

# HOW TO PRACTICE TRUE WORSHIP

## INTRODUCTION

The Scriptures both encourage and command us to worship the Lord. Sincere Christians everywhere truly desire to honor Him in this way. Yet much of the “worship” that is being practiced in the Church today is not true, Biblical worship.

The purpose of this study is to look at this subject through the pages of God’s Word, so that we as the Lord’s people can practice true worship. We will seek to come to this understanding by answering the following five very important questions...

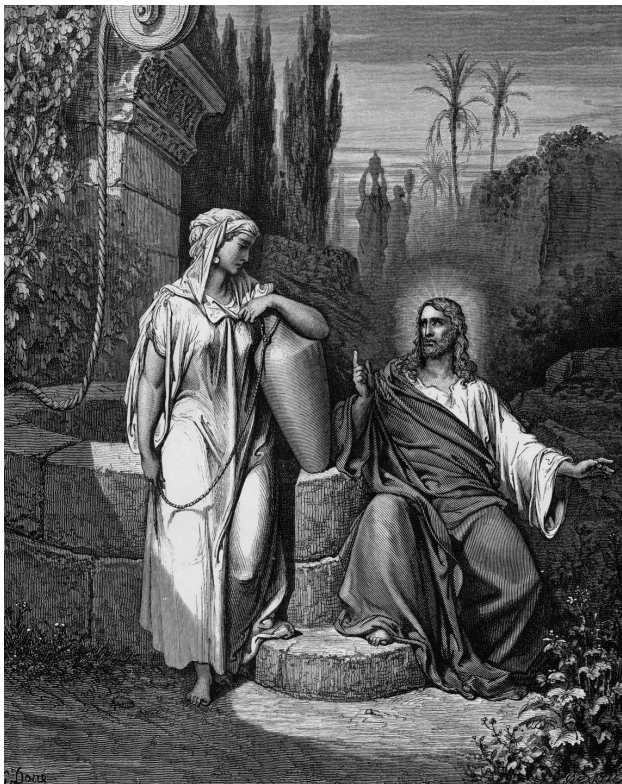
### WHAT IS TRUE WORSHIP?

### WHO IS THE OBJECT OF OUR TRUE WORSHIP?

### WHEN ARE WE TO PRACTICE TRUE WORSHIP?

### WHERE ARE WE TO PRACTICE TRUE WORSHIP?

### HOW ARE WE TO PRACTICE TRUE WORSHIP?



*“But the hour cometh, and now is, when true worshippers shall worship the father in spirit and in truth, for the father seeketh such to worship him.” John 4:23*

# I. WHAT IS TRUE WORSHIP?

## A. Four Different Hebrew Words Are Translated “Worship” In the Old Testament...

1. “atsab” = to make an idol (found just once in Jeremiah 44:19)
2. “abad” = to work; to serve (found 5 times, all II Kings 10)
3. “segad” = to bow down (found 11 times, all in the book of Daniel)
4. “shachah” = to bow down; pay adoration (found over 100 times in many different books)

“Shachah” is the Hebrew word and meaning we want to focus on in this study. Following are three Old Testament references where this word is found...



*“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.” Nehemiah 8:6*

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

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

**Ezra Worshipping The LORD**

## B. Eight Different Greek Words Are Translated “Worship” In The New Testament...

1. “doxa” = glory; esteem (found just once in Luke 14:10)
2. “eusebeo” = to be reverent (found just once in Acts 17:23)
- 3 “therapeuo” = to serve (found just once in Acts 17:25)
4. “threskeia” = religious observance (found just once in Colossians 2:18)
5. “latrevo” = to worship publicly (found 4 times in 3 different books)
6. “neokoros” = a temple sweeper (found just once in Act 19:35)
7. “sebomai” [or its derivatives] = to venerate (found 8 times in 5 different books)
8. “proskuneo” = to pay homage and reverence (found over 50 times in 8 books)

“Proskuneo” is the Greek word and meaning we will focus on in our study. Following are three New Testament references where this word is found...



**To Worship Is To Pay Homage And Reverence**

*“And as they (Mary Magdalene and the other Mary) went to tell HIS disciples, behold, JESUS met them, saying, All Hail. And they came and held HIM by the feet and worshipped HIM.” Matthew 28:9*

*“And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped GOD...” Revelation 7:11*

*“Who shall not fear THEE, O LORD, and glorify THY name? For THOU only art holy, for all nations shall come and worship before THEE, for THY judgement are made manifest.” Revelation 15:4*

Combining the meanings of both the Hebrew word “shachah” and the Greek word “proskuneo,” we conclude that true worship is...

“to bow down and pay adoration; to pay homage and reverence.”



**To Worship Is To Bow Down And Pay Adoration**

## II. WHO IS THE OBJECT OF TRUE WORSHIP?

We see in our world today that people “worship” many different beings (human and/or spiritual), practices, and things.

- A. Idols and Statues in homes and churches
- B. Money and possessions
- C. Athletes, musicians, actors, religious leaders, and family members.
- D. Careers, hobbies, immorality, and ministry
- E. Satan and other demons

However, Scripture clearly condemns the worship of all of the above!

Concerning spiritual beings...

*“And I John (the Apostle) saw those things and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel, which showed me these things. Then saith he unto me, see thou do it not, for I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren thy prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: Worship GOD.” Revelation 22:8-9*

Concerning our fellow man...



*“And when the people saw what Paul had done they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men. And they called Barnabas, Jupiter; and Paul, Mercurius, because he was the chief speaker. Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifices with the people. Which when the Apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their cloths and ran in among the people crying out... And with these saying scarce restrained they the people, that they had not done sacrifice unto them.” Acts 14:11-14, 18*

**The People Preparing To Offer Sacrifice To Paul And Barnabas**

Concerning practices and things...

*“Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in Heaven above, or that is in the Earth, or that is in the water under the Earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them nor serve them, for I the LORD thy GOD am a jealous GOD...” Exodus 20:3-5a*



In contrast, the scriptures are very clear in proclaiming the only ONE we are to worship!

*“For thou shalt worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is JEALOUS, is a jealous GOD.”* Exodus 34: 14

*“Exalt ye the LORD our GOD, and worship at his footstool, for HE is holy.”* Psalm 99:5

*“Thou shalt worship the LORD thy GOD and HIM only shalt thou serve.”* Luke 4:8b

### III. WHEN ARE WE TO PRACTICE TRUE WORSHIP?

Our Worship of the LORD should be such a prevalent part of our lives, it will seem as if we are worshipping HIM “all the time.”

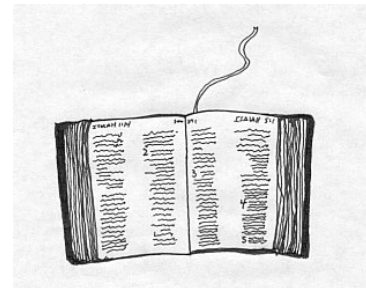
#### A. We Should Worship The LORD In The First Part Of Each Day.

Some might call it “Quiet Time” other perhaps “devotions.”

Whatever we call it, however, we should begin each day by spending time with the LORD in personal “worship” (i.e. – study of the Scriptures, prayer, and perhaps singing).



*“Oh GOD, my heart is fixed, I will sing and give praise, even with my glory. Awake psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early. I will praise THEE, oh LORD, among the people: and I will sing praises unto THEE among the nations.”* Psalm 108:1-3



#### B. We Should Worship The LORD On The First Day Of The Week.

This is an important part of our CHRISTian life when we gather with other saints in corporate worship, so we can encourage and rejoice with them... and they with us.

*“Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as GOD hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”* I Corinthians 16:12  
(see also Acts 20:7 and Hebrews 10:25)

## C. We Should Worship The LORD As Often As HE Prompts Us.

Worship is really a “state of mind.” Thus we should always be in a worshipful spirit.

Job was prompted to worship in the midst of his great suffering...

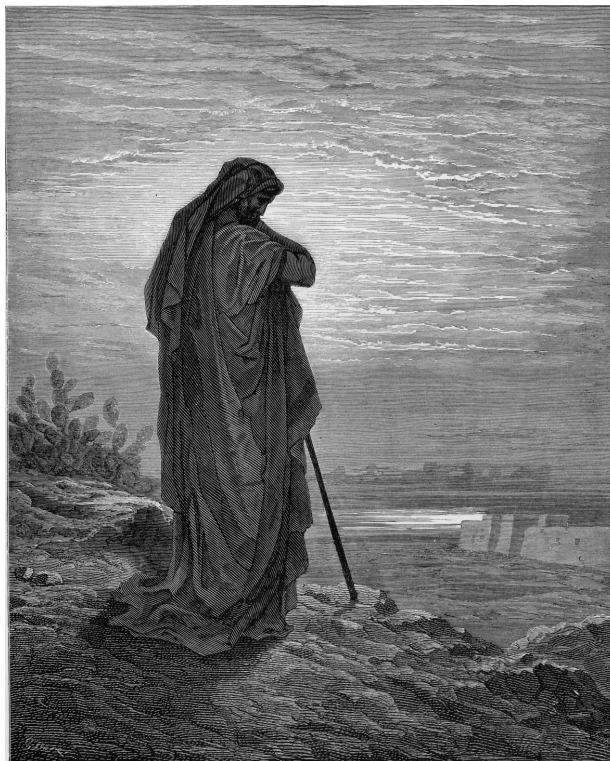
*“Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped.” Job 1:20*

Jacob worshipped even as he was dying...

*“By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph, and worshipped, leaning on the top of his staff.” Hebrews 11:21*

A leper once worshipped while seeking healing...

*“And behold, there came a leper and worshipped HIM, saying, Lord, if THOU wilt, THOU canst make me clean.” Matthew 8:2*



**Jacob Worshipping The LORD**

## IV. WHERE ARE WE TO PRACTICE TRUE WORSHIP?

Scripture teaches that GOD is omnipresent. That is, HE is everywhere, all the time. Because of this great truth, we can worship HIM anywhere.

### A. Moses Was Commanded To Worship On The Top Of A Mountain.

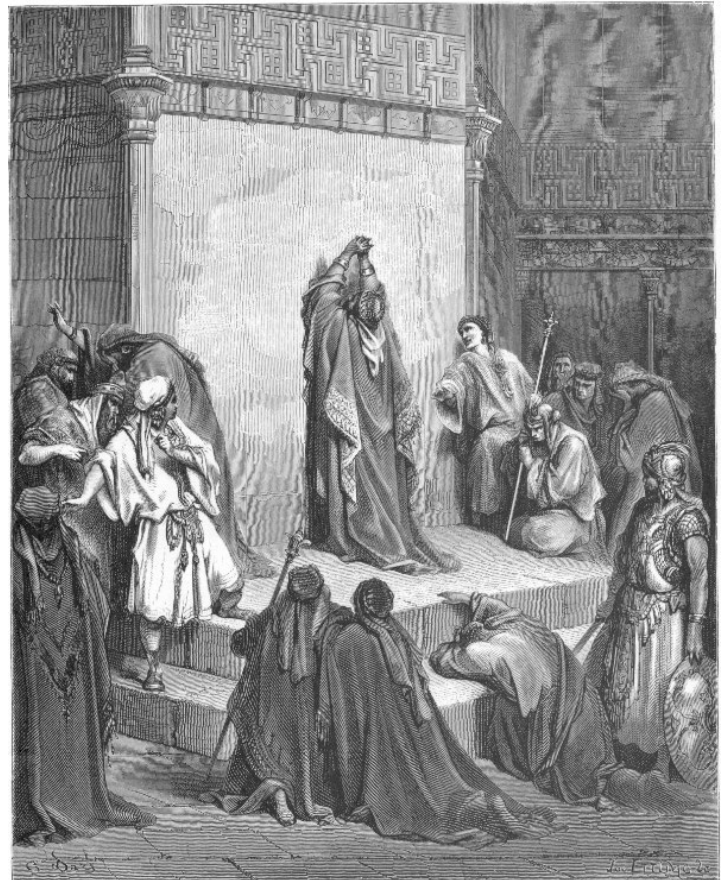
*“And the LORD said unto Moses... be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning unto Mount Sinai, and present thyself to ME in the top of the mount. And Moses made haste, bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped.”* Exodus 34: 1a, 2, 8

### B. King David Was Led To Worship In The Jewish Temple.

*“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...”* II Samuel 12:20a

### C. The Wise Men Worshipped In A House.

*“And when they were come into the house, they saw the young CHILD with Mary HIS mother and fell down and worshipped HIM...”* Matthew 2:11a



King David Worshipping The LORD

## V. HOW ARE WE TO PRACTICE TRUE WORSHIP?

We have learned in our study so far, what true worship really is. We have learned that only the LORD GOD HIMSELF is to be the center of our worship. And we have learned that we can worship HIM anytime and anyplace. With this wisdom revealed, let us discover how we are to practice true worship.

Learning how to practice true worship begins with understanding WHO we are to worship. If we understand WHO it is we are worshipping, we will be compelled to worship in the only true way.

We can discover much about who the LORD is, by taking some time to study some of HIS many Names and Titles (and their meanings), that are found in the Scriptures. Following are just several, with one reference where that Name or Title is found, the literal meaning of the Name or Title, and how it applies to us in the area of our true worship of HIM.



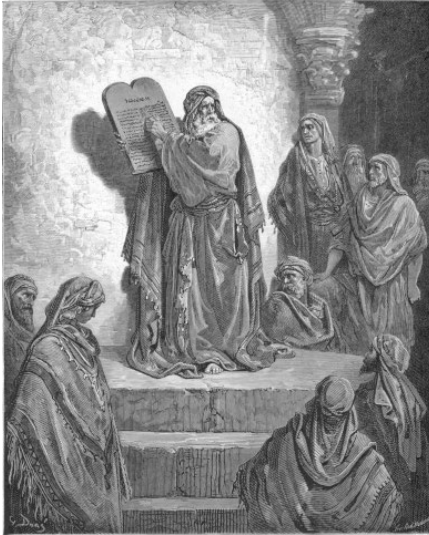
**We Can Worship The LORD Anytime, Anywhere**

Name/Title	Reference	Definition	Application
“LORD”	Psalms 1:2	<b>JEHOVAH</b> -This title speaks of HIS eternal, divine nature, & HIS faithfulness to HIS purposes & promises	Because the LORD is the only true GOD, and HE always fulfills HIS promises, this should command our worship of HIM.
“THE HIGHEST”	Psalms 18:13	Supreme; Upper; MOST HIGH	Because GOD is superior to all beings, no one else or nothing else should command our worship.
“REDEEMER”	Isaiah 47:4	To Free	If we have been delivered by the LORD from the power and penalty of sin (hell), this must compel us to gratefully worship HIM.
“MASTER”	Matthew 8:19	Teacher	What a joy and blessing to be taught the wonderful truths of GOD’s Words, HIS ways, and even of HIMSELF. May this compel us to worship HIM.
“HOLY FATHER”	John 17:11	“HOLY” =Set apart and without sin. “FATHER” =Nourishing protector and upholder	We must remember that the LORD is perfectly pure and without sin. Knowing this will certainly affect the way we approach HIM in worship.
“KING”	I Timothy 1:17	Royalty	The LORD is not our equal, but infinitely more majestic in character and standing. May we worship HIM accordingly.

The Scriptures give us much detailed instruction as to how we are to practice true worship...

### **A. We Are To Practice Reverence When We Worship.**

Reverence = respect



*“And Ezra opened the Book in the sight of all the people (for he was above all the people), and when he opened it, all the people stood up. 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,” Ezra 8:5-6*

*“O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our MAKER.” Psalm 95:6*

### **B. We Are To Practice Purity When We Worship.**

*“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.” I Chronicles 16:29*

*“And the seed of Israel separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers. And they stood up in their place, and read 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 9:2-3*

### **C. We Are To Practice Spirituality And Honesty When**

*“GOD is a SPIRIT, and they that worship HIM must worship in spirit and in truth.” John 4:24*

*“For we are the circumcision, which we worship GOD in the SPIRIT, and rejoice in CHRIST JESUS and have no confidence in the flesh.” Philippians 3:3*



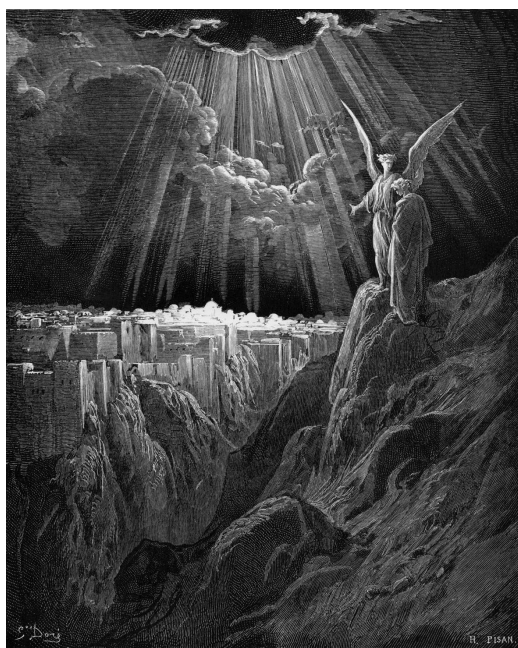
**Paul The Apostle**

We get a beautiful picture of how we are to practice true worship, by observing this glorious scene in heaven of the saints and angels worshipping GOD and HIS SON, the LORD JESUS CHRIST...

*“After this I beheld, and lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the LAMB, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our GOD which sitteth upon throne, and unto the LAMB. And all the Angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne and worshipped GOD, saying Amen: Blessings and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our GOD for ever and ever, Amen.”* Revelation 7: 9-12

## CONCLUSION

We have learned from our study that GOD greatly desires our true worshipped of HIM. The Scripture clearly instruct us as to what true worship is, who the object of our true worship is to be, when and where we are to practice this true worship, and finally how we are to practice it. We have discovered that true worship is not only to be a public practice, a regular time with other followers of CHRIST, but also a personal time, a daily time of close, intimate worship just between the LORD and us. As we get to know the LORD in a more personal way, may this prompt us to worship HIM with true worship. Then will we be able to, *“...sing the song of Moses the servant of GOD, and the song of the LAMB, saying...”*



*“Great and marvelous are THY works, LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, just and true are THY ways, THOU KING of saints. Who shall not fear THEE, O LORD, and glorify THY NAME? For THOU only art holy, for all nations shall come and worship before THEE...”* Revelation 15:

3-4a

## MY LIFE COMMITMENT

“Heavenly FATHER, I have learned from the study of YOUR Word, that YOU desire, and indeed command us to worship YOU. I realize that as I get to know YOU in a more personal, intimate way, this will prompt me to worship YOU in true worship. I now purpose through YOUR grace and the power of YOUR HOLY SPIRIT, to seek to worship YOU on a regular basis. First of all, on a daily basis through the meditation in YOUR Word and time spent in prayer alone with YOU. Secondly, during a weekly time with other followers of YOU. Thirdly, whenever YOU prompt me to. I praise and thank YOU now in anticipation for the glorious benefits that will result because of this practice. I pray this in the Name of the LORD, JESUS CHRIST and for HIS glory, AMEN.”