

Worship

The word “worship” appears 102 times in the Bible, “worshipped” 69 times, and “worshipping” 5 times. In each instance the same Hebrew, Aramaic (in the Book of Daniel) and Greek words are used.

In the Old Testament the Hebrew Word shachah (Strong’s # 07812) is used 172 times. Ninety (99) times it is translated 99 as a version of worship, 31 times bow, 18 times bow down, 9 times obeisance, 5 times reverence, and a few times as other words. It means:

- 1) to bow down
- 1a) (Qal) to bow down
- 1b) (Hiphil) to depress (fig)
- 1c) (Hithpael)
- 1c1) to bow down, prostrate oneself
- 1c1a) before superior in homage
- 1c1b) before God in worship
- 1c1c) before false gods
- 1c1d) before angel

In the Book of Daniel, the Aramaic word cegid (Strong’s #05457) is used twelve (12) times and translated some version of worship each time. It simply means to “prostrate oneself, do homage, worship.”

In the New Testament, the Greek word proskuneo (Strong’s # 4352) is found 60 times and translated some version of “worship” each time.

It comes from 4314 and a probable derivative of 2965 (meaning to kiss, like a dog licking his master’s hand). It means

- 1) to kiss the hand to (towards) one, in token of reverence
- 2) among the Orientals, esp. the Persians, to fall upon the knees and touch the ground with the forehead as an expression of profound reverence
- 3) in the NT by kneeling or prostration to do homage (to one) or make obeisance, whether in order to express respect or to make supplication
- 3a) used of homage shown to men and beings of superior rank
- 3a1) to the Jewish high priests
- 3a2) to God
- 3a3) to Christ
- 3a4) to heavenly beings
- 3a5) to demons

EXAMPLES OF WORSHIP

1. When prayers were answered
 - A. Abraham's Servant whom he sent to bring back a wife for Isaac.
Genesis 24.

Ge 24:26 And the man bowed down his head, and worshipped the LORD.
Ge 24:48 And I bowed down my head, and worshipped the LORD, and blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham, which had led me in the right way to take my master's brother's daughter unto his son.
Ge 24:52 And it came to pass, that, when Abraham's servant heard their words, he worshipped the LORD, bowing himself to the earth.
 - B. Gideon immediately before he and his men attacked the Midianites

Jud 7:15 And it was so, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream, and the interpretation thereof, that he worshipped, and returned into the host of Israel, and said, Arise; for the LORD hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian.
 - C. Hannah and Elkanah after Eli told Hannah to go in peace

1Sa 1:19 And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her.
 - D. The man who was blind from his mother's womb when Jesus revealed Himself to be the Son of God.

Joh 9:38 And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.
 - E. Cornelius before Peter when he came.

Ac 10:25 And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him.
2. The children of Israel under Moses (both good and bad)
 - A. The children of Israel when Moses, with Aaron, returned to Israel to proclaim their deliverance

Ex 4:31 And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.

- B. The children of Israel when Moses proclaimed the passover, but before it came to pass.

Ex 12:27 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.

- C. The molten calf

Ex 32:8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

- D. Nigh unto Involuntary Acts of Worship.

After their chastening when they saw the cloudy pillar stand at the tabernacle door when Moses entered

Ex 33:10 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.

Note: A few similar situations.

- I. Joshua before the Captain of the Lord's host.

Jos 5:14 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?

- ii. At the dedication of the temple

2Ch 7:3 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.

iii. Jesus disciples after he walked on the water

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

iv. Jesus' disciples after they saw Him raised from the dead

Mt 28:9 And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

Mt 28:17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

Lu 24:52 And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:

3. Faithful people who worshipped the Lord

A. Elkanah Hannah's Husband

1Sa 1:3 And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there.

B. Samuel even as a child

1Sa 1:28 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.

C. Significant examples with David

1. David after his first child by Bathsheba died in accordance with God's judgment

2Sa 12:20 Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the LORD, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat.

2. David when he had fled Jerusalem and Absalom had taken over.

2Sa 15:32 And it came to pass, that when David was come to the top of the mount, where he worshipped God, behold, Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his coat rent, and earth upon his head:

3. David when he set Solomon on his throne before his death and led the people in prayer.

1Ch 29:20 And David said to all the congregation, Now bless the LORD your God. And all the congregation blessed the LORD God of their fathers, and bowed down their heads, and worshipped the LORD, and the king.

- D. Hezekiah and the children of Israel when they turned from the wicked ways of their fathers to serve the Lord anew

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

2Ch 29:29 And when they had made an end of offering, the king and all that were present with him bowed themselves, and worshipped.

2Ch 29:30 Moreover Hezekiah the king and the princes commanded the Levites to sing praise unto the LORD with the words of David, and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshipped.

- E. Ezra, Nehemiah and the people when the people came together before the “water gate” to hear the Word of the Lord as proclaimed by Ezra

Ne 8:6 And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

Ne 9:3 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.

- F. Job after he received the news that all of his children had died and all of his possessions were taken.

Job 1:20 Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped,

4. God's commands to worship as recorded in Psalms

Ps 5:7 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.

Ps 22:27 All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.

Ps 22:29 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.

Ps 29:2 Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

Ps 66:4 All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing to thy name. Selah.

*Ps 86:9 All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name.

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

Ps 96:9 O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.

Ps 99:5 Exalt ye the LORD our God, and worship at his footstool; for he is holy.

Ps 99:9 Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy.

Ps 138:2 I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

5. Christians are to worship God in Spirit and in Truth

A. Samaritan Woman at the well (John 4)

Joh 4:20 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

Joh 4:21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

Joh 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

Joh 4:23 But 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.

Joh 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

B. Epistle to the Phillippians

Php 3:3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoyce in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

6. Preceding Answers to Prayers

A. Leper

Mt 8:2 And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

B. Ruler whose daughter was raised from the dead

Mt 9:18 While he spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live.

C. The Canaanitish woman whose daughter was grievously vexed with a devil

Mt 15:25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

D. The Gadarene demoniac out of whom Jesus cast the Legion of devils.

Mr 5:6 But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him,

E. Ethiopian Eunuch

Ac 8:27 And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

F. Lydia

Ac 16:14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

G. Justus of Corinth

Ac 18:7 And he departed thence, and entered into a certain man's house, named Justus, one that worshipped God, whose house joined hard to the synagogue.

H. Jacob praying over Joseph's sons.

Heb 11:21 By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff.

7. Future Times

Isa 66:23 And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.

Re 3:9 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.

Re 4:10 The 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,

Re 4:11 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.

Re 19:4 And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.