

Worship

Worship Defined

Genesis 22:1 - 5

Worship Series

- What Is Worship – Genesis 22:1 - 5
- The Objective Of Worship - 2 Kings 17:36 – 40
- The Audience Of Worship – Exodus 34:14,
Deut 26:10
- The Participants Of Worship – 1 Samuel 1:3, 1
Chronicles 16:29 - 36

Prayer In Worship

- Call To Worship – Prayer by Elders/Deacons on behalf of those who acknowledge public sins, private sins of the heart that might impede their worship experience.
- Invocation Prayer – Thanking God for keeping, protecting, allowing the assembly to occur and asking him to accept what we are offering him today.
- “Main” Prayer – Highest exaltation of God’s majestic rule. Crying out personally one’s love, dedication, life to God. Testimony of his power over sickness, evil, etc. in one’s life.
- Post Sermon Invitational – Specific to the requests only
- Communion – Thanks for the sacrificial love gift of Christ making this event possible, it’s grief yet it’s joy.
- Contribution – Apology for offering so little while being the receiver of so much from the generous God.
- Closing – Plea for God’s Spirit to guide each step taken and a plea for opportunities to be a witness throughout the week.

Overview

- Individuals by design seek to esteem someone or something higher than personal self. The proper attitude and understanding of worship is a learned behavior and attitude.

Hebrew Culture

- The word shehhah is a common Hebrew word meaning to prostrate oneself before another in respect.
- ◆ Moses doing this to his father in law in Exodus 18:7.
- ◆ When the translators translate the word shehhah they will use the word "worship" when the bowing down is directed toward God
- ◆ Shehhah is translated as "obedience" or other equivalent words when directed toward another man.
- ◆ From an Hebraic perspective worship, or shehhah is the act of getting down on ones knees and placing the face down on the ground before another worthy of respect.

Worship

- The Greek word for worship combines three ideas
 - ✓ Falling Down Before
 - ✓ Paying Homage
 - ✓ Serving
 - ✓ John 4:23-24, "But the hour is coming, and now is, **when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit and they that worship (Present = factual: active voice) Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.**"

Worship Is Spirit, Soul, Body

- Numbers 22:31 – Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: "*and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face*".
- Worship is the environment in which each individual acknowledges God's sovereign kingly rule over us individually and corporately.
- In worship each individual yields themselves completely to God's rule and dominion over them.

1 Chronicles 29:10 - 13

- Praise be to you, O Lord, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to ever lasting. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for every thing in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.

Oh “I”

- Many Christians have turned worship of God into an “under one roof” this is what I expect to happen when I show up in church.
- Worship has become an experience to meet the need of the people rather than bowing, praising, giving to God.
- Jeremiah 10:23, "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself, it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps."

Upside Down Worship

- I did not get anything out of the sermon
- I did not like the song service
- I did not like the choice of people used today
- I did not “feel” like getting up in time for service
- I did not give today because I didn’t want to
- I did not go into the auditorium because I didn’t want to

Public Worship Reveals Private Extension

- Individuals who have not bowed, praised, gave six days a week, will misunderstand 1st day of week worship.
- Congregational worship is a continuation of what has ALREADY HAPPENED and not a LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday morning.
- Colossians 3:2 - "Set your mind on things above, and not on things on the earth."

1. Worship Is You Before God!!

- **Genesis 22:1** And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, [here] I [am].
- **All of Abraham was dedicated to God**
- **All of Abraham's will was dedicated to God**
- **All of Abraham's possessions were God's**

2. Worship Is You Giving The Love Of Your Life

- **Genesis 22:2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only [son] Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.**

3. Worship Is Planning and Anticipating

- **Genesis 22:3 – 5** And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.

And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.

Worship The King

- **Mat 2:1 – 2 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,
Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him**

Worship=Joy, Assembly, Bowing, Gifts, Surrender

- **Matthew 2:9 - 11** When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

Worship Is Defined As A Way of Life

- Deut 12:4-14
- Vs. 4 Worship was to be different
- Vs. 7 Worship was in the presence of God
- Vs. 8 Everyone couldn't do as they saw fit
- Vs. 11a Worship meant going to a special site
- Vs. 11b Worship required a special sacrifice
- Vs. 13-14 Worship was to be done exactly as God had said

Returning To Basic Principles

The Objective Of Worship -

2 Kings 17:36 – 40

Objective

- Something that one's efforts or actions are intended to attain or accomplish
- Purpose
- Goal
- Target

Objective

- Able to be seen
- Able to be counted
- Able to be described
- Able to be replicated by multiple reporters
- As close to truth as one possibly can get

Subjective

- Opinion
- Assumption
- Judgment
- Rumor
- Varies person to person
- Varies day to day
- Able to assume a life of its own
- May be true partially or a complete lie

Objective “Objectively” Understood

- **Philippians 3:13-14** Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but [this] one thing [I do], forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Objective Is A Command and Invitation

- Exodus 24:1 - "Come up to the Lord ... and worship afar off"
- Deut 26:10 - Regarding giving of one's firstfruits "you shall set it down before the Lord your God, and worship before the Lord your God"
- Psalms 95:6 - "O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker".

254 Years Of Sin

- 2 Kings 17:1 – 8 is a recap of Israel from the schism of Jeroboam to the 9th year of Hoshea and Israel being seized.

Israelite Worship Was Wrong

- Vs. 9 – had “secret idolatry” from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced cities.
- Vs. 10 – worshipped images of idols and worshipped in groves or places of abominable rites to Venus.
- Vs. 13 – God reminded Israel that he left them “his servants the prophets” whom they ignored
- Vs. 17 – Israel “dedicated” themselves to do the will of evil and to work against the worship of God.
- **Vs. 18-24 - Israel was removed from the presence of God**

“Oh My”

- Vs. 25-34 – God sent lions among the people and worship worsened
- ✓ The priest were the lowest of the lows and could not teach strong enough
- ✓ The low priest “feared” the Lord yet did worship according to their own gods.
- ✓ The low priest “feared” the Lord yet their dedication was to the gods of their passions.

1. Objective Is To Keep Reaching Forward

- **2 Kings 17:35-36** With whom the LORD had made a covenant, and charged them, saying, Ye shall not fear other gods, nor bow yourselves to them, nor serve them, nor sacrifice to them:

But the LORD, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt with great power and a stretched out arm, him shall ye fear, and him shall ye worship, and to him shall ye do sacrifice.

2. Objective Is Deliverance From Fear

- **2 Kings 17:37-38** And the statutes, and the ordinances, and the law, and the commandment, which he wrote for you, ye shall observe to do for evermore; and ye shall not fear other gods.

And the covenant that I have made with you ye shall not forget; neither shall ye fear other gods.

But the LORD your God ye shall fear; and he shall deliver you out of the hand of all your enemies.

3. Objective Is God Pleasing Worship

- **2 Kings 17:40-41** Howbeit they did not hearken, but they did after their former manner.

So these nations feared the LORD, and served their graven images, both their children, and their children's children: as did their fathers, so do they unto this day.

Worship “Objective” Back To Origin

- **Numbers 3:5-10** And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
- **Bring the tribe of Levi near, and present them before Aaron the priest, that they may minister unto him.**

And they shall keep his charge, and the charge of the whole congregation before the tabernacle of the congregation, to do the service of the tabernacle.

And they shall keep all the instruments of the tabernacle of the congregation, and the charge of the children of Israel, to do the service of the tabernacle.

And thou shalt give the Levites unto Aaron and to his sons: they [are] wholly given unto him out of the children of Israel.

And thou shalt appoint Aaron and his sons, and they shall wait on their priest's office: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.

Worship: Day-Month-Duration

- **Leviticus 23:33 – 35** And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
- **Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month [shall be] the feast of tabernacles [for] seven days unto the LORD.**

On the first day [shall be] an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work [therein].

(Numbers 29:1-13 it is repeated with more details)

God's Worship "Objectives"?

(Jeroboam Early Years of Worship)

- **1 Kings 13:1 – 3** And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Bethel: and *Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.*

And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee. (2 Kings 23:14-16 fulfilled)

And he gave a sign the same day, saying, This [is] the sign which the LORD hath spoken; Behold, the altar shall be rent, and the ashes that [are] upon it shall be poured out
(1 Kings 11:26 Jeroboam was from the tribe of Ephraim)

Jeroboam's Worship "Objectives" Condemned Later

- **Amos 7:10-13** Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, Amos hath conspired against thee in the midst of the house of Israel: the land is not able to bear all his words.

For thus Amos saith, Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel shall surely be led away captive out of their own land.

Also Amaziah said unto Amos, O thou seer, go, flee thee away into the land of Judah, and there eat bread, and prophesy there:

But prophesy not again any more at Bethel: for it [is] the king's chapel, and it [is] the king's court.

Trace Worship Back To Beginning

- **1 Kings 12:28-30** Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves [of] gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan.

And this thing became a sin: for the people went [to worship] before the one, [even] unto Dan.

Wrong Priest- Feasts- Sacrifices

- **1 Kings 12:31-32** And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi.

And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that [is] in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Bethel, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made.

Made Up A Day of Sacrifice

- **1 Kings 12:33** So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Bethel the fifteenth day of the eighth month, [even] in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar, and burnt incense.

Questions

- Read The Book of Amos
- 1. Who Is Jeroboam in the text?
- 2. What Is the contrast between the lion and prophet?
- 3. What is predicted regarding Israel?



Judea

The Background of Samaritan Worship

- "Then the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Ava, Hamath, and from Sepharvim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel" (2 Kings 17:24).
- II Kings 17:29 – First called “Samaritan’s - "However every nation continued to make gods of its own, and put them in the shrines on the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in the cities where they dwelt.”
- They feared the LORD, yet served their own gods-- according to the rituals of the nations from among whom they were carried away. This is known as idolatry!!!!

Prophets View Of Samaria and Worship

- Hosea 7:1 - "Then the iniquity of Ephraim was uncovered, and the wickedness of Samaria. For they have committed fraud"
- Hosea 8:5-6 - "Your calf is rejected, O Samaria! My anger is aroused against them--How long until they attain to innocence? For from Israel is even this: A workman made it, and it is not God; But the calf of Samaria shall be broken to pieces"
- Hosea 13:16 - "Samaria is held guilty, for she has rebelled against her God. They shall fall by the sword, Their infants shall be dashed in pieces, and their women with child ripped open"

Returning To Bible Basics

The Audience of Worship

Exodus 34:14, Deuteronomy 26:10

Severe Avenger of Departure

- **Exodus 34:12-14** Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee:

But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves:

For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name [is] Jealous, [is] a jealous God:

The Audience Is Huge and Spirit

- **2 Kings 6:15-17** And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?

And he answered, Fear not: for they that [be] with us [are] more than they that [be] with them.

And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain [was] full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

The Audience Sits In The Big Chair and Stands Sometimes

- **Acts 7:54 – 59** When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with [their] teeth.

But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,

And cast [him] out of the city, and stoned [him]: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

And they stoned Stephen, calling upon [God], and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

Jesus and Worship

- God is not a material God therefore material found in the Samaritan Mountains nor Jerusalem Temples void of proper spiritual minds and spiritual eyes to see reality beyond what it appears can really please the audience of worship.

The Background Of John 4:23-25

- Psalms 66:4 "all the earth"
- Isaiah 66:23 "all flesh"
- Zephaniah 2:11, Zechariah 14:16-17 all the nations
- Isaiah 49:7, Psalms 72:11 all kings and princes
- Psalms 22:29 "all the fat ones" (or proud ones)

The Mount and Jerusalem

- The temple on Mount Gerizim was the center for Samaritan worship.
- The Samaritans believed they alone held the promise of patriarchal religious faith to come causing constant hostilities between the Samaritans and the Jews.
- The Samaritans valued only the Pentateuch of Moses as holy scripture and the only legitimate worship was the temple at Mount Gerizim, in their view, made holy by the ancient tradition of the patriarchs.

1. The Audience Talks Doing Worship

- Jesus did not consider the Samaritans form of worship to be acceptable.
- Matthew 15:9 - Jesus quoted Isaiah to the Pharisees something that fit what the Samaritans practiced - "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men"

2. The Audience Critiques Worship

- Matthew 7:21-23 - "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

3. Worship Before Your Deliverer

- **Deuteronomy 26:8-10** And the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great terribleness, and with signs, and with wonders:

And he hath brought us into this place, and hath given us this land, [even] a land that floweth with milk and honey.

And now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land, which thou, O LORD, hast given me. And thou shalt set it before the LORD thy God, and worship before the LORD thy God:

Isaiah

- Isaiah was getting weary as his ministry escalated and was beginning to look unsuccessful.
- God saw a strong need to restore Isaiah's spirit by making him stand in awe and also by stirring up an inner zeal like he had never experienced before.
- Isaiah's vision will motivate him to keep challenging Israel to learn to worship God and reverence his presence.

See The “Full” House

- **Isaiah 6:1-5** In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, [is] the LORD of hosts: the whole earth [is] full of his glory.

And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

Then said I, Woe [is] me! for I am undone; because I [am] a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

Question

- Read 2 Peter 1:1-21
- What are some components of serious worship?

Worship

The Participants In Worship

1 Samuel 1:3

1 Chronicles 16:29-36

Know Who You Are

- Participant – the people who share in an event, gathering, group, family, etc. (noun)
- Participating – what one does while being a part of the event, gathering, group, family, etc. (adjective)

We Do Not Make The Rules Of Worship

- Acts 5:1-10 - A husband/wife team decided they could participate in God's presence in any manner they choose.
- Acts 5:11 And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

The World Does Not Make The Rules of Worship

- **Acts 13:8 – 11** But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.

Then Saul, (who also [is called] Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him,

And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, [thou] child of the devil, [thou] enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

And now, behold, the hand of the Lord [is] upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

Participants Must Be Together

- **1 Corinthians 11:18 – 21** For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.

For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.

When ye come together therefore into one place, [this] is not to eat the Lord's supper.

For in eating every one taketh before [other] his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken

The “Original” Directions To The Participants

- Numbers 1:48 – 51 For the LORD had spoken unto Moses, saying,

Only thou shalt not number the tribe of Levi, neither take the sum of them among the children of Israel:

But thou shalt appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of testimony, and over all the vessels thereof, and over all things that [belong] to it: they shall bear the tabernacle, and all the vessels thereof; and they shall minister unto it, and shall encamp round about the tabernacle.

And when the tabernacle setteth forward, the Levites shall take it down: and when the tabernacle is to be pitched, the Levites shall set it up: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.

The Original Order To The Participants

- **Exodus 27:6 – 7 And thou shalt make staves for the altar, staves [of] shittim wood, and overlay them with brass.**

And the staves shall be put into the rings, and the staves shall be upon the two sides of the altar, to bear it.

1 Chronicles

- **13:1 - And David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, [and] with every leader.**
- Vs. 3 – 4 And let us bring again the ark of our God to us: for we enquired not at it in the days of Saul. And all the congregation said that they would do so: for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people

All Israel Should Not Have Participated The Same

- **1 Chronicles 13:6 – 8** And David went up, and all Israel, to Baalah, [that is], to Kirjathjearim, which [belonged] to Judah, to bring up thence the ark of God the LORD, that dwelleth [between] the cherubims, whose name is called [on it].

And they carried the ark of God in a new cart out of the house of Abinadab: and Uzza and Ahio drave the cart. And David and all Israel played before God with all [their] might, and with singing, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with cymbals, and with trumpets

God Is Still A Jealous God

Fear Him!!!!!!

- **1 Chronicles 13:9 – 12** And when they came unto the threshingfloor of Chidon, Uzza put forth his hand to hold the ark; for the oxen stumbled.

And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzza, and he smote him, because he put his hand to the ark: and there he died before God.

And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzza: wherefore that place is called Perezuzza to this day.

And David was afraid of God that day, saying, How shall I bring the ark of God [home] to me?

To Him That Know To Do Good

- **1 Chronicles 15:11 – 13** And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites, for Uriel, Asaiah, and Joel, Shemaiah, and Eliel, and Amminadab, And said unto them, Ye [are] the chief of the fathers of the Levites: sanctify yourselves, [both] ye and your brethren, that ye may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel unto [the place that] I have prepared for it.
For because ye [did it] not at the first, the LORD our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order.

1. Participants Do What Is Uncomfortable

- **1 Samuel 1:1 – 3 Now there was a certain man of Ramathaimzophim, of mount Ephraim, and his name [was] Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephrathite:**

And he had two wives; the name of the one [was] Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah: and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, [were] there.

2. Participants Should Be As Happy As “All Things” In Worship

- **1 Chronicles 16:29 - 33 Give unto the LORD the glory [due] unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

Fear before him, all the earth: the world also shall be stable, that it be not moved.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice: and let [men] say among the nations, The LORD reigneth.

Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof: let the fields rejoice, and all that [is] therein.

Then shall the trees of the wood sing out at the presence of the LORD, because he cometh to judge the earth.

3. Participants Are To Ask For An “Encore”

- 1 Chronicles 16:34 – 36 O give thanks unto the LORD; for [he is] good; for his mercy [endureth] for ever.**

And say ye, Save us, O God of our salvation, and gather us together, and deliver us from the heathen, that we may give thanks to thy holy name, [and] glory in thy praise.

Blessed [be] the LORD God of Israel for ever and ever. And all the people said, Amen, and praised the LORD.

Jesus/Us Before Worship

- Luke 4:1 – Jesus was filled with the Spirit
- Ephesians 5:18 – We are to be filled with the Spirit
- Luke 4:2- Jesus was challenged when filled with the Spirit
- 1 Peter 3:14; 1 Peter 4:14 – We will be challenged when filled with the Spirit
- Luke 4:3-13 – Jesus stood against Satan outside worship
- Jude 1:16-19 – We have those who will stand against us

The Synagogue

- The synagogue required no Levite priest to minister
- Sometimes a wealthy Jew or a proselyte built the synagogue (Luke 7:5) with it facing toward Jerusalem.
- The structure, though essentially different from the temple - it had neither altar nor sacrifice
- The ark at the far end contained the law and the lid was called the kopereth or "mercy-seat" with a veil hanging before it.
- This is were "the chief seats" sought by the Pharisees and the rich were located (Matthew 23:6; James 2:2-3).
- In the middle was a raised platform on which several could be together, with a pulpit in the middle for the reader to stand in when reading and to sit when teaching.
- A low partition separated men on one side from women on the other.
- There was a chest for the haphtaroth or "roll of the prophets".
- In the synagogue a college of elders was presided over by the chief or ruler of the synagogue (Luke 7:3; Luke 8:41; Luke 8:49).

The “chazzan”- Minister of The Synagogue

- The officiating minister was delegate of the congregation, the forerunner of "the angel (messenger sent) of the church" (Revelation 1:20; Revelation 2:1).
- The qualifications required were similar to those of a bishop or presbyter; he must be of full age, father of a family, apt to teach.

Jesus In Worship

- Luke 4:14-15 – The reputation of Jesus’ Spirit went before him throughout the surrounding area due to his teachings.
- Luke 4:16-22 Jesus was cleared by the “keeper” of the synagogue to:
 - Receive the book
 - Read from the book
 - Talk about what was written

Worship Is From The Cheap Seats

- **Luke 14:8 - 11** When thou art bidden of any [man] to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him;

And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room.

But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee.

For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Two Functions of Priests

- ① To offer up Sin Offering Sacrifices for moral offences
 - ② To offer up Sacrifices of Thanksgiving as expressions of gratitude for Gods goodness and mercy
- Hebrews 9:11-14, Hebrews 10:1-14 teaches that Jesus fulfilled the sin offering sacrifice
 - 1 Peter 2:5 teaches that Christians are all priest called to offer up sacrifices of Thanksgiving

Reflective Reading

- Read
- Romans 12

Molech

- "In the Masoretic text the name is "Molech"; in the Septuagint "Moloch."
- Leviticus 18:21 - The earliest mention of Molech is to the Israelite who were forbidden to sacrifice any of his children to Molech.
- **Leviticus 20: 2-5 - if a man sacrifices his seed to Molech he shall surely be put to death....**

Molech

- Was represented by a brazen statue, which was hollow and capable of being heated, and formed with a bull's head, and arms stretched out to receive the children to be sacrificed.
- From the time of Ahaz, children were slain at Jerusalem in the valley of Ben-Hinnom, and then sacrificed by being laid in the heated arms and burned.

Josiah's Reform of Molech

- 2 Kings 23:10 and also confirmed in Jeremiah 33:35 - One of the practises to which Josiah put a stop by his reform was that of sacrificing children to Molech, and that the place where this form of worship had been practiced was at Topheth, 'in the valley of the children of Hinnom.

Worship Participation by Every Priest

- Romans 12:1 – offer entire self (reasonable)
- Hebrews 13:15 – offer the praise of your lips
- Hebrews 13:16 – offer God your material resources
- Romans 12:6-8 – offer God your will to serve others

