 5:7*)

All they that be fat upon earth shall eat and worship:
all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him:
and none can keep alive his own soul. (*Psalms 22:29*)

O come, let us worship and bow down:
let us kneel before the LORD our maker. (*Psalms 95:6*)

And to the genealogy of all their little ones, their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, through all the congregation:
for in their set office they sanctified themselves in holiness: (*2 Chronicles 31:18*)

Mine heart within me is broken because of the prophets; all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man, and like a man whom wine hath overcome, because of the LORD, and because of the words of his holiness. (*Jeremiah 23:9*)

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. (*2 Corinthians 7:1*)

Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God. (*Matthew 14:33*)

Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. (*Matthew 15:25*)

¹⁰The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

¹¹Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power:
for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. (*Revelations 4:10-11*)

²³But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth:

for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

²⁴God is a Spirit:
and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. (*John 4:23-24*)

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing:
the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. (*John 6:63*)

Sanctify them through thy truth:
thy word is truth. (*John 17:17*)

For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost:
and these three are one. (*1 John 5:7*)

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words:
and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. (*John 14:23*)

²⁴God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

²⁵Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; (*Acts 17:24-25*)