

## WORSHIP SERIES

### MEANING OF WORSHIP

*Rev. 4:1-11 After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this." Immediately, I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. And he who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance, and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones, I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes, and they had crowns of gold on their heads. And from the throne proceeded lightning, thundering, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. Before the throne there was a sea of glass like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. The four living creatures each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, "You are worthy, O Lord to receive glory and honor and power. For You created all things and by Your will they exist and were created."*

As we look at understanding worship we need to define what worship is as we consider the aspect and be able to understand it.

Just write down in one sentence the meaning and definition of worship as far as you are concerned.

Let's read out some definitions you have written.

*Worship is to exalt and thank God from our heart. A good definition.*

*Worship is telling God that He is worthy of thanksgiving.*

*Worship is all that we are responding to all that He is.*

*Worship is to glorify God.*

*Worship is exalting God and expressing our love for Him in songs. Lifting up your heart, soul and body and voice to the Lord in adoration. To adore God and to glorify Him for being just who He is.*

*Worship is to adore and acknowledge that God is your all in all. To exalt my God Who is my Creator, Savior and Lamb and praising the name of Jesus.*

*Worship is acknowledging God as a Creator and we the created pay homage and*

*reverence to Him.*

Now let's look at a dictionary definition, which we are not going to base our teaching on. This morning we want to talk about the meaning of worship. Most of the time, we are worshipping God but we may not have understood what we are doing. And that's why we want a little teaching on that. Worship is in the heart of God and worship is what God wants us to do. The Webster Dictionary defines worship as 1. A service or rite showing reverence for a deity. 2. Intense love or admiration. 3. In Britain a title or honor addressing Magistrates. Then there are other definitions here to show religious reverence. This is their definition and not the biblical definition.

Let's look at what the bible says about worship so that we will be able to define worship and see what the essence of worship fully involves. Notice that most of the definitions touch on some of the things that we do and some of the things that God expects. There is one main word in the Hebrew for worship and one main word in the Greek. But there are many side words for worship that we need to look so that we can come to a fuller understanding of what worship really means.

In the book of John 4 Jesus in speaking to the woman at the well says to her in verse 21 onwards. *Jesus said to her, "Woman believe Me the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*

Now here Jesus speaks about the importance that worship has to God the Father. It is so important that He seeks people who worship Him. We all consider Sunday a day we worship the Lord giving to God the glory and adoration onto His name. But there is something else as we look at the definitions for the word worship.

## Segad

Let's look at the book of Daniel chapter 3. The first word in Hebrew is the word *segad*. It means to bow down before Him. Dan. 3:3 *All the officials of the provinces gathered together for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Then a herald cried aloud "To you it is commanded, O peoples, nations and languages that at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.*

In the whole book of Daniel the word worship is the word *segad*. We are going to look at some of the Hebrew words for worship that is not that kind of worship that that we should give to our Father God.

*Verse 6 and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.*

The Hebrew word for worship of God that carries the fullness of God's expectation and desire is the word *shachah*. The Greek word for worship is the word *proskuneo*. And both of them carry a meaning of bowing down. But it does not stop there only. It carries a greater meaning than that. We can see that there are other words that talk about bowing down. If the words *shachah* and *proskuneo* mean to bow down and that is all God desires then He could have used the word *segad* instead of using that special word *shachah* and *proskuneo*. The word *segad* mean to bow down and pay homage to a dignitary or somebody higher than you. And it may not include your heart. It only physically refers to your body posture. I am sure a lot of people in Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom didn't really want to bow before all those idols that he commanded. Some of them may do it unwillingly. Some of them may do it out of fear. After all the command goes out and says whoever does not bow down would be burned. A lot of people

bow down not because they respect that golden image or treat it as a god. They do it because if they don't do it they will fry. It is either bow or fry. And many chose to bow. But their hearts are not involved in that bowing down. Some may do it out of fear. Some may do it because they believe that Nebuchadnezzar has some supernatural power.

We have the story in Dan. 3 where the music was played and everyone has to bow. There were three heads sticking up, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They refused to bow. When the king gave them another chance, they still would not bow. The whole chapter 3 the word used is *segad*. The word *segad* is never used in a true sense of worship to our God. This tells us that God doesn't just want our outward form, our outward worship, our physical worship or posture alone although the words *shachah* and *proskuneo* include that.

Let's consider another word. These are all the words that are not uses of the true worship of God. We need to consider all these because a lot of people's worship is *segad* worship and not *shachah* worship and they don't know it.

## Atsab

There is one in the book of Jeremiah 44:19 and the Hebrew word is the word *atsab*. *The women also said, "And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven and poured out drink offerings to her, did we make cakes for her, to worship (atsab) her, and pour out drink offerings to her without our husbands' permission?"*

Here is a worldly form of worship. And the word *atsab* is to make some objects an idol and to burn incense or give offerings. This is animism. Animism is the worship of objects, stones and trees. People become afraid just because somebody put an altar there. But the altars we read about in Genesis are not the same altars that we look at today. The altars they made were just plain stones to make blood sacrifices. But here it is to make the object god, as if the object has spiritual power. People would worship all kinds of things. They worship the sun, the

moon and trees. All they did is *atsab* worship. In *atsab* worship you worship with things. It could be a food offering, an incense offering.

Notice that tithes and offerings are part of our worship. But they are only part of our worship. Yet some people think that worshipping God means to give Him something. If that's our thinking, we only understood *atsab* worship and not *shachah* worship. On Sundays, we may not bring a doughnut or dumpling to the altar and burn some incense to God. But in principle if we think in our heart that doing something for God or giving God something is the essence of worship, then we are reducing worship to *atsab* worship. If God is your first love you want to give Him your life. But the essence of worship is not that. I give God my life and I bring to God my tithes and offerings because I love Him. It is the result of my worship. It is not because I worship Him with tithes and offerings. In other words, God don't want a single cent from us. He wants our lives more than He wants our money. When He has our life and He becomes our Lord, we automatically surrender our tithes and our offerings to Him. It is the result or consequence of our relationship with God. But *atsab* worship builds upon sacrifices.

Some Christians has a concept of God in that way. They may not be like those that seek God who think that worship is something you do. They think the moment you put your face to the ground you are worshipping, you are fulfilling the act of worship. You thought that *shachah* and *proskuneo* means that is to worship God. In fact during the revival of praise and worship a lot of people misunderstood *proskuneo* and *shachah*. They think that if you do not touch your head to the ground you have not worshipped because of the word *shachah* and the word *proskuneo*. But they forget that there are other words that means bowing down that may not include that kind of worship that they are thinking of. There is something deeper in *proskuneo* and *shachah* than we have thought. But yet, there are others who think that worshipping God is to do something. But God is saying "Be still and know that I am God." We are just not still enough for Him to deal with our life.

Abad

The word *abad* means to serve Him. Let's look at II Kings 10. The word *abad* is used here to refer to Baal worshippers. Verse 21 *Then Jehu sent throughout all Israel; and all the worshippers of Baal came, so that there was not a man left who did not come.* Verse 22 *Bring out vestments for all the worshippers of Baal.* The bible doesn't use the normal word *shachah* in this reference. It chooses the word *abad*. The full essence of the word means to serve. What is the definition of worship in our life? Does it mean to bow down alone? Does it mean that we have to give Him something? Or does it mean that when we are serving Him that is my worshipping? No, if its just pure service alone without love it is not that kind of *shachah* worship that God wants. *Abad* worship is the kind that only dwells in service. Just doing something all the time. Whereas in *atsab* is giving something. If you stop giving, you are not worshipping. You notice that some of these definitions have reference to what is out there prevailing in the world. If they stop giving something to those idols it is tantamount to stopped worshipping. These are all definitions out there. For others if they stop serving they stopped worshipping. Bless God you can be a Christian and God has not asked anything of you. All He asks is that you give Him time to be alone with Him and that can be worship. You may not have done a single thing yet because you are a growing Christian and you are still discovering the things of God and yet you could be in tune with Him worshipping Him. It is not just service alone.

Then we move over to the new Testament and find a few extra words or what is secular definition of worship. Lets look at Acts 17:23. Based on what we have covered so far if your definition of worship is to bow down before God, it would be wrong because that is *segad* not *shachah*. If your definition of worship is to give God something, praise, songs, that will also be wrong. That will be *atsab*. If your definition of worship is to serve Him with all your heart, that still wouldn't be right. That would be *abad*.

Eusebeo

And here are some other in Acts 17:22 *Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very*

*religious, for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.*

He found an object of worship. Here the word worship in Greek is the word *eusebeo* and it is not the word *proskuneo*. You can define *eusebeo* as reverential fear. And that's what those Greek fellows were like in Acts 17. They have many idols in the temple of their many gods from their Greek mythology. The strange thing is that as Paul was looking at all these idols, they did not affect him at all. Because greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world. A lot of people get intimidated when they see a huge imposing pagan altar. Perhaps you are a construction worker and you are a Christian. You are supposed to clear a land or cut a tree. Then you come across a big tree and other workers are afraid of chopping down the tree because if they chop it down, the evil spirit dwelling in the tree will chop them down. If you are born again, washed under the blood, you will drive the tractor over the tree because your God is greater. All these things do not intimidate you. Some Christians are so weak they got such wrong teaching that they thought that if they just walk by the idol they get demon possessed. That's wrong teaching. Paul walked right in the midst of that place there looking around because he was looking for souls. And all these demonic looking idols looking at him he is not even bothered.

When Howard Carter and Lester Sumrall went to China in their early journeys, they slept in the temple. The places they went to didn't even have hotels or inns and the only place open was a temple. They just slept there. They didn't get demon oppressed after that. Some people teach that if you go to pagan temples, you would get this pain and that pain on your body. What kind of teaching is that? We say that we have the living God who created the heaven and the earth. We say that we have found Him who controls the universe. And we are afraid of just a mere demon. Paul was right there looking around. Then he noticed that these people are afraid in case they missed out on any god. "Lets build an altar and leave it empty. Let us dedicate it to the unknown god whom we do not know in case there is one more that we missed." And Paul said, "I have come to tell you about this unknown God." He said this unknown God is the main God that they all should worship. He talked about Jesus and the resurrection from the dead. *Eusebeo* is a worship based on fear. If I don't worship him, he is going to punish me.

I am not making fun of it but its just part of our Chinese culture. The Chinese have this "ti kuey" or kitchen god. On Chinese New Year's day the kitchen god supposedly goes to report to a bigger god above him about the family. And so, the Chinese have to serve this "ti kuey" with sticky cakes so that his mouth gets stuck and he won't be able to make any report. I used to ask my mother, "Doesn't he get any wiser after all these years? Every year we give this kitchen god sticky cakes to eat and if he is god isn't he smart enough not to eat those sticky cakes?" Then I realize that it has to do with tradition and culture. And much of our culture is not really based on the bible. Then my parents told me that this is tradition.

But lets listen carefully. Somebody somewhere long go started those traditions. I mean if we start some new tradition today, one thousand years from now people would forget how it was started. When I started to know the Lord, I told my mother and said, "If I really love you and I have found what I believe to be the truth, I would tell you what I have found because I love you. In fact, I would love you more if I found the truth and share with you the truth, rather than following your traditions blindly." See in our Asian culture we wrestle with the thinking that if we don't follow our parents' tradition, it means we don't really love them. And I told my mom and said, "It is not because I don't love you. If I have found the truth and if I really love you, I would be telling you about it and trying to get you to it. If I don't really love you, I would just follow your traditions."

Some time later, my mother came to know the Lord. When she came to know the Lord, she had a dream. In the dream, she saw part of heaven. She was admiring the trees she told me. Even the leaves on the tree were so beautiful. She remembered in her dream that she was walking along a pathway. As she was walking in the pathway, something told her in her dream, "Your son has come by this way." I was that son. I had come to know the Lord earlier. I have gone ahead of her in the Lord. When she came to know the Lord, the Lord revealed to her that was the true way and that she was now joining the true way.

But most of traditional worship is based on fear. If I don't please those spirits and demons, they are going to harm me. And that is ingrained within the animistic culture, which has no religion. That is why even today in our modern times with all our scientific advancements, powerful technology, skyscrapers, right there in some corner under some tree, by the pavement is a little altar that some people build just in case the spirits of the place didn't like people disturbing them. It is a religion based on fear. And that is not the worship that God wants. It is *eusebeo*. *Eusebeo* is based on fear. If I don't worship God, something bad is going to happen. We all may look at the non-Christian culture and be able to define *eusebeuo*.

But there is an element of that that still plays in Christian heart and mind. The principle is still there and Christians can still end with *eusebeo* worship. How do we do it? Like that, if I don't worship God something bad is going to happen to me. If I don't say my prayers, something bad is going to happen to me. Now we know the blessing of God that comes when we do obey Him. But when we turn that negatively, we say that if we don't worship Him something bad is going to happen. When the bad thing does happen, you say, "I knew its going to happen." And in fact, your faith is so built up in the wrong sense that when you didn't worship Him that day you would expect something bad would happen. That is *eusebeo* worship.

God doesn't use fear to force us to worship Him because our worship would not be true. If He had wanted us to worship Him that way, I tell you, He could easily have done it. Just make all the angels in the world appear with whips and swords. Everyone would worship God because one angels can slay a whole army. But that is not the worship He wants. That image of God is such we fear the big man upstairs with a whip. Every time you do something wrong you get the whip. "We better worship Him or else judgment will come." So, Christians can have a *eusebeo* form of worship. That is unscriptural. They worship God to avoid the wrong things happening to them. That is *eusebeo* worship.

Therapeuo

In verse Acts 17:25 is another word that is not normally translated worship but there is no other way the translators could have translated it. *Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.* The word here is a word that's seldom translated worship. It's the word *therapeuo* where we get the word therapy. In essence, it means healing, wholeness and also means a kind of service. But it means something else. *Therapeuo* speaks about worshipping God because of its therapeutic value. It's a bit selfish in that. We take worship like a medicine. "What God can do for us? Worship Him because He can do this and that for you." That's the opposite of *eusebeo* worship. Earlier we saw in *eusebeo* worship, you worship Him so that He won't do something. Now you go to the extreme and say, "Worship Him so that He can do something." This kind of worship still isn't right. We worship Him because of the therapeutic value of worship. We get something out of it. We get healing, we get blessing, we get a tangible feeling of Him, we get encouraged. Yes, all those things happen when you really worship. But when we worship because of that it is not *proskuneo* but it is *therapeuo*, which is not the essence of what He wants.

## Threskeia

Let's look at some more wrong forms of worship. Colossians 2:18 We are trying to define worship and so we are looking all the wrong definitions the bible gives on worship. There is only one English word for worship but there are so many Hebrew words and Greek words that talk about the wrong kind of worship. Verse 18 *Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind.* The word worship here is not *proskuneo* but it's the word *threskeia*. *Threskeia* worship is defined to be religious observance or being religious about something. Sadly, if you think that is only true about non-Christians I want you to know that even Christianity ends up with rituals that are no more worship. A lot of traditional churches have traditional rites. It is not *proskuneo* worship anymore. It is only *threskeia* worship where we follow some prescribed order in a bulletin - *congregations bow down, congregation stand, sing hymn no. 288, Amazing Grace.* Someone who is not even a worshipper of God plans the whole service beforehand in the church office. This can be classified as

Christian ritual and some churches call it worship. Today in the praise and worship movement there is a tendency to revise some of these rituals. But if all is done is *threskeia*, it is still considered a ritual worship. We go through the motions and we call it worship.

But even some Charismatics are in danger of developing some Charismatic ritual. Recently I was talking to an evangelist who was a member of an out going Charismatic church. Then the pastor came under the influence of a prophet who is every extreme. The pastor looked to the prophet as the father figure. And the church began to take on a very hard and judgmental approach just like that prophet. He came to see me because he is thinking of leaving the church, which was his base. So I feel sad for the church and the people because when they come to church they are commanded to jump and dance. It was demanded of them. I believe in dancing to the Lord. I believe in active vibrant uninhibited praise. But never one time do we force anyone to do it. But when something is forced down on people, it becomes a ritual. Now being a leader is different. If I am a preacher, it is demanded of me that I know the Word and prepare myself to give the Word. If I am a worship leader, it is demanded of me that I must worship with my spirit, my soul and my body. But for the people who come as a whole there is no such thing as any ritual. So, even Charismatics can have their own ritual. Time to sing in tongues. Time to clap hands. Anything can become ritual. *Threskeia* worship is ritualistic worship. Clapping, dancing, singing and praising in tongues can happen in true worship but when they are structured rigidly instead of being open to the Holy Spirit then it becomes mechanical, empty and wrong.

Sebazō

Here is another one in the book of Acts 16:14 *Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira who worshiped God.* The word worship is the word *sebazō*. And it means to venerate. To venerate is to pay homage and respect to. Now Lydia in Acts 16:14 has not come to know Jesus yet. But she has a deep respect for God in her heart. She would not take God's name in vain. She would not just loosely crack a joke about God in disrespect. When God's name is mentioned in general she is the type who really respected

God. And that indicates her openness to God because she was already having some respect and direction toward God. *Sebazo* means that we respect God.

Now some need to have that kind of *sebazo* or respect for God because they don't have respect for God in the way they refer to God in their conversation and daily life. It looks more like disrespect in the way they talk about God. Like for example I can never talk to God like this, "Hi, God how are you keeping, man?" There are some in the street says, "Hi God I love you God." But they are baby Christians. Wait till you see the Holy of holies with all the angels around God and the rainbow around His throne. And with His whole glory brighter than the sun and try to say, "Hi God." In heaven, every word is so vital. I mean you dare not say anything except what God wanted you to say. This is why in heaven those who have been there talk about a place where angels teach you the proper protocol of how to enter God's presence. We talk about entering His gates with thanksgiving; enter His court with praise. There is some more there. Wait until you go to the Holy of holies.

There is a lot of Christianity that is based on fame rather than on depth. This means that if I were a celebrity and came to know the Lord, I would grab all the headlines and receive all the attention from Christian media. They may broadcast on television the way I pray, "Hi God." Just because I am famous doesn't mean I am deep. Although depth will lead to fame, not all fame is based on depth. Such Christianity that is propagated is what I call Outer court Christianity. And Christian youths would think it is "cool" to talk with God that way. "If that Christian celebrity can do it, I can do it that way too." Wait a minute Gabriel doesn't talk that way. Certainly, the four creatures around the throne don't talk that way. They don't say, "Hi God," they say, "Holy, holy, holy." We need *sebazo* to a certain extend. *Sebazo* helps Lydia to enter into the things of God. However, respect alone is not good enough. It didn't bring Lydia to salvation. Respect of God in your life will build a form of devoutness and outward holiness but in itself it is not good enough.

Sachah

Now let's look at the word *shachah* in Hebrew and *proskuneo* in the Greek and see the full meaning of what it is. In Gen.22:5 ninety-nine times the word *shachah* has been translated as worship. *And Abraham said to his young men. "Stay here with the donkey, the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."* The word here used is the word *shachah*, which means to bow down yourself. But it is different from *segad*. *Segad* means to bow down. *Shachah* means to bow down yourself. Remember Daniel chapter 3 it looks like the people bow down themselves but they were not. They were bowing down under threat for life. Bow or fry so they bow. Here *shachah* is God said Abraham give me your son. Abraham took the son himself; Abraham bound the son himself; Abraham sought to sacrifice the son himself. God never did it for him. He himself bow down before God.

Let's take one more verse from the Old Testament II Chron. 29:30 *Moreover King Hezekiah and the leaders commanded the Levites to sing praise to the Lord with words of David and of Asaph the seer. So they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshiped (shachah).* If *shachah* means bowing the head alone why didn't it just say and *shachah*. But it says, *"..and they bowed their heads and shachah."* It is because the word *shachah* speaks of something deeper. As I continuously search for the meaning of worship I come to one conclusion. Worship in its essence means to humble ourselves before God.

Worship doesn't mean all those things that we do. Worship is in our heart. You could do *segad*, you could bow down and your heart could still have pride. You could *atsab* or give something like the Pharisees and the Sadducees who gave things to the temple but they have pride in their hearts. You could be very religious about things like the Sadducees and active about it but they have pride in what they believe. So the Sadducees and Pharisees are always quarrelling. The essence of the worship of God is a humble heart. It's not just what you say. You can give God your tithes of a million dollars and it means nothing if your heart is proud - there is no worship. You can sing the loudest, play music instruments the most skillfully but if there is no humility in your heart, there is no worship. I have constantly checked on the meaning of worship as I looked at all the Hebrew words in worship. I prayed to God, *"Lord, surely shachah means more than that."* And I began to realize why the Father seeks such worshippers. He looks for a

heart that humbles before Him. It is not just ritualistic worship *threskeia*. People sometimes have ritual and they are proud of their ritual. They wear special robes in worship and they take pride in it. Worship has disappeared. All you have is *threskeia*. The essence of true worship is a humble heart. A broken and a contrite spirit He will not reject.

Now we notice why Isa. 64:4 *For since the beginning of the world men have not heard nor perceived by the ear nor has the eyes seen any God besides You. Who acts for the one who waits for Him.* Isa. 66:1 *Thus says the Lord: "Heaven is My throne. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? For all those things My hand has made and all those things exist." Says the Lord. "But on this one will I look. On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit and who trembles at My word."*

The essence and the meaning of worship is a humble heart. There is a Hebrew word and a Greek word for humble but *shachah* is an inward condition of the heart. When I began to research into the meaning of pride and humility in the bible, I found that God always opposes pride. It is not that He ignores you, He doesn't. I Peter 5:5 *Likewise you younger people submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud."* God is not even going to ignore them. We thought that God ignores the proud and blesses the humble. He attacks, judges, pull down, tear down, removes and resists the proud. Pride is the very opposite of the essence of worship. And God will not have any other gods before Him.

Do you notice that pride leads to self-worship? Nebuchadnezzar looked over his hanging garden. In spite of the warning from Daniel and a warning from a dream he looks at his hanging garden and said, "Didn't "I" build all these?" A voice from heaven judged him and declared, "You will be turned into a beast and driven out to eat grass until you know that there is a God in heaven." God opposes, tears down, removes and resists pride. But he love to see people bowing down not only outwardly *segad* but *shachah* in their heart; they are contrite and they say, "God, we worship You." The essence of worship is a humble heart.

## Proskuneo

Look over at Matt. 2 at *proskeuneo*. The Greek definition of *proskeuneo* is to kiss toward but look at it very carefully and you see the depths that are in line with *shachah*. Verse 9 *When they heard the king they departed and behold, the star which they had seen 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 had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him gold, frankincense and myrrh.*

Now they also have gifts to Him but that was the consequence or result of the worship. We confuse between the result of worship and the essence of worship. You can give those gifts but if those gifts come from pride, worship is automatically gone out although worship involves giving ourselves to God. You can sing unto God and singing is part of worship but when it is not from a humble heart, worship disappears from the scene. The essence of it is humility. If humility is there, all those giving, singing and dancing are correct. They are kings from the East and they have come to look for the king of the Jews. And He was just a child. Look at such humility when they fell down and they bow down before Him. *Proskuneo* is not just kissing towards. You are at the feet of Jesus kissing His feet recognizing you are zero. I mean that is the feeling you will have if you are kissing somebody's feet. The kissing on the toes and feet is one of the most humiliating acts. And you feel like you are dirt. You are nothing. That's part of *proskuneo*. You are bowing down and kissing not standing up.

In Matt. 8:5 *Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum a centurion came to Him pleading with Him saying "Lord my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented, And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed.*

In other cross-references, you will find that the centurion was worshipful of Jesus

as Jesus draws near his house. But look at his heart don't look at what he did. He considered himself unworthy when he compares to God. We are speaking about understanding how to humble ourselves before God and thus have true worship so that all the other consequences of our worship will be accepted before God. *Proskuneo* speaks about humbling of our heart, our mind, of bending of our wills to God. That is the meaning and definition of worship.

Remember the parable of the self-righteous Pharisee and the publican. They came to the temple and one was boasting, "Lord, I have done this, I have done that." The other was beating his chest and said, "God be merciful to me a sinner." Jesus' question was, "Who do you think went out justified?" It was the publican. Two men went to the temple. One humbled himself before God and got touched. The other did not. Thank God for every other aspect of worship that we have. But the true essence of worship has to do with our heart. Is it contrite and humble before God?