

Holiness and Worship



What is authentic worship?

Jesus told the woman at the well (*John 4*) that the Father was seeking those who would worship Him in spirit and truth. David sang, "I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name." *Psalm 138:2* Someone has said that worship on the earth is preparation for eternal worship in heaven.

Introduction: The Old Testament Worship Model

1. Worship was commanded around the harvest festivals
2. The offerings were made at Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles
3. There were only two tests for the offerings. What they brought had to be the **first** and the **best**
4. The quality of the gift indicates the value the giver places on the one receiving the gift.

A. It's NOT about me! :6

1. Honor: weight or quantity of a thing—no limit
2. Reverence:(NKJV): Fear (KJV) awesome respect
3. The name of God is at the center of my life *Phil 2:9-11*
 - Despise: To accord little worth to something; to undervalue something.
 - The Israelites put more value on their possessions than upon God.
4. Yahweh of armies [*hosts*]: Judgment title of God

B. It's about what you bring NOT what you get. :7-8

1. Have you defiled the altar of God?
We are to offer a sacrifice of praise *Heb 13:15*

The Three New Testament Believer-Priest Sacrifices

1. The sacrifice of our person *Rom 12:1-2*
2. The sacrifice of praise *Heb 13:15*
3. The sacrifice of possessions *Heb 13:16*

C. It's about what God has done :9-11

Our worship is not as much about what God has given us; As what God has done for us. (Atonement on the cross)

1. Grace—God's unmerited favor (gracious)
2. It would be better to not worship at all than to worship in vain.
3. The NAME of God in every place :11

D. It's all about holiness :12-14

1. The opposite of holiness is profane!
2. Profane means to 'treat as' or make common. Worship had become boring.

***Worship begins in holy expectancy;
it ends in holy obedience.***

Malachi 1:6-14

:6 "A son honors *his* father, And a servant *his* master. If then I am the Father, Where is My **honor**? And if I am a Master, where is My **reverence**? Says the LORD of hosts To you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, 'In what way have we **despised** Your name?'

:7 "You offer defiled food on My altar, but say, 'In what way have we defiled You?' By saying, 'The table of the LORD is contemptible.' [*despised*]

:8 And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, *Is it* not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, *Is it* not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts.

:9 "But now entreat God's favor, That He may be gracious to us. *While* this is being *done* by your hands, will He accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts.

:10 "Who *is there* even among you who would shut the doors, so that you would not kindle fire *on* My altar in vain? I have no pleasure in you," Says the LORD of hosts, "Nor will I accept an offering from your hands.

:11 For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name *shall be* great among the Gentiles; In every place incense *shall be* offered to My name, And a pure offering; For My name shall be great among the nations," Says the LORD of hosts.

:12 "But you profane it, In that you say, 'The table of the LORD is defiled; And its fruit, its food, *is* contemptible.' [*despised*]

:13 You also say, 'Oh, what a weariness!' And you sneer at it," Says the LORD of hosts. "And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; Thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand?" Says the LORD.

:14 "But cursed *be* the deceiver Who has in his flock a male, And takes a vow, But sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished— For I am a great King," Says the LORD of hosts, "And My name is to be feared among the nations.