

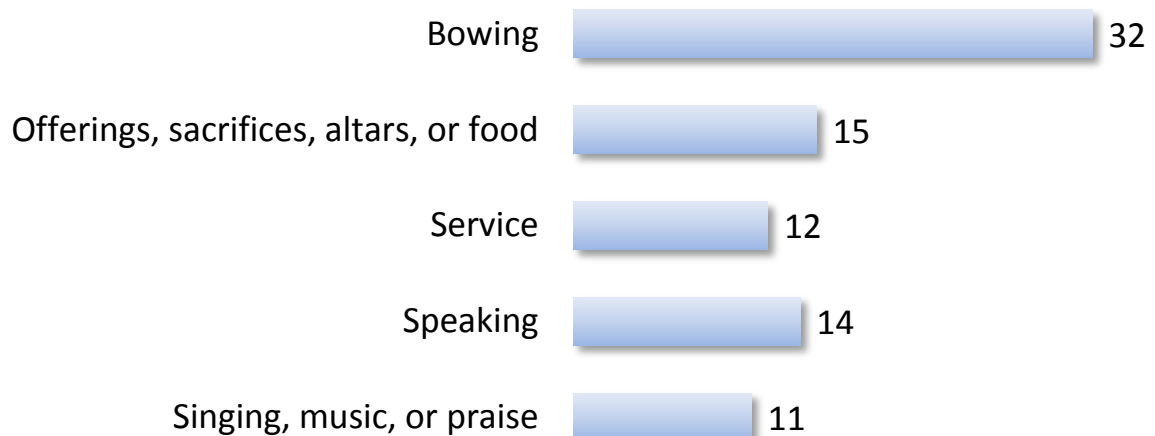
So we'll be Ready when the Time Comes

## Worship Reference Study

### Chapter 7

#### Gestures or Activities Associated with Worshiping God

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.



#### Falling or Bowing 32 times

The Bible indicates specific individuals and groups who either

- Fell down in worship before God
- Bowed down in worship before God
- Fell or bowed down without translating the primary Hebrew or Greek words (*shachah* or *proskuneo*) as worship
- Worshiped God without mentioning falling or bowing

- Fell or bowed down before God without including a Hebrew or Greek word in the text, which may be translated as worship (e.g., *shachah* or *proskuneo* respectively); i.e., the references indicated with an asterisk \*
- Fell, bowed, or knelt when motivated by an urgent request, a plea for help, customary respect, love, grief, or terror (without indicating worship)

**At least nine other activities appear in a context that also mentions worship.**

<b>Offerings, sacrifices, altars, or food</b>	15 references
<b>Service</b>	12 references
<b>Speaking</b>	14 references
<b>Singing, music, or praise</b>	11 references

The following six tables distinguish between “falling down” and “bowing down” in worship before God. After each table, Scripture references detail the incidents involved.

**“FALLING DOWN” in Worship before God**

Worshiper	Worship in Response To the Truth About		Prompt	NAS Verse
	Our Self	God		
Job	We return to God just as we entered this world	He gives and takes away	News of loss and Death	Job 1:20
Judah		The Battle Belongs to the Lord	A Promise	2Ch 20:18
Magi		Jesus is the King	Finding the Christ Child	Mat 2:11
24 Elders		God is Almighty He is Eternal He will possess every kingdom	Sounding of the final Trumpet Judgment	Rev 11:16
24 Elders		God reigns from a heavenly throne	A Throne Room Encounter	Rev 4:10
Angels				Rev 5:14
4 Living Creatures				Rev 7:11 Rev 19:4

## Scriptures that mention **FALLING DOWN** in worship before God

1. **Job** fell to the ground after hearing the tragic news that his 10 children, livestock, and servants had perished. He responded with worship when faced with the truth about himself and the truth about God saying, “Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away” (Job 1:21 NAS). If Job happens to predate Abraham, this response represents the first specific example of worship recorded in the Bible. After approximately 2000 years of biblical silence on this topic, a satanic assault against Job prompted the first testimony of worship ever recorded in the scriptures. Nearly 14 generations later, the Bible also records David worshipping when He received news that his child with Bathsheba died.

**Job 1:20** Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he **fell** [*naphal*] to the ground and **worshiped** [*shachah*].

2. **All Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem** fell down worshipping in response to Jahaziel's prophetic declaration promising victory against Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir.

**2 Ch 20:18** Jehoshaphat bowed [*qadad*] his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem **fell down** [*naphal*] before the LORD, **worshipping** [*shachah*] the LORD.

3. **The Magi** fell to the ground and worshiped Jesus.

**Mat 2:11** After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they **fell** [*pipto*] **to the ground** and **worshiped** [*proskuneo*] Him.

4. **24 Elders** in heaven fall facedown in response to an angel sounding the seventh trumpet as loud voices in heaven announce, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.” (Rev 11:15 NAS)

**Rev 11:16** And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, **fell** [*pipto*] **on their faces** and **worshiped** [*proskuneo*] God,

5. **24 Elders** in heaven fall facedown in response to Him who sits on the throne as 4 living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks (Rev 4:9)

**Rev 4:10** the twenty-four elders will **fall down** [*pipto*] 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,

6. **Elders** fall down in response to Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb as every created being proclaims, “blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever” (Rev 5:13 NAS)

**Rev 5:14** And the four living creatures kept saying, “Amen.” And the elders **fell down** [*pipto*] and **worshiped** [*proskuneo*].

7. **Angels, elders, and living creatures** fell facedown in response to God sitting on His throne in the presence of a great multitude shouting, “Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” (Rev 7:10 NAS).

**Rev 7:11** And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they **fell** [*pipto*] **on their faces** before the throne and **worshiped** [*proskuneo*] God,

8. **Elders and Living Creatures** fell down in response to God sitting on His throne

**Rev 19:4** And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures **fell down** [*pipto*] and **worshiped** [*proskuneo*] God who sits on the throne saying, “Amen. Hallelujah!”

**“BOWING DOWN” in Worship before God**

Worshippers	Worship in Response To the Truth About		Prompt	NAS Verse
	Our Self	God		
Eliezer after finding a wife for Isaac		He “guided me in the right way”	Gratitude for prayer answered	Gen 24:26
Moses after seeing God’s goodness		Compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love, kindness & truth (faithful); forgiving, and just	Presence of the Lord God (the Existing One)	Ex 34:5-8
				Worship implied Ex 24:1

Worshippers	Worship in Response To the Truth About		Prompt	NAS Verse
	Our Self	God		
Israel before death			A Promise	Gen 47:31
Israelites before Exodus				Ex 4:31
Israelites before Passover				Ex 12:27
Gideon before battle				Jud 7:15
Jehoshaphat be- fore battle				2Ch 20:18
Israelites David**			Blessing the Lord	1Ch 29:30
Israelites Solomon**			Fire and Glory	2 Ch 7:3
Israelites With Hezekiah			Praise Gather- ing	2 Ch 29:29-30
Israelites Ezra**			Blessing God	Neh 8:6
Mary Magdalene Another Mary			Resurrected Christ	Mat 28:9

### Scriptures that mention BOWING DOWN in worship before God

1. **Eliezer** (Abraham's servant) bows in response to God answering a detailed prayer for guidance in finding a wife for Isaac.

**Gen 24:26** Then the man [Eliezer] **bowed low** [*qadad*] and **worshiped** [*shachah*] the LORD.

**Gen 24:48** "And I **bowed low** [*qadad*] and **worshiped** [*shachah*] the LORD, and **blessed** [*barak*] the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had guided me in the right way to take the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son.

2. **Moses** bows in response to the goodness of God's presence. After seeing the burning bush, hearing God's voice, parting the Red Sea, following the pillar of fire and cloud, being caught up to a heavenly pavement, speaking with God face to face, seeing numerous displays of supernatural power, protection, and

provision, Moses entreated God to encounter His glory (Ex 33:18). While “all” the LORD’S “goodness” (Ex 33:19) passed before Moses, He revealed Himself as “the Lord God [*Jehovah ‘el*, i.e., the Existing One-God] compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished ...” (Ex 34:6-7 NAS). Only after this encounter with the Lord’s goodness does the Bible record a response of worship from Moses.

**Ex 34:8** And Moses made haste to **bow low** [*qadad*] toward the earth and **worship** [*shachah*].

A response of worship was implied previously, when God invited Moses, Aaron, Nadab and Abihu and seventy of the elders of Israel to come up before Him (Ex 24:1).

**Ex 24:1** Then He said to Moses, “Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu and seventy of the elders of Israel, and you shall **worship at a distance**.

3. **Israel** bows in worship at the foot of his bed in response to Joseph’s promise to carry his bones out of Egypt.

**Gen 47:31** He said, “Swear to me.” So he [Joseph] swore to him. Then Israel **bowed in worship** [*shachah* without *qadad*] at the head of the bed.

4. **Israelites** bow low and worship in response to God’s promise of deliverance from Egyptian bondage.

**Ex 4:31** So the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord was concerned about the sons of Israel and that He had seen their affliction, then they **bowed low** [*qadad*] and **worshiped** [*shachah*].

5. **Israelites** bow low and worship in response to God’s promise of protection through the Passover ordinance.

**Ex 12:27** that you shall say, ‘It is a Passover sacrifice to the Lord who passed over the houses of the sons of Israel in Egypt when He smote the Egyptians, but spared our homes.’” And the people **bowed low** [*qadad*] and **worshiped** [*shachah*].

6. **Gideon** bows in response to a confirmation of God’s promise for victory.

**Jud 7:15** When Gideon heard the account of the dream and its interpretation [in the camp of the Midianites, Amalekites, and all the sons of the east], he **bowed in worship** [*shachah*]. ...

7. An Assembly of **Israelites** bows in response to David's call to bless the Lord after he gave thanks to God for an abundant offering to build the temple.

**1 Ch 29:20** Then David said to all the assembly, "Now bless the LORD your God." And all the assembly blessed the LORD, the God of their fathers, and **bowed low** [*qadad*] and did **homage** [*shachah*] to the LORD and to the king.

8. **Israelites** bow in response to the glory of God as fire from heaven consumes their offering (using *kara`* for bow instead of *qadad*).

**2 Ch 7:3** And all the sons of Israel, seeing the fire come down and the glory of the Lord upon the house, **bowed down** [*kara`*] on the pavement **with their faces to the ground**, and they **worshiped** [*shachah*] and gave praise to the Lord, saying, "Truly He is good, truly His lovingkindness is everlasting."

9. **Jehoshaphat** bows in response to Jahaziel's prophetic declaration promising victory against Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir.

**2 Ch 20:18** Jehoshaphat **bowed** [*qadad*] his head with his **face to the ground**, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down [*naphal*] before the LORD, **worshipping** [*shachah*] the LORD.

10. **Hezekiah** and his **officials**, the **Levites**, and **all who were present** bow during a gathering to reestablish service [*abodah*] to the house of the LORD (2 Ch 29:35).

**2 Ch 29:28** While the whole assembly **worshiped** [*shachah*], the singers also sang and the trumpets sounded; all this continued until the burnt offering was finished.

**2 Ch 29:29** Now at the completion of the burnt offerings, the king [Hezekiah] and all who were present with him **bowed down** [*kara`*] and **worshiped** [*shachah*].

**2 Ch 29:30** Moreover, King Hezekiah and the officials ordered the Levites to sing praises to the Lord with the words of David and Asaph the seer. So they sang praises with joy, and **bowed down** [*qadad*] and **worshiped** [*shachah*].

11. **All the people** with **Ezra** bowed low and worshiped with their faces to the ground in response to blessing [*barak*] the Lord before reading and explaining the Book of the Law.



**Neh 8:6** Then Ezra blessed the Lord the great God. And all the people answered, “Amen, Amen!” while lifting up their hands; then they **bowed low** [*qadad*] and **worshiped** [*shachah*] the Lord with their **faces to the ground**.

**12. Mary Magdalene and Another Mary** “held Him [Jesus] by the feet and worshiped Him” (NKJ) in response to the visible presence and audible voice of the resurrected Christ.

**Mat 28:9** And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and **took hold of His feet** and **worshiped** [*proskuneo*] Him.

**BOWING or FALLING DOWN before God  
WITHOUT TRANSLATING *shachah* or *proskuneo* as WORSHIP**

Worshippers	Worship in Response To the Truth About		Prompt	NAS Verse
	Our Self	God		
Abraham			The Lord Appeared	Gen 18:2-3
Joshua			Angel of the Lord	Jos 5:14
Eliezer			Gratitude	Gen 24:52
David			Servants Blessing Solomon	1 Ki 1:47
Heavenly Host	God created angels and us	He is Creator And Life-Giver	God’s Creation	Neh 9:6

**Scriptures that mention BOWING or FALLING down before God  
WITHOUT TRANSLATING *shachah* or *proskuneo* as WORSHIP**

**1. Abraham** bows after “the Lord appeared to him” (Gen 18:1) to announce that within one year Sarah “will have a son” [Isaac] (Gen 18:10).

**Gen 18:2-3** When he [Abraham] lifted up his eyes and looked, behold, three men [likely a theophany with two angels] were standing opposite him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and **bowed** [*shachah*] **himself to the earth**, and **said**, "My lord, if now I have found favor in your sight, please do not pass your servant by.

Years later, in response to God requesting the sacrifice of Isaac as a burnt offering, Abraham said, “we will worship [*shachah*]” (Gen 22:2,5). He equated the loss of his son with an opportunity to worship God. This incident is a foundational ref-



erence specifically addressing worship unless Job's response predates Abraham. David responded in like manner at the loss of his child with Bathsheba.

2. **Eliezer** bows in response to a favorable reply from Laban and Bethuel concerning Rebekah becoming Isaac's wife.

**Gen 24:52** When Abraham's servant [Eliezer] heard their words, he **bowed** [*shachah*] himself to the ground before the LORD. [...worshiped the Lord, bowing himself to the earth. (NKJ)]

3. **Joshua** fell on his face in response to the presence of the captain of the host of the LORD (possible theophany).

**Jos 5:14** He said, "No; rather I indeed come now as captain of the host of the LORD [*Jehovah* means existing one]." And Joshua **fell** [*naphal*] **on his face** to the earth, and **bowed down** [*shachah*], and **said** to him, "What has my lord [*'Adonay*, of men or God; title, spoken in place of Yahweh in Jewish display of reverence] to say to his servant?"

NKJ...Joshua **fell** [*naphal*] **on his face** to the earth and **worshiped** [*shachah*]...

NIV ...Joshua **fell** [*naphal*] **facedown** to the ground **in reverence** [*shachah*]...

4. **David** bows in response to a spoken blessing over his son Solomon. The only other time the Bible records David worshiping God was when he received news that his first child with Bathsheba died.

**1 Ki 1:47** "Moreover, the king's servants came to bless our lord King David, saying, 'May your God make the name of Solomon better than your name and his throne greater than your throne!' And the king **bowed** [*shachah*] himself on the bed." [...**bowed in worship** [*shachah*] **on his bed** (NIV)]

5. **The Heavenly Host** bows down before the Lord, Creator, and Life-giver.

**Neh 9:6** "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.

**WORSHIPING God WITHOUT mentioning FALLING or BOWING DOWN**

Worshippers	Worship in Response To the Truth About		Prompt	NAS Verse
	Our Self	God		
Israelites			Pillar of fire/cloud	Ex 33:10
Jacob			Blessing Joseph's Children	Heb 11:21
Hannah and Elkanah			Yearly time of worship	1 Sa 1:19
Samuel			At Shiloh With Eli	1 Sa 1:28
Saul			Mixed Motives	1 Sa 15:31
David			News of his Child's Death	2 Sa 12:20
Israelites			Reading the Law	Neh 9:3
Samaritan Ancestors			On Mount Gerizim	John 4:20
A Blind Man			Healing and Faith	John 9:38
Disciples		Jesus is the Son of God	Walking on water	Mat 14:33
			Resurrected Christ	Mat 28:17
			Blessing and Ascension	Luke 24:52

**Scriptures that mention WORSHIP WITHOUT MENTIONING FALLING or BOWING Down**

1. **Abraham** considered his act of obedience to sacrifice his beloved son an opportunity for worship.

**Gen 22:5** Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad [Isaac] will go over there; and **we will worship** [*shachah*] and return to you.”

2. **Israelites** worshiped in response to seeing the pillar of cloud

**Ex 33:10** When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would arise and **worship** [*shachah*], each at the entrance of his tent.

**3. Jacob** worshiped

- By faith
- As he was dying
- After blessing his grandchildren Manasseh and Ephraim

**Heb 11:21** By faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and **worshiped** [*proskuneo*], leaning on the top of his staff.

**4. Elkanah** and **Hannah** worshiped at Shiloh according to their yearly custom.

**1 Sa 1:3** Now this man [Elkanah] would go up from his city **yearly to worship** [*shachah*] and to sacrifice to the LORD of hosts in Shiloh.

**1 Sa 1:19** Then they arose early in the morning and **worshiped** [*shachah*] before the LORD, and returned again to their house in Ramah. And Elkanah had relations with Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her.

**5. Samuel** worshiped after Hannah dedicated him to the Lord at Shiloh.

**1 Sa 1:28** "So I have also dedicated him to the LORD; as long as he lives he is dedicated to the LORD." And he [Samuel] **worshiped** [*shachah*] the LORD there.

**6. Saul** worshiped with mixed motives for personal honor, in response to Samuel's announcement that the LORD "has rejected you from being king over Israel" (1 Sa 15:23 and 26).

**1 Sa 15:30** Then he [Saul] said, "I have sinned; but please [Samuel] **honor me now before the elders** of my people and **before Israel**, and go back with me, that I may worship [*shachah*] the LORD your God."

**1 Sa 15:31** So Samuel went back following Saul, and Saul **worshiped** [*shachah*] the LORD.

**7. David** worshiped in response to news that his child with Bathsheba died.

**2 Sa 12:20** So David arose from the ground, washed, anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he came into the house of the LORD and **worshiped** [*shachah*]. Then he came to his own house, and when he requested, they set food before him and he ate.

**8. Israelites** worshiped in response to the reading of the law.

**Neh 9:3** While they stood in their place, they read from the book of the law of the LORD their God for a fourth of the day; and for another fourth they confessed [*yadah*, means to thank, praise, or confess sins] and **worshiped** [*shachah*] the LORD their God.

**9. Samaritan Ancestors** worshiped in Mount Gerizim.

**John 4:20** “Our fathers **worshiped** [*proskuneo*] in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to **worship** [*proskuneo*].”

**10. A Man Born Blind** worshiped Jesus after receiving his sight and believing in Jesus as the Son of Man.

**John 9:38** And he said, “Lord, I believe.” And he **worshiped** [*proskuneo*] Him.

**11. The Disciples** worshiped Jesus after He returned with Peter from walking on the water in response to the revelation that He is the Son of God.

**Mat 14:33** And those who were in the boat **worshiped** [*proskuneo*] Him, saying, “You are certainly God's Son!”

**12. The Disciples** worshiped in response to seeing the resurrected Christ.

**Mat 28:17** When they saw Him, they **worshiped** [*proskuneo*] Him; but some were doubtful.

**13.** In response to Christ’s ascension after a blessing, an assembly of **eleven Disciples** with others (including **Cleopas** and **his companion** from the road to Emmaus) worshiped Him.

**Luke 24:50-52** And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. While He was blessing them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they, after **worshiping** [*proskuneo*] Him, returned to Jerusalem with great joy,

**BOWING or FALLING DOWN before God**  
**WITHOUT using a HEBREW or GREEK WORD for WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>**

Worshippers	Gesture in Response To the Truth About		Prompt	NAS Verse
	Our Self	God		
Abram			God Appeared	Gen 17:3
Ezekiel			God's Glory	Ezekiel 1:28 Ezekiel 3:23 Ezekiel 43:3 Ezekiel 44:4
Samaritan Leper			Gratitude for healing	Luke 17:16
4 Living Creatures 24 Elders			The Lamb Taking the Book	Rev 5:8

**Scriptures that mention FALLING or BOWING before God**  
**WITHOUT USING a HEBREW or GREEK WORD for Worship**

- Abram** fell facedown in response to God’s visible presence as He introduced Himself with commands and promises.

Gen 17:1-2 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said to him, “I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless. I will establish My covenant between Me and you, And I will multiply you exceedingly.”

**Gen 17:3** Abram fell [*naphal*] on his face, and God talked with him, saying,

Gen 17:4-5 “As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, And you will be the father of a multitude of nations. “ No longer shall your name be called Abram, But your name shall be Abraham; For I will make you the father of a multitude of nations.”

- Ezekiel** fell facedown in response to the glory of the LORD and/or the wrath of God and God spoke to him.

**Eze 1:28** As the appearance of the rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the surrounding radiance. Such was the appearance of the

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<sup>1</sup> Indicated with a single asterisk above.

likeness of **the glory of the LORD**. And when I [Ezekiel] saw it, I **fell** [*naphal*] **on my face** and heard a voice speaking.

**Eze 3:23** So I [Ezekiel] got up and went out to the plain; and behold, the **glory of the LORD** was standing there, like **the glory** which I saw by the river Chebar, and I **fell** [*naphal*] **on my face**. [The Spirit then entered Ezekiel, made him stand on his feet, and He spoke]

**Eze 43:3** And it was like **the appearance of the vision** which I [Ezekiel] saw, like the vision which I saw when **He came to destroy** the city. And the visions were [of **the glory of the LORD**] which I saw by the river Chebar; and I **fell** [*naphal*] **on my face**. [Then the glory of the LORD came, the Spirit lifted him into the inner court, the glory of the LORD filled the house, and a voice spoke]

**Eze 44:4** Then He brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the house; and I [Ezekiel] looked, and behold, **the glory of the LORD** filled the house of the LORD, and I **fell** [*naphal*] **on my face**. [Then the LORD spoke]

3. **A Samaritan Leper** fell facedown before Jesus to give thanks for his healing.

**Luke 17:16** and he **fell** [*pipto*] **on his face** at His feet, giving thanks to Him. And he was a Samaritan

4. **4 Living Creatures** and **24 Elders** fall down in response to the Lamb taking the book out of the right hand of Him who sat upon the throne (Rev 5:7).

**Rev 5:8** When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders **fell down** [*pipto*] before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

**FALLING, BOWING, or KNEELING (without using a word for worship)**

**Motivated by a plea for help, urgent need, request, custom, love, grief, or terror**

Individuals	Times	Occasion	NAS Verse
The Israelites	2*	Fell on face as glory of the LORD appeared and fire consumed their offering	Le 9:24
		Fell on face as fire consumed Elijah's offering	1 Ki 18:39

Individuals	Times	Occasion	NAS Verse
Moses and Aaron Fell on their face	5*	Confronted over spies' negative report	Num 14:5
		Allegations by Korah, Dathan, and Abiram	Num 16:4
		Intercession for Israel after Korah's rebellion	Num 16:22 Num 16:45
		Criticized for a national water shortage	Num 20:6
Balaam	1*	Bows before the angel of the Lord	Num 22:31
David and the Elders	1*	Fell on face before the angel of the Lord with a sword over Jerusalem	1 Ch 21:16
Ezra	1*	Prostrated himself in repentance before the house of God	Ezra 10:1
Daniel	1*	Bowed facedown before angelic visitation	Dan 10:15
Ezekiel	2*	Fell on his face during God's wrath and asked a question	Eze 9:8
			Eze 11:13
Peter	1*	Aware of his sin, fell down before Jesus	Luke 5:8
Leper	1	Bowed while asking Jesus for healing	Mat 8:2 (Mark 1:40)* (Luke 5:12)*
Demonized Man in the Gerasenes	1	Bowed while speaking the truth about Jesus and making a request	Mark 5:6 (Luke 8:28)* (Mat 8:9)*
Woman healed 12 yr hemorrhage	1*	Fell down after Jesus Exposed her act of faith	Mark 5:33
Synagogue Official (Jairus)	1	Knelt while asking Jesus to resurrect his daughter	Mat 9:18 (Mark 5:22)*
Syrophoenician Woman	1	Bowed asking Jesus to help demonized daughter	Mat 15:25 (Mark 7:25)*
Father	1*	Fell on his knees while asking Jesus to help his demonized son	Mat: 17:14
Mother of James & John	1	Bowed asking Jesus to promote her sons	Mat 20:20
Wealthy Man	1*	Knelt asking Jesus how to justify himself	Mark 10:17



Individuals	Times	Occasion	NAS Verse
Forgiven Woman Who loved Jesus	1*	Wet Jesus' feet of with her tears, dried them with her hair, and anointed them with costly perfume (falling, bowing or worshiping not mentioned in the text)	Luke 7:36-50
Peter, James, and John on Mt of Transfiguration	1*	Fell terrified at the sound of God's voice	Luke 17:6-7
Jesus	1*	Fell on His face praying	Mat 26:39
Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and other women	1*	Perplexed and terrified, bowed to the ground in Jesus' empty tomb before two "men"	Luke 24:5
Roman soldiers	1*	Knelt before Jesus in mock reverence	Mat 27:29 (Mark 15:19)

**Scriptures that mention FALLING, BOWING, or KNEELING (without using a word for worship)**

**Motivated by a plea for help, urgent need, request, custom, love, grief, or terror**

- 1. The Israelites** fell on their faces as fire consumed the burnt offering on the altar.

**Le 9:24** Then [after the **glory of the LORD appeared** to all the people] fire came out from before the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the portions of fat on the altar; and when all the people saw it, they shouted and **fell** [*naphal*] on their faces.

- 2. All the Israelites** fell on their face in response to the fire that consumed an oxen, which **Elijah** offered with prayer in the presence of Ahab, Jezebel, 450 prophets of Baal, and 400 prophets of the Asherah, (1 Ki 18:19).

**1 Ki 18:37-38** "Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that You, O LORD, are God, and that You have turned their heart back again." Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

**1 Ki 18:39** When all the people saw it, they **fell** [*naphal*] on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God; the LORD, He is God."

3. **Moses** and **Aaron** fell facedown when confronted with the spies' report concerning the Promised Land.  
**Nu 14:5** Then Moses and Aaron **fell** [*naphal*] on their faces in the presence of all the assembly of the congregation of the sons of Israel.
4. **Moses** and **Aaron** fell facedown when confronted with allegations by Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and 250 other leaders that Moses and Aaron exalt themselves above the congregation of the Lord.  
**Nu 16:4** When Moses heard this, he **fell** [*naphal*] **on his face**;
5. **Moses** and **Aaron** fell facedown to intercede for Israel when confronted with the rebellion of Korah, Dathan and Abiram.  
**Nu 16:22** But they [Moses and Aaron] **fell** [*naphal*] on their faces and said, "O God, God of the spirits of all flesh, when one man sins, will You be angry with the entire congregation?"  
**Nu 16:45** "Get away from among this congregation, that I may consume them instantly." Then they [Moses and Aaron] **fell** [*naphal*] on their faces [in the presence of **the glory of the LORD** vs. 42].
6. **Moses** and **Aaron** fell facedown in the tent of meeting in response to complaints for water from the people as **the glory of the Lord appeared**.  
**Num 20:6** Then Moses and Aaron came in from the presence of the assembly to the doorway of the tent of meeting and **fell** [*naphal*] **on their faces**. Then the glory of the LORD appeared to them;
7. **Balaam** bows in response to seeing the angel of the Lord (possible theophany).  
**Num 22:31** Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the way with his drawn sword in his hand; and he **bowed** [*qadad*] **all the way to the ground**.
8. **David** and **the Elders** fell facedown in response to the angel of the Lord (possible theophany).  
**1 Ch 21:16-17** Then David lifted up his eyes and saw the angel of the LORD standing between earth and heaven, with his drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders, covered with sackcloth, **fell** [*naphal*] **on their faces**. David **said** to God, "Is it not I who commanded to count the people? Indeed, I am the one who has sinned and done very wickedly, but these sheep, what have they done? O LORD my God, please

let Your hand be against me and my father's household, but not against Your people that they should be plagued.”

9. **Ezra** fell prostrate weeping, praying, and confessing national sins. The only NAS translation of “prostrate” for any Hebrew or Greek word in reference to God, and here it only refers to the house of God.

**Ezr 10:1** Now while Ezra was praying [for his nations’ sins] and making confession [*yadah*], weeping and **prostrating** [*naphal*, NKJ “bowing down”, NIV “throwing himself down”] himself **before the house of God**, a very large assembly, men, women and children, gathered to him from Israel; for the people wept bitterly.

10. **Daniel** bowed facedown in response to a stunning angelic visitation.

**Dan 10:15** When he had spoken to me according to these words, I **turned** [*nathan*] **my face toward the ground** and became speechless.

NIV I **bowed with my face toward the ground** and was speechless.

11. **Ezekiel fell on his face in response to the wrath of God and asked a Him question?**

**Eze 9:8** As they were striking the people and I [Ezekiel] alone was left, I **fell** [*naphal*] **on my face** and cried out saying, “Alas, Lord GOD! Are You destroying the whole remnant of Israel by pouring out **Your wrath** on Jerusalem?” [Then God spoke to Ezekiel]

**Eze 11:13** Now it came about as I [Ezekiel] prophesied, that Pelatiah son of Benaiah died. Then I **fell** [*naphal*] **on my face** and cried out with a loud voice and said, “Alas, Lord GOD! **Will You bring the remnant of Israel to a complete end?**” [Then the word of the LORD came to Ezekiel]

12. **Peter**, aware of his sin, fell down while asking Jesus to depart after Jesus directed an abundant catch of fish.

**Luke 5:8** But when Simon Peter saw that [catch of fish], he **fell down** [*prospipto*] at Jesus' feet, saying, "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

13. **Leper** bows down or falls on his knees while presenting a request for healing from Jesus.

**Mat 8:2** And a leper came to Him and **bowed down** [*proskuneo*] before Him, and **said**, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."

**Mark 1:40** And a leper came to Jesus, beseeching Him and **falling** [*gonupeteo*] on his knees before Him, and saying, "If You are willing, You can make me clean."

- 14. A Man in the Gerasenes** possessed by a legion of unclean spirits bows while asking Jesus a question and presenting a request. In this case, Mark refers to bowing (from *proskuneo*) while Matthew avoids any mention of bowing, falling, or worship (Mat 8:29). Luke writing to the Greeks refers to falling (from *prospipto*).

**Mark 5:6** Seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and **bowed down** [*proskuneo*] before Him; and shouting with a loud voice, he said, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God, do not torment me!"

**Luke 8:28** Seeing Jesus, he cried out and **fell** [*prospipto*] **before Him**, and said in a loud voice, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me."

- 15. A Woman** fell down before Jesus confessing the truth about her covert act of faith. Secretly touching Jesus' garment resulted in the healing of a 12-year hemorrhage condition.

**Mark 5:33** But the woman fearing and trembling, aware of what had happened to her, came and **fell down before Him** and told Him the whole truth.

- 16. A Synagogue Official** named **Jairus** bows while presenting a request that Jesus resurrect his daughter from the dead. Writing to the Jews, Matthew's gospel describes this account using a Greek word commonly translated as worship, i.e., *proskuneo*, while Mark writing to the Romans uses *prospipto*.

**Mat 9:18** While He was saying these things to them, a synagogue official came and **bowed down** [*proskuneo*] before Him, and **said**, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay Your hand on her, and she will live."

**Mark 5:22** One of the synagogue officials named Jairus came up, and on seeing Him, **fell** [*prospipto*] **at His feet**

- 17. A Canaanite or Syrophenician Woman** bows while presenting a request that Jesus deliver her demonized daughter. Again, Matthew describes the account using a Greek word commonly translated as worship, i.e., *proskuneo*, while Mark uses *prospipto*.

**Mat 15:25** But she came and began to **bow down** [*proskuneo*] before Him [Jesus], **saying**, "LORD, help me!" [in behalf of her daughter]

**Mark 7:25** But after hearing of Him, a [Syrophoenician] woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately came and **fell** [*prospipto*] **at His feet**.

**18. A Father with a demonized son** fell on his knees before Jesus. Parallel accounts (Mark 9:17 and Luke 9:38) do not mention falling or bowing.

**Mat 17:14** When they [Jesus, Peter, James, and John] came to the crowd [from the Mt of Transfiguration], a man came up to Jesus, falling on his knees before Him and saying, ["Lord, have mercy on my son..."]

**19. The Mother** of the Sons of Zebedee bows while presenting a request that Jesus exalt her two sons.

**Mat 20:20** Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons, **bowing down** [*proskuneo*] and **making a request** of Him.

**20. Wealthy man** knelt while asking Jesus for a way to justify himself.

**Mark 10:17** ... a man ran up to Him and knelt [*gonupeteo*] before Him, and began asking Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

**21. A Woman forgiven of her sins** wet Jesus' feet with her tears, dried them with her hair, and anointed them from an alabaster jar of costly perfume.

**Luke 7:37-38** And there was a woman in the city who was a sinner; and when she learned that He was reclining at the table in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume, and standing behind Him at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume.

**22. Peter, James, and John** fell facedown terrified at the sound of the Father's audible voice.

**Luke 17:6-7** When the disciples heard this ["This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"], they **fell** [*pipto*] **facedown** to the ground and were terrified. And Jesus came to them and touched them and said, "Get up, and do not be afraid."

**23. Jesus** fell facedown in travail before His Father.

**Mat 26:39** And He went a little beyond them, and **fell** [*pipto*] **on His face** and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will."

**24. Roman soldiers** knelt before Jesus in mock reverence.

**Mark 15:19** They [Roman soldiers] kept beating His head with a reed, and spitting on Him, and **kneeling** [*gonu*] and **bowing** [*proskuneo*] before Him.

**Mat 27:29** And after weaving a crown of thorns, they [Roman soldiers] put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand; and they **kneeled down** [*gonupeteo*] before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

**25.** Perplexed and terrified in Jesus' empty tomb, **Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and other women** bowed to the ground before two "men".

**Luke 24:5** While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living One among the dead?"