

Lesson 7

---

# Heavenly Worship and Earthly Worship

---

*Worthy*  
TO THE ONE WHO IS WORTHY

**Shachah (Hebrew):** to bow down, to lie face down, to worship. *Shachah* is the primary Hebrew word for worship. Like *proskuneo*, it means to bow down, crouch, fall down, or lie face down (or prostrate oneself) before God. What is interesting about *shachah* is that it can be translated as either “to bow down” or to “worship” depending on the context.<sup>4</sup>

*Worship [shachah] the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth! (Psalm 96:9 ESV)*  
*Oh come, let us worship [shachah] and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker. (Psalm 95:6 ESV)*

”

Do you get the sense with these two words that worship involves us bowing down? Lying face down? Kneeling? Falling down? Or stretching out on the floor? These two words seem to strongly suggest that worship, in our Heavenly Father’s eyes, involves us physically showing reverence, respect, honor, and submission to Him.

\*\*\*

Similarly, there are also a couple of words used to denote praise.

**Halal (Hebrew):** to praise loudly even foolishly, to boast, to rave and celebrate. Used 165 times in the Old Testament, *halal* literally means to “shine (or flash brightly), boast, to praise, to act like a fool or madman.” It is the primary word translated “praise” in the Bible.<sup>5</sup>

*Praise [halal] ye the LORD. I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation. (Psalm 111:1, KJV)*  
*I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise [halal] you. (Psalms 22:22, NRSV)*

”

# Worship

---

When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD's house. When all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD on the temple, they bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement, and worshiped and praised the LORD, saying:

“For He is good,  
For His mercy endures forever.”

Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before the LORD. King Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty-two thousand bulls and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the people dedicated the house of God. And the priests attended to their services; the Levites also with instruments of the music of the LORD, which King David had made to praise the LORD, saying, “For His mercy endures forever,” whenever David offered praise by their ministry. The priests sounded trumpets opposite them, while all Israel stood. (2 Chronicles 7:1–6, NKJV)

# Reflect

---

Worship is action. Worship is not lazy, boring, and sad. Worship is zealous, famous, and joyful. (Mac Canoz)

Worship is love on its knees before the beloved; just as mission is love on its feet to serve the beloved. (N. T. Wright)