



So we'll be Ready when the Time Comes

Worship Reference Study

Chapter 1

Introduction

This reference study contains additional resource material along with Bible verses arranged in categories based on their association with worship.

*You **worship** [proskuneo] what you do not know; we **worship** [proskuneo] what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But an hour is coming, and now is, when the **true worshipers** [proskunetes] will **worship** [proskuneo] the **Father** in spirit and truth; for such people the **Father seeks** to be **His worshipers** [proskuneo]. God is spirit, and those who **worship** [proskuneo] Him **must worship** [proskuneo] in spirit and truth.* (John 4:22-24)

All Scripture references are from the New American Standard Bible (NAS) unless otherwise indicated.



Library ruins at Ephesus, Turkey 2010

Investigating Worship—Questions to Ponder

- What should we “know” to worship God?
- Why does our Heavenly Father “seek” worshipers?
- What characterizes a “true worshiper”?
- Why “must” we worship in spirit and truth?
- In the Bible, who worshiped God?
- How did individuals and groups express worship?
- Why did they express worship?
- What gestures are associated with worship in the Bible?
- When do expressions of worship converge with singing, music, or praise?
- What constitutes an expression of worship in spirit and truth?
- Is location relevant to worshipers and their worship?

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines Worship as:

“Reverence offered a divine being or supernatural power; also: an act of expressing such reverence; a form of religious practice with its creed and ritual; extravagant respect or admiration for or devotion to an object of esteem. Etymology: Old English weorthscipe worthiness, respect, from weorth worthy, worth + -scipe -ship; Middle English worshipe worthiness, respect, reverence paid to a divine being”¹

Britannica defines Worship as:

“Broadly defined, worship denotes the response to the appearance of that which is accepted as the holy—that is, to a sacred, transcendent power or being. Characteristic modes of response include ritual, drama, prayers, dancing, ecstatic speech, veneration, sermons, silent meditation, and sacred music and song. Also included in worship are acts of private response: spoken or unspoken prayers, silence, the assumption of particular postures...”²

International Standard Bible Encyclopedia

James Orr addresses “the universality of worship” mentioning that it ranges from “superstitious fear or fetishism to the highest spiritual exercise of which man is capable.”³ He addresses the motives of worship as the, “desire to placate, ingrati-

¹ <http://www.m-w.com/dictionary/worship> (2-7-07)

² <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-9109487/worship> (2-7-07)

³ Orr, James, General Editor, International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, 1915.
<http://www.studylight.org/enc/isb/view.cgi?number=T9240>

ate, or propitiate some higher power, or to commune and share with him or it, or express instinctive or purposed devotion to him.”⁴

⁴ Orr, James, General Editor, International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, 1915.
<http://www.studylight.org/enc/isb/view.cgi?number=T9240>