



Connecting with God for a Strong Finish

## CHAPTER 15

### Worshiping God as Creator

Though unable to wrap our senses around God, we experience the world that He made. The universe shouts a compelling message. It proclaims the truth about God in living color and elaborate detail. Matter, energy, and life provide proof and add substance to our faith. They set God apart with unrivaled distinction. Elegant in design and overwhelming in scope, creation validates His worth and confirms His competence. God deserves worship because tangible evidence points to His creative genius and life-giving power.

Seven biblical references link creation to worship. This feat remains one of the most cited and convincing associations in the Bible. Human beings along with the heavenly host worship God for His creative activity.

<b>Worship Associated with CREATION (7 references)</b>				
Worshippers	Times	Hebrew Greek	Association	NAS Verse
Exhortation To worship	3	Shachah	God made the sea and formed the dry land	Psa 95:5-6
		Shachah	God made the heavens	Psa 96:5,9
		Shachah		1 Chr 16:26, 29
Heavenly Host Bows Down	1	Shachah	God made the heavens and their host, the earth and	Neh 9:6

Worship Associated with CREATION (7 references)				
Worshippers	Times	Hebrew Greek	Association	NAS Verse
			sea with all that is in them	
Athenian altar honoring an unknown God	1	Eusebeo	Paul directs worship to God, maker of the world and everything in it	Act 17:23-26
24 Elders In heaven	1	Proskuneo	Worship God as Creator of all things	Rev 4:10-11
Those who live on the earth	1	Proskuneo	An angel exhorts them to worship God the Creator	Rev 14:7

### 1. Worship God as Maker of the Sea and Dry Land

*The sea is His, for it was He who made it, And His hands formed the dry land. Come, let us **worship** [shachah] and **bow down** [Kara`], Let us kneel before the Lord **our Maker**. (Psalms 95:5-6 NAS)*

### 2. Worship God as Maker of the Heavens

*...**the LORD made the heavens**. ...Oh, **worship** [shachah] **the Lord** in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth. (Psalms 96:5, 9 NKJ)*

### 3. Worship God as Maker of the Heavens

*...**the LORD made the heavens**. ...Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him; **Worship** [shachah] **the Lord** in holy array. (1 Chronicles 16:26, 29 NAS)*

### 4. The Heavenly Host Worship their Creator

*“You alone are the Lord. **You have made the heavens**, The heaven of heavens **with all their host**, **The earth and all that is on it**, **The seas and all that is in them**. You give life to all of them **And the heavenly host bows down** [shachah] before You. (Nehemiah 9:6 NAS)*

### 5. Worship God Who Made the World and All Things in it

*For while I [Paul] was passing through [Athens] and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, ‘TO*

*AN UNKNOWN GOD' Therefore what **you worship** [eusebeo (used 2 times in NT) also means to practice piety, so translated in 1 Tim 5:4] in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. **The God who made the world and all things in it**, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; and **He made from one man every nation** of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, (Acts 17:23-26 NAS)*

6. The 24 Elders in Heaven Worship Him who Created all Things

*The twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will **worship** [proskuneo] **Him** who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You **created all things**, and because of Your will they existed, and were created." (Revelations 4:10-11 NAS)*

7. Worship Him Who Made Heaven, Earth, Sea and Springs

*and he [an angel] said with a loud voice, "Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; **worship** [proskuneo] **Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters**". (Revelations 14:7 NAS)*

Paraphrasing Romans one, Eugene Peterson specifies an indirect association between God as Creator and worship.

*But the basic reality of God is plain enough. Open your eyes and there it is! By taking a long and thoughtful look at what God has created, people have always been able to see what their eyes as such can't see: eternal power, for instance, and the mystery of his divine being. So nobody has a good excuse. (Romans 1:19-20 MSG)*

Peterson describes the obstinate response of those who see the truth about God, but refuse to honor Him as God.

What happened was this: **People knew God perfectly well, but when they *didn't treat him like God, refusing to worship* [doxazo] *him*, they trivialized themselves into silliness and confusion so that there was neither sense nor direction left in their lives. They pretended to know it all, but were illiterate regarding life. **They traded the glory of God who holds the whole world in his hands for cheap figurines you can buy at any roadside stand.** (Romans 1:21-23 MSG)**

Peterson stretches the semantic of the Greek word *doxazo* since he renders it as “*worship*”. *Doxazo* means to give honor, glory, or praise. It is the basis for the Doxology or short chorus of praise sung at the end of Psalms, hymns, canticles, Eucharistic prayers, Liturgy of the Hours, and in various devotions. Familiar doxologies include:

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

and

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

In Romans 1:21, translators for the NAS and ESV render the word *Doxazo* as “*honor*”. The NKJ and NIV use “*glorify*”.

Our five natural senses offer a perceivable connection with God’s invisible attributes. The physical world reveals divine reality through what we see, hear, touch, taste, and smell. Using words, God spoke into being a dynamic universe with unfathomable dimensions. Its beauty, scope, and complexity speak of His immense power and creative genius. Only God creates highly defined energy and matter out of nothing. He alone brings plants, animals, and microorganisms to life.

Designing and then creating a life-supporting solar system requires more care than celestial precision. It requires godly wisdom and supernatural ingenuity. Mass-producing atomic particles to populate a vast universe takes more input than quantum energy; it takes divine expertise. Only God—a real God, can impart life to inanimate molecules meticulously ordered with intricate design parameters. God alone coordinates the lifecycle of every living organism in every possible ecosystem.

### **God Sustains What He Creates**

*By You I have been sustained from my birth;  
You are He who took me from my mother's womb;  
My praise is continually of You.*

Psalms 71:6 NAS

From conception to resurrection, our Heavenly Father exerts a profound influence over our life. We are His children. He personally formed our inward parts, weaving them together in our mother's womb.<sup>1</sup> The fingerprints of God cover our birthright with promise and assurance. our Heavenly Father delivered us into this world just as He delivers us from moral corruption and demonic evil.

From start to finish, the God of hope connects each moment together in a tapestry of redemptive value. Without exception, no one falls beyond the grasp of His benevolence and mercy. No occasion extends beyond His desire to redeem and His ability to restore. Jesus meets us right where we are and then He makes all things new—over and over again. For His faithful parentage and sustaining grace, God deserves extravagant praise and reverent worship.

### **Give Honor where Honor is Due**

Withholding honor from God invites serious detrimental consequences. Failing to convey an appropriate response triggers a cascade

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<sup>1</sup> Psalms 139:13 NAS

of moral breakdowns. When someone knows God but fails to esteem Him as God:

- They become futile in their speculations [opinions and assumptions] (Rom 1:21)
- Their heart becomes darkened (Rom 1:21)
- They become fools (Rom 1:22) [from the Greek word *Moraino*, which also refers to salt that has lost its flavor or strength (Mat 5:13 and Luk 14:34)]
- They practice idolatry (Rom 1:23)
- God gives them over to the lust in their heart as they dishonor their bodies with degrading passions and impurity (Rom 1:24, 26)

When someone exchanges the truth about God for a lie:

- He allows them to commit indecent acts and to receive the due penalty of their error (Rom 1:27)

When they fail to acknowledge God:

- He gives them over to a depraved mind to do things that are not proper (Rom 1:28)
- He permits them to assimilate all kinds of unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, and evil (Rom 1:29)
- They become full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, and malice (Rom 1:29)
- They become gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, and disobedient to parents (Rom 1:29-30)
- They struggle without understanding becoming untrustworthy, unloving, and unmerciful (Rom 1:31)
- They practice things worthy of death and also give hearty approval to those who join them (Rom 1:32)

