



Connecting with God for a Strong Finish

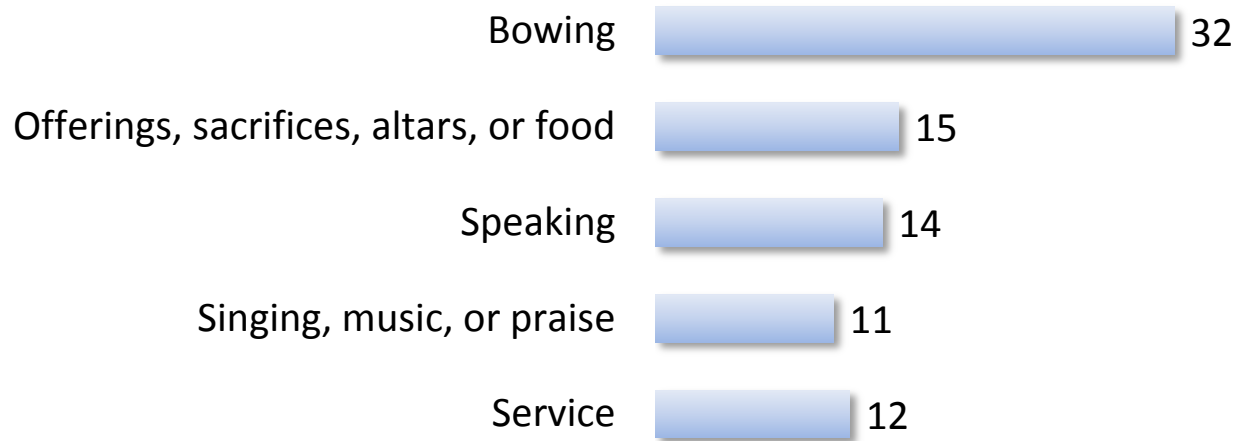
CHAPTER 9

Worship and Offerings, Sacrifices, Altars, and Food

Occasionally in the same biblical narrative, references to worship coincide with other activities such as offerings, sacrifices, altars, and food. Additional chapters will discuss expressions of worship that coincide with speaking, singing, music, praise, and service. Though the Bible associates these activities with worshipers, it does not ascribe the label of worship to them directly. A few instances however, suggest speaking as an expression of worship.

Each response involves a blend of attitudes and activities, which serve as precursors to or derivatives of an act of worship. They may supplement, facilitate, and/or extend gestures of worship.

The following activities appear in the same context where the Bible mentions a Hebrew or Greek word for worship. The bar graph below compares instances of bowing with other expressions described in the same context where a description of worship also occurs.



Worship Associated with Offerings, Sacrifices, Altars, or Food

(Specifically in reference to God, not pagan deities or idols)

While the Bible mentions worship 15 times in the same context with offerings, sacrifices, altars, or food, it does not emphasize any of these associations as an expression of worship.

For example in the Old Testament, God distinguished between bowing and sacrifice for the Israelites:

"But the LORD, who brought you up from the land of Egypt with great power and with an outstretched arm, Him you shall fear, and to Him you shall bow [shachah] yourselves down, and to Him you shall sacrifice. (2 Kings 17:36 NAS)

In the New Testament, the Magi offered gifts in a separate gesture from worship.

After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Matthew 2:11 NAS)

Offerings, Sacrifices, Altars, or Food (15 references)

Worshiper	Times	Hebrew or Greek	Association	NAS Verse
Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and 70 elders	1	Shachah	Invited to worship at a distance, they saw God and ate together	Ex 24:1, 9-11
Israelites in the land of Canaan	1	Shachah	Instructed to offer first fruits and then worship before the Lord	Deu 26:10
Elkanah	1	Shachah	Worshiped and sacrificed at Shiloh each year	1 Sam 1:3
David	2	Shachah	Psalms encourage both offerings and worship	1 Chr 16:29
		Shachah		Psa 96:8-9
Prosperous People	1	Shachah	Will eat and worship	Psa 22:29
Israelites	1	Shachah	Reminded to bow and sacrifice only to the Lord	2 Ki 17:36
Hezekiah and others	1	Shachah	Burned offerings and worshiped in Judah while establishing God's house	2 Chr 29:28
Hezekiah	1	Shachah	Instructed Judah to worship before one altar	2 Ki 18:22 2 Chr 32:12 Isa 36:7
Egyptians	1*	`Abad	Will serve/worship with sacrifice and offering	Isa 19:21
The Prince and Priests	1	Shachah	Statutes for burnt offerings, peace offerings, and worship	Eze 46:2
Magi	1	Proskuneo	Worshiped Jesus and gave gold, frankincense, myrrh	Mat 2:11
Athenian altar honoring an unknown God	1	Proskuneo	Paul directs devotion towards the Creator	Act 17:23-26
24 Elders	1	Proskuneo	Worshiped and cast their crowns before the throne	Rev 4:10
Instruction to Measure	1	Proskuneo	The Temple, the altar and those who worship in it	Rev 11:1