

Do we really “Worship”?

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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

Summary:

Why do we “go to church services” or to the Feast? This sermon explores the word “worship”. What did that word mean in the original Hebrew and Greek? Does our concept of “worship” in English match what the original Hebrew and Greek referred to? What did Yeshua mean when he said we would worship God “in spirit and truth”? Do you and I really worship? We could be worshipping in vain, according to our Savior. Let’s worship correctly. This message explains how and why.

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[Note: I prefer to use the Almighty’s most personal name –YHVH-- instead of “the Lord” in the Old Testament scriptures; and “Yeshua”, the name his mama called him in Hebrew –meaning Salvation, rather than “Jesus”. Sometimes I use both. And Yeshua called his father and our father – Abba – Aramaic for “dear daddy”, so I do too. Sometimes I refer to “Yah”, a shortened form for God’s personal name used in the Bible, instead of Yahweh.

I recommend you print off these notes but also follow along with the audio. You’ll get the most out of this website if you do it that way. These are “approximate transcripts” only. Enjoy, and may Yahweh bless you mightily.]

Wonderful sabbath day, brothers and sisters in our Messiah, Yeshua the Son of God. I hope the topic today will make you really think hard and long about a very commonly used word in many churches.

In a few weeks, many of you will be keeping the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot). And on the sabbath day – yes, we keep the 7th day sabbath – we attend services or “go to church” and fellowship with various other believers.

Question: WHY do you go to sabbath services? What quick answers come to your mind? Write them down, say them out loud if you’re in a small group.

Now, for those of you who keep the Feast of Tabernacles, why do you go to keep the feast – the divine appointments with our Maker?

In many of the sabbath-keeping groups, there will be answers like:

- I go to church and the Feast of Tabernacles because God commands us to assemble ourselves on the sabbath and holydays.
- **“I go to church and to the Feast to ...”**, then we hear various answers: to learn to fear God, to learn of his way, to be with brethren of like mind; to picture the coming World Tomorrow, the Millennium; to prepare to be a king and a priest/teacher;

Those answers are fine, as far as they go. But now, I wonder if anyone – or if all of you said the reason people in the future will be keeping the Feast of Tabernacles after Yeshua returns (Yeshua is the Hebrew name of Jesus) is this:

The answer I didn't hear...

Zechariah 14:16-17

“And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up **from year to year *to worship the King***, YHVH [YHWH] of hosts, **and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles**. 17 And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to **Jerusalem to worship the King**, YHVH of hosts, on them there will be no rain.”

Remember I use the names YHVH, Yeshua, Abba and so forth to refer to the LORD, Jesus and Father.

Back to my question: why do we go to the Feast of Tabernacles? The prophecy in Zechariah says “To worship”.

When you've gone to the Feast the last few years, have you and your family talked about going there to WORSHIP? Or do we end up talking about who will be there, what we'll be doing, and what we should wear? By contrast, King David speaks quite often about worshipping his great Creator.

He says to give Yahweh the glory due his name, and worship him in the beauty of holiness (Psalm 29:2).

I want to discuss the word “Worship” today. This message I hope, will make you think. It might even make you angry at me at first because I will challenge long cherished beliefs about “worship”.

So let's hammer home that people went to Jerusalem to WORSHIP. Maybe you can't go to Jerusalem, but do you consciously think, as you go to church services, that you're going to worship?

1 Samuel 1:3 – *Samuel's parents went every year to Jerusalem “to WORSHIP” – and in their worship, they also sacrificed.*

Even in the New Testament:

John 12:20

“Now there were certain Greeks among those who **came up to worship at the feast.**”

Also, Acts 8:27 about the Ethiopian eunuch. He had gone to Jerusalem to worship.

Acts 8:26-28

“Now an angel of YHVH spoke to Philip, saying, “Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is desert. 27 So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, **and had come to Jerusalem to worship**, 28 was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet.

Even *after* Christ's resurrection, note what Paul says in Acts 24:10-14. You might want to read this with me. He said HE ALSO went to Jerusalem to WORSHIP and that he worshiped God “according to the Way” that was now being called a sect. Let's read it:

Acts 24:10-14

“Then Paul, after the governor had nodded to him to speak, answered: “Inasmuch as I know that you have been for many years a judge of this nation, I do the more cheerfully answer for myself, 11 because you may ascertain that it is *no more than twelve days since I went up to Jerusalem to worship*. 12 And they neither found me in the temple disputing with anyone nor inciting the crowd, either in the synagogues or in the city. 13 Nor can they prove the things of which they now accuse me. 14 But this I confess to you, that **according to the Way which they call a sect, so I WORSHIP the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets.**”

If you get nothing else from this message, I want to be sure you are getting this: become more aware of worship, worshipping, and going to services and to the Feast – to worship.

The Bible also speaks of 2 kinds of worship: PERSONAL worship – just you and YHWH, and there’s group or corporate worship: when you go to services and all come together, that’s corporate worship.

WHAT DOES “WORSHIP” REALLY MEAN?
BASING THEOLOGY ON ENGLISH instead of ORIGINAL WORDS

What I’m going to say next will bother many of you. People have a very definite mindset about what “worship” is. And they mix it with other words – like praise, singing, sacrificing, the way we live, and so on. In many churches, the “worship service” is the time when people are singing “praise and worship” songs. The reason is, that in ENGLISH, that’s what the word means.

And get this: when the translators translated the original Hebrew into English, the word they choose creates certain impressions. Now I’m going to start with Webster’s English definition but then show you how our ENGLISH word “worship” often falls short of the crisp, clean and simple Hebrew word and what that Hebrew word means.

WEBSTER’s dictionary says “worship” is “*the act of showing respect and love to a god, especially by praying with other people who believe in the same god*.” It can also mean excessive adoration for someone.” So in some cases we even call certain people “your Worship”. I don’t. We really shouldn’t. I don’t even like being called “reverend” – as scripture tells us “reverend is HIS name.” (Psalm 111:9 KJV).

Are you with me so far?

Our English word “worship” goes back to an Olde English word that basically meant “worth-ship”. Someone worthy, or worth-ship pointed to the worth of something or someone. Now God in heaven is certainly WORTHY of worship and praise and thanksgiving. So I’m not against that definition, but here’s the problem: the original Hebrew word that is most commonly translated “worship” ... is quite a bit more simple.

What I’m saying is our English word “worship” has come to mean something quite different from the original Hebrew – and even original Greek words—translated now as “worship”.

So what is it in HEBREW, you ask!?

THE HEBREW WORD (Strong's 7812) TRANSLATED "WORSHIP"

The Hebrew word that is most often translated "worship" is **Strong's word #7812** – ***shachah*** – pronounced "shaw-khaw" – and Strong's says "to depress, lie prostrate in homage to royalty or God."

In the actual King James Version, this one word is actually translated throughout the Old Testament scriptures as "to bow down, to crouch, to fall down flat, to humbly beseech, do obeisance, do reverence, to stoop, orworship."

The primary word used that the English translators said is "worship" – is simply to BOW WAY DOWN BEFORE someone.

Cultural issue: But the problem is that in the West, as a general rule, we don't bow or bow down to anyone, ever, especially in America and Australia. But get this: so here's the problem, the Hebrew word we see in English as "worship" is simply the word "BOW DOWN TO".

Now in Africa and Asia and the Middle East – bowing is quite common, to someone you want to show respect to. My Kenyan brothers and sisters might find this aspect of worship comes more naturally to them than to us here in the West and NW Europe.

Are you with me so far?

Now I'm saying the Hebrew and even the main Greek word used for "worship" mean to bow down, even WAY down. But when we sing praises, and lift our eyes up, and hands up, and sing and rejoice – and all that is TERRIFIC, fine and great – but is that then technically BOWING DOWN?

I'm teaching that we need to have more times of just BOWING our head deeply and low before God – literally. But it has to be of the HEART, of having a BOWED DOWN HEART, or it is meaningless. Our SPIRIT has to be bowed down before God. Our spirit in us – the spirit in man, as the Bible calls it, along with God's Holy Spirit in us – have to come before God's presence too, fully alert, fully aware – and fully bowed down in deep reverent respect and AWE of the Being in whose presence we have just come.

I'm not saying we bow in terror, or in trembling fear – for perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:17-19). In fact, when people in the Bible tended to literally be shaking and trembling in fear in the presence of God, Yeshua or even angels, what was the one consistent message from Yeshua, from angels and others? It was always "fear NOT; don't be afraid."

(Isaiah 41:10-13; 43:1, 5; Daniel 10:19; Luke 24:36-38; John 20:19, 26 – Peace, "shalom" ...; Revelation 1:17-18)

But do we bow? How much time each day does each of us actually spend BOWING before God - - for that is the word meaning in Hebrew of the word translated "worship" – when we're bowing reverently, to God.

Maybe we haven't experienced YHVH closely enough to know to BOW and FEEL His awesome presence so deeply that we quickly bow anyway! We can be

too flippant. We can be filled so much with the desire to learn, to hear the sermon, to sing, to praise – that we forget to BOW. We forget, in other words, to really WORSHIP.

Now here comes a real issue: we KNOW we are to **worship** GOD ONLY. When Satan was trying to tempt Yeshua (Jesus) into bowing before him, Yeshua said, “Worship GOD, and Him ONLY shall you serve” (Matthew 4:10).

But remember what I said: the Hebrew word “shachah” means to bow. It is used 172 times in scripture but only 99 of those times is it translated as “worship”. Most of the other times it is translated as “bow, bow down” or similar phrases.

AND, that SAME WORD “shachah” that is translated as “worship” toward YHVH is also translated as “bowed” -- same word – toward MEN. Even Abraham bowed toward men. Bear with me, as I’ll show you both.

But do you remember in the book of **Revelations 22:8-9** when even an apostle, the apostle JOHN himself reactively just bowed down and tried to worship a glorious angel, the angel stopped him. But even in the New Testament, notice that the “worship” that John was about to give included bowing down to the feet of that angel.

So my take on this is this:

- Bowing before men in simple respect is fine. That’s not worship. It’s simple respect. I’ll show you some verses on that in a few minutes. We in the West should start doing this more, though some people would think it odd.
- However, bowing (the same word in Hebrew) before God – reverently, as we acknowledge and worship him as our God and master – now that is worship, if our hearts and spirits are there.

But the KEY is to literally BOW, and more importantly, to come with a BOWED DOWN HEART, a bowed down SPIRIT to One who is God Most High, who is the Supreme Being in the universe. **No, YOU are not #1.** There’s a saying “Looking out for #1” – meaning ourselves. As children of God, we don’t ever say that. OUR #1 is God Almighty, Abba. And Yeshua the Creator, who came and died for me, he’s right there with God Almighty, though Abba – God the Father – is the greatest of all.

We also bow to Yeshua, who in fact was the CREATOR who spoke all things into existence - - except mankind, whom he formed with his own hands. And mankind was the ONLY creation into which YHVH breathed into, giving us something the animals do not have. We are not animals. We are of the human kind, made in the image and likeness of God himself.

Examples of worship by bowing

So when we come to PRAY before YHVH, before our heavenly Father, we come with a very humbled, reverent attitude – a prepared heart. Yeshua taught us to pray, “Hallowed be your name”. Hallowed, holy, special, reverent – is the name “Abba” – which we all use, or “Father”, in reference to God the Father. Hallowed and holy is the most personal name of the Highest -- YHVH. And remember those of the Philadelphian attitude of Revelation 3:12 are those who have not denied his name! (You might want to hear my sermons on What is the Creator’s Name? – given in 2012?)

Here are some great examples of the first way we bow with a BOWED HEART, WITH A FEELING OF AWE and reverence towards God, especially if YHVH has REVEALED HIMSELF in a powerful way:

Notice how Abrahams' servant reacted when he realized how much God had blessed his trip and led him to Rebecca:

Genesis 24:52 *"And it came to pass, when Abraham's servant heard their words, that he worshipped YHVH, [bowing himself] to the earth."*

In the original Hebrew, the words "bowing himself" aren't even there. It simply says, "that he shachaded (bowed reverently) to the ground, to YHVH". Various versions have it that way – the NET, CJB, NIV, NASU, and in this case, those versions leave out the additional English words that you find in the KJV and NKJV. He simply bowed reverently to the ground – and that is translated as "worshipped" in KJV and NKJV. This servant felt and saw God's presence and intervention in finding a wife, and wanted to bow himself reverently to His Maker.

Have you and I EVER bowed reverently to God right to the ground, to the pavement, to the carpet or whatever is ground to you?

Please get this: I'm not saying we can't look up. I'm not saying we can't raise our hands up. I teach we should and we can! But what I'm saying here is **START with head deeply bowed** first, with your HEART deeply bowed first, then AFTER that, sure – you can raise your head and hands and look up into YHVH's loving face and arms.

Another example is in 2 Chronicles 7, at the dedication of the temple **Solomon** had built for Yah and was dedicating at the Feast of Tabernacles that year: Turn to 2 Chron 7. Solomon has just prayed a beautiful prayer of dedication, with his arms lifted up to heaven, (2 Chron 6:12) – and now we continue:

1 Kings 8:54 SOLOMON

"And so it was, when Solomon had finished praying all this prayer and supplication to YHVH, that he arose from before the altar of YHVH, **from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven.**"

2 Chron 7:1-3 "When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of YHVH filled the temple. 2 And the priests could not enter the house of YHVH, because the glory of YHVH had filled YHVH's house. 3 *When all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of YHVH on the temple, **they bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement, and worshiped (shachah) and praised YHVH, saying, For He is good, For His mercy endures forever.***"

The Israelites witnessed Yah's presence on this day – and so bowed reverently with their faces to the ground. The word is translated "worshipped" in English in NJKV and KJV. Here we DO see the BOWING (translated "worshipped") and then the subsequent PRAISE that follows. But WORSHIP – bowing – comes first.

IN this case, there's a different Hebrew word for "bowed" – and they did bow but then when they GOT on the GROUND – that word is *shachah*, bowed/prostrated on the pavement.

The BEST examples of when this is used for the Creator God we worship, are the times when they are overwhelmed by His miracles, His protection, his presence, his actions, his deliverance – times like that.

Joshua 5:14 – Joshua, when realizing he was facing the Captain of the Host of God, the one who became Yeshua 1500 years later, bowed himself to the ground in worship.

Would you and I have done the same thing if that had been you or me? To the ground? I wonder. We may have bowed our heads while standing, but would we have bowed to the ground?

Would we EVER in fact – though it's not our culture – BOW TO THE GROUND in worship to anyone, or anything? I just want us thinking about this: if God appeared to us majestically in various ways, have you EVER bowed your head deeply and started praising in worship?

Certainly this is why I think it's so important for us Americans and Canadians and Aussies to be sure, if our knees/joints allow us to, to bow on our knees at least 2-3x a day beside our bed or other private place before our Maker.

Psalms 95:6-7

"Oh come, let us worship (shachah- bow reverently) and bow (kara) down;
Let us kneel before YHVH our Maker.
7 For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture,
And the sheep of His hand."

I'll keep saying it: the HEBREW word for "worship" primarily means to bow reverently, even to the ground at times, even prostrate at times, or even on both knees. At least to deeply bow the head in reverent respect and worship and awe.

Note: If you can't kneel due to severe pain in your hips and knees – Abba surely understands. But bow your heart and head!

Ezra 9:5 Ezra in petitioning God's mercy..

At the evening sacrifice I arose from my fasting; and having torn my garment and my robe, **I fell on my knees and spread out my hands** to YHVH my God.

There are times of private bowing/praying and worship – and there are definitely times of praying in a group, or in front of others. Yeshua taught that our primary prayer should be private, where people can't see or hear.

Let me state again: worship is happening when we are so focused on the greatness and majesty and awesomeness of being in the presence of YHVH, that we bow our heads. WE ARE MAGNIFYING GOD THE FATHER and Yeshua when we worship – and making ourselves lesser.

In talking with a pastor I work with in Kenya, he said, "Worship is not something we can make anyone do. It is something that is a natural outflow of a life lived for Yeshua."

And I will add: It's also the natural outflow of a life that realizes the greatness, grandeur, majesty and sheer power and love of God Most High."

HE is your Master. HE is your WILL now. His words are now your words. His desires are now are desires. HE is the One we obey and fear to disobey. He is the one we WANT to obey and walk as he walked.

WHAT YESHUA (Jesus) SAID ABOUT WORSHIP

In the New testament, there are so many examples of this. But first, let's look at something Yeshua said. In John 4, he had been talking to a woman of very ill repute.

Yeshua said you and I can worship in vain if our hearts aren't in it.

Matthew 15:7-9

7 Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying:

*8 "These people draw near to Me with their mouth,
And honor Me with their lips, **But their heart is far from Me.**
9 And in vain they worship (Gr: sebomai- reverence) Me,
Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."*

So it is very possible to worship our Father in vain, all for nothing! Our HEARTS have to be in it when we pray, when we sing, when we come before him. We need to be thinking about WHO it is we are coming before.

We easily put our hearts into a sports context – football, soccer, basketball – whatever. It's easy to shout for joy when our team scores the winning touch down. But what about putting our hearts into praising and worshipping?

Have you ever shouted "Hallelujah!" - - or translated "Praise Yah!, Praise the Lord! This was done oftentimes after the bowing. We're TOLD to shout to our Maker in JOY!

Psalms 100:1-2

Make a joyful shout to YHVH, all you lands!

Serve YHVH with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

- **WORSHIP works best when we're in relationship with our great God; when we are pleasing to Him; when worship is accompanied with the "BEAUTY OF HOLINESS" – PSALM 29:2** *"Give unto YHVH the glory due unto his name; **worship YHVH in the beauty of holiness.**"*

Our heavenly Father wants us coming before him repentant, cleaned up spiritually, and with a heart to obey – to be HOLY because HE is holy. To ask for His Spirit to indwell us, cleansing us, helping us be obedient. He wants us covered by Yeshua.

So many still think the best place to worship God is in a church building. WE ARE the church – the called out ones. The “ekklesia” is anyone called out and who has God’s spirit. We are not just standing on holy ground, we ARE holy ground, for we are the temple of the spirit of God. The temple – where worship used to primarily take place. We’re IT now.

Notice what Yeshua said to the sinful Samaritan woman at the well in John 4.

John 4:19-24

19 The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship."

21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming **when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.** 22 You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 **God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."**

We can't worship the One who IS light, who is TRUTH, who is LOVE – if we come before him with lies, with untrue doctrines, with unrepented sin.

In the old covenant, there was a lot of ceremony and ritual associated with worship. It had to be in Jerusalem. Had to be at the temple. Had to be with priests. And on and on. Now with Messiah having come, the temple building, the importance of being in the city of Jerusalem, or on the physical Mt. Zion -- don't matter anymore.

Paul says in Hebrews 12:22 that we've come to heavenly Jerusalem, heavenly Mt. Zion – and it's open to who call on Yeshua, from all around the world. Instead of ritual and ceremony, God now wants our hearts, our spirit. I think it can include spirited worship – but I think it's more than that. Man has “a spirit in man”, through which we can understand the things of Holy Spirit. It's a good interface to God's spirit, that God uses when He opens our minds to understand His ways, his truths, his mind. “Let this mind be in you...”, remember? That's possible only by God's spirit working with **ours (1 Corinthians 2:9)**. God's spirit verifies we are God's children, as God works with our spirit (Romans 8:14-16).

We have a spirit in man (Ecclesiastes 12:7) that goes back to the Father when we die. That's why Yeshua committed his spirit, when dying on the cross/tree – back to his Father (Luke 23:46). So I think worshipping “in spirit” has a lot to do with this, and not just with having our hearts in our worship, or being spirited (as some teach) – though our hearts DO have to be in it, as I showed in Matthew 15:7-9.

So we are to come PREPARED in our SPIRIT, in our heart – and our SPIRIT IS AWAKE, ALIVE, and ready to be part of this time with YHVH.

But Yeshua also said to worship Father in truth. And yes, he wants truth, he wants us believing and teaching the right things too. Truth matters. But when we use doctrinal differences to sue one another, to lash out, to divide the body – then we're going too far. There ARE “salvational issues” of doctrine that we don't want to compromise with at all.

But then there are many doctrinal differences that don't affect your salvation. So we see Paul telling the Romans, for example, not to make a big deal about someone believing they can't eat meat, or believing they can. It doesn't matter, he says. There IS a right and wrong about that – but, per Paul's inspired writing – some points of doctrine don't really matter.

Some people – and I have in the past myself – have wanted to prove their doctrinal point so hard that they end up in “Bible fights”. Instead of people coming together to worship, they end up coming together to see who can defeat the other's argument.

So some doctrines are central to salvation. That truth you keep. And bring that truth with you as you worship.

But bring your HEART as well. Bring your SPIRIT into the bowing and worship. WORSHIP/BOWING WITH YOUR WHOLE HEART, WITH all your heart, with some passion of the right kind of passion – that brings SPIRIT into the worship. It stirs the heart. It has soul and meaning. But a lot of passion without right knowledge is blown away eventually too. We need spirit and truth together.

Neh 12:43. *These early worshippers shouted for joy as they worshiped God as the new temple foundation was being laid.*

Have you ever shouted for joy in WORSHIP? Have you ever shouted out alone or in a group – “Hallelujah!” as you worshiped? David says to!

If you had been in Jerusalem when the ark was being brought back and David was singing, dancing and rejoicing with all his heart – here's a question: would YOU have joined him? Would you feel comfortable enough with worshipping

Sometime also read Isaiah 1 completely. Here we can hear Yah's heart. He is amazed how a donkey or goat can recognize its master, but God's people sometimes don't. He chastises them verbally, but then PLEADS with them to repent that their sins, though they be as scarlet, can be white as snow. In the verses before verse 10, Yah tells the Jews of that day that there was simply too much evil going on. He calls them rulers of Sodom and people of Gomorrah – two very wicked cities in earlier days. Their sins were beyond “sodomy” – but included greed, avarice, cruelty, idolatry – see the full story in Ezekiel 16.

He's saying to us: “You can't think you can be evil most of the time, then come and act all holy before me “during church” or on the sabbaths and holydays, and think I feel honored and worshiped. I don't!” Now let's pick up at Isaiah 1:10:

Isaiah 1:10-20

10 Hear the word of YHVH, You rulers of Sodom; Give ear to the law of our God, You people of Gomorrah:

11 "To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?" says YHVH.

"I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed cattle. I do not delight in the blood of bulls, Or of lambs or goats.

12 "When you come to appear before Me, Who has required this from your hand, To trample My courts?

13 Bring no more futile sacrifices; Incense is an abomination to Me. The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies — **I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting.**

14 Your New Moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates; They are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing them.

15 When you spread out your hands [PRAY], I will hide My eyes from you; Even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. *Your hands are full of blood.*

16 "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, 17 Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow.

18 "Come now, and let us reason together, "Says YHVH, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.

19 If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land; 20 But if you refuse and rebel, You shall be devoured by the sword"; For the mouth of YHVH has spoken.

Remember other cases of people coming to worship. When they came in the wrong way, disobediently, they were not accepted.

- **CAIN** – came with offerings. But his attitude and heart and practice were all wrong, so God was not pleased with Cain or his offerings (Genesis 4)

So as we worship, let's be sure we first have repented of our sins and are not compromising with God's ways and teachings and laws. Otherwise we're like David – who even after murdering Uriah and the sin with Bathsheba continued to worship at the tabernacle, no doubt. But Nathan the prophet said GOD had said that David had caused the enemies of God to blaspheme, because of David's sin. **(2 Samuel 12:13-14).**

More N.T. TEACHINGS AND EXAMPLES OF THIS KIND OF WORSHIP

Even Yeshua knelt, in Gethsemane:

Luke 22:41-42

And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, 42 saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

Matt 28:8-9 after Jesus' resurrection:

"And they [the women disciples] departed quickly from the sepulcher with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word. 9 And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, 'All hail'. *And they came and **held him by the feet, and worshiped (Greek: proskuneo) him***"

Acts 20:36 On the beach at Ephesus with the group:

And when he had said these things, ***he knelt down and prayed with them all.***

Acts 21:5 When Paul about to leave group in Tyre:

When we had come to the end of those days, we departed and went on our way; and they all accompanied us, with wives and children, till we were out of the city. **And WE knelt down on the shore and prayed.**

Our daily prayers *are* private, Yeshua taught in **Matthew 6:5-7**. In your private bedroom (kjb – closet). Not to be seen. But there certainly ARE times the people of God prayed openly, on their knees, in front of one another. Are you prepared to do that? DO you do that? Would you EVER do that?

My point is simple here: yes, your personal prayers and worship should be personal and private. But don't take that theology to the point where you think it would always be wrong to ever worship, on your knees even, as a group.

Remember also in Acts 12, that when Herod had beheaded James the apostle, and was about to behead Peter, that the whole Jerusalem body of believers (many had been scattered by then) came together to someone's house TO PRAY TOGETHER.

Acts 12:5, 12-17

5 Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. (then the story of the deliverance)

12 So, when he had considered this, he came to **the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying.** 13 And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a girl named Rhoda came to answer.

14 When she recognized Peter's voice, because of her gladness she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter stood before the gate. 15 But they said to her, "You are beside yourself!" Yet she kept insisting that it was so. So they said, "It is his angel."

16 Now Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished.

Would you do that? Gather with other believers to pray for someone in need of deep prayer? I hope so.

But be sure to have kneeling time, as you bow – if your knees and hips allow it. Look at what's happening in heaven:

Revelation 7:11-12

11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying:

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

Revelation 11:15-17

15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" 16 **And the twenty-four elders** who sat before God on their thrones **fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 saying:**

"We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty,
The One who is and who was and who is to come,
Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.

Are we getting the picture? Worship STARTS with the realization of who God is, and when we come before him, we BOW, even to the ground in our room, and sometimes in public if the occasion is natural for it.

And then EVERYTHING we do from that moment on is to bring him glory and honor. If we are truly TRUE WORSHIPERS, we are changing. We are wanting to obey. We are not wanting to sin anymore – though the flesh is weak and we still stumble. We hate sin now. We really hate it when we fail, and we repent, and seek to go in the right direction now.

I need to add, for the sake of accuracy, that the Hebrew word “shachah” meaning “bowed down” – 99 out of 172 times is translated as “worship”. The other times, it simply means “bowed” – and sometimes to humans. It’s NOT wrong to bow to a human or angel. It IS wrong if your heart is wanting to worship.

You *can* bow in RESPECT to a king or queen, or even to your neighbor – but NOT to worship, but simply show respect. That’s the difference.

In the notes, I’ll have a section with the verses about bowing down to people.

BOWING TO PEOPLE, angels and other things

A few examples of godly men and women bowing (*shachah*) to other men or angels, but NOT in worship:

Genesis 19:2-- Lot bowed (*shachah*- same word translated “worship” when pointing to God) to the ground to the 2 angels who came to Sodom. But he wasn’t reverently bowing or worshipping, just showing respect. That’s the difference.

Genesis 23:7,12—Abraham bowed out of respect to the people of the land.
(From the same Hebrew word - *shachah* – used also in worshipping God)

Genesis 27:29 – Isaac here is blessing Jacob, and saying nations would shachah (bow down) to him.

Ruth 2:10- - Ruth bowed herself to the ground before Boaz when first meeting him.

Esther 3:1-5 – the people of Persia bowed down to Haman, but Mordecai would neither bow down nor pay any reverence. And he got into trouble with Haman for that. But when the others bowed, they also worshiped or “did reverence” – which Mordecai could not do to a man.

So you see, it’s not that bowing to a man is wrong. It’s what’s in the heart that makes it right or wrong. ***For that matter, we can bow down to God, but as you’ll see in a few minutes, if our HEARTS aren’t in it, it means nothing to YHVH.***

Even in the new covenant: One of the main words for worship” is *proskuneo* #4352 Strong's. There are other words for “worship” in the New Testament. IT also means primarily to bow down.

Gotta end it there.

Once we KNOW to whom we are bowing, and with whom we are dealing, that original bowing evidences itself frequently with praising, singing, clapping, speaking of him – and excited about all he is doing for us.

PSALM 29:2

*“Give unto YHVH the glory due unto his name; **worship** YHVH in the beauty of holiness.”*

Psalms 100:1-2

Make a joyful shout to YHVH, all you lands!

Serve YHVH with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.

Learn to experience and have your “meeting” with Yah by his creation!

Psalms 19:1

“The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork”.

Psalms 97:6

“The heavens declare His righteousness, And all the peoples see His glory.”

Just this evening, there was a GLORIOUS sunset and after we took a few pictures, I literally just bowed my head in my back yard and spoke “Glory, glory, glory to you Father. Holy, holy, holy are you. And Yeshua – you made everything there is. You spoke – and things came into existence. What a glorious sunset. I praise, worship and honor you for who and what you are.”

Learn to “see God” in his creation. Romans 1 says creation makes it evident we have a Creator! So a few days ago, I was weeding my front garden when an absolutely striking large **butterfly – yellows and blacks** – fluttered up to me. I couldn't HELP but exclaim, “WOW, Yeshua! WOW! Look at you! Look at what you made for us to enjoy! Praise you, Yeshua.” *Then I bowed my head, and whispered, “I worship you, Yeshua. I worship you.”*

So we don't wait for a burning bush to appear in our back yard, or for a loud voice like thunder from heaven before you bow and worship. Mind you, I had a burning TREE not long ago from a crack of lightning! But don't wait for a vision before you start really bowing to the ground and worshipping! You are being given visions of God all the time.

There's the song “I believe” and it has a line like this in it:

“Every time I hear a newborn baby cry, or touch a leaf, or see the sky – ‘ then I know why, I believe.”

AND YES – ONCE WE TRULY BOW DOWN AND WORSHIP, WE WILL OFTEN BREAK OUT IN SONG, PRAISING AND GLORIFYING OUR GOD.

So, this Feast, this sabbath – remember why you're there: to WORSHIP the Eternal God.

Bow down your heads and worship him. Bow down your hearts and worship Him.

Psalms 32:9

Be glad in YHVH and rejoice, you righteous;
And shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Psalms 47:1

Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! **Shout to God** with the voice of triumph!

Psalms 95:1-2

Oh come, let us sing to YHVH! **Let us shout joyfully to the Rock** of our salvation.

2 Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving;

Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

Nehemiah 8:6

“And Ezra blessed YHVH, the great God. **Then all the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands.** And they **bowed** their heads and **worshiped** YHVH with their faces to the ground.

Is our worship like that?

God enjoys being worshiped in song, in praise, in prayer, with musical instruments, even in celebration with great joy! Brethren, do your own study on how God's people worshipped – and on what God enjoys as we worship Him – and then don't be shy to do it! God is measuring us, His temple now, to see if we are true worshippers or not. So, next feast – and every day until the next Feast -- think about being here to *worship*. And we shall not be worshipping in vain.

Don't forget, "the hour is coming, and NOW IS, when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship him." Let us do as David teaches, and as we sing in church, "Oh come, and let us WORSHIP Him".

Let's worship with gusto, with holy reverence, and with our hearts passionately in it -- as we seek to praise, worship and bring Him all the glory and adoration possible! As we do, we remember – worship results in a holy change. It causes our hearts to bow.

Learn to see Abba, learn to see Yeshua – in your daily lives... thru a sunset, a rainbow, a butterfly, a giant craggy mountain peak – and in those moments, bow your head, worship, and praise him for his majesty and goodness.