

Worship the Lord

1 Chronicles 16:8–35

Introduction:

This passage focuses on the aspect of worship. Many complain about an absence of worship, but unfortunately we often are not clear on what worship really is. This passage is very instructive on the subject.

I. The Nature of Worship (vv. 28–30)

- A. Inadequate definitions:
 - 1. Subjective feelings or experiences.
 - 2. Outward performances.
 - 3. Reverence.
- B. Dictionary definition: declaring God's worth or expressing His praise.
- C. Biblical definition:
 - 1. Comes from word that is translated both "worship" and "bow down" or "make obeisance."
 - 2. Outward bowing down that reflects inward bowing.
 - 3. Inward bowing as a result of recognizing greatness of God, smallness of man, and difference between.
- D. Summary: Worship is an attitude that recognizes the greatness of God and inwardly bows down as a result.

II. The Manner of Worship (vv. 8–12)

There are many ways of doing this that include:

- A. Express gratitude to Him (v. 8a).
- B. Pray to Him (v. 8b).
- C. Testify to what He has done for you (v. 8c).
- D. Sing to Him and about Him (v. 9a).
- E. Talk of His wondrous works (v. 9b).
- F. Exalt Him (glory in His name) (v. 10a).
- G. Rejoice in Him (v. 10b).
- H. Call on Him in every time of need (v. 11).
- I. Constantly remind yourself of what He has done, especially in your personal life (v. 12).

III. The Object of Worship (vv. 14–22)

- A. He is God (v. 14a).
 - 1. He is a living God.
 - 2. He is a powerful God (created the heavens and earth).
 - 3. He is a personal God.
 - 4. He is an active God.
- B. His judgements are being worked out in the earth (v. 14b).
- C. He keeps His commitments (vv. 15–20).
- D. He protects His people (vv. 21–22).

IV. The Impact of Worship (vv. 23–27)

- A. Since worship is an internal attitude, we expect it to show in certain attitudes and actions based on it.

- B. These would include:
 1. Praising the Lord.
 2. Rejoicing in the Lord.
 3. Submission to the Lord.
 4. Obedience to the Lord's Word.
 5. Reverence of the Lord's person.
 6. Witnessing for Him—best way to share His greatness with others.
 7. Praying to Him.
- C. They show an important side of worship.
 1. Should occur as part of service.
 2. Can't be limited to a service.
 3. Actually becomes a total way of life.

Conclusion:

Worship surely missing in modern Christianity. Biblical worship actually permeates all of life. Biblical worship is an attitude that would change the way we think and also the way we live. How much do you worship?

In Awe of the Almighty

Psalm 46

Introduction:

This passage is known as "Luther's Psalm." Not only was it the basis for "A Mighty Fortress," but it was his source of encouragement when times were trying and difficult. It is especially helpful in the face of fear. What is it you fear? Everyone has some things!

I. The Structure of the Psalm (Note the word *selah* in three places: its basic meaning is "pause" or a rest as in music—came to mean "stop and think of that.")

- A. The premise stated (vv. 1–3).
 1. The focus is on God.
 2. Three things are said of Him: refuge, strength, help.
 3. Particular emphasis is on time of trouble.
- B. The premise supported (vv. 4–7).
 1. The emphasis is on God.
 2. God is with us.
 3. The refuge idea is restated
- C. The premise summarized (vv. 8–11).
 1. Verse 11 repeats verse 7 as a summary of Psalm.
 2. It stresses role of God in the world.
 3. "Lord of hosts"—God of universe; "God of Jacob"—God of the individual, lonely wanderer.

II. The Scenes of the Psalm

- A. A castle on a hill.
- B. A collection of natural cataclysms (earthquake, hurricane, typhoon, tornado, tidal wave all at once).
- C. "Jerusalem the golden" (most beautiful, protected city on earth—not subject

to earthquakes).

- D. The “Iron Curtain” (split from top to bottom—Europe suddenly healed without human intervention).
- E. An effective bodyguard (Secret Service with Presidents).

III. The Stresses of the Psalm

- A. The sovereignty of God.
 - 1. The power of His word (v. 6*b*)—Same word spoken in creation and by Christ in His earthly ministry.
 - 2. His power—(vv. 8*b*–9)—both war and peace are His to control and dispense.
 - 3. His exaltation (v. 10*b*)—“*I will be exalted.*”
- B. The provision of God.
 - 1. Refuge (v. 1)—place to which we can escape.
 - 2. Strength (vv. 1–5)—idea of broken tooth on post.
 - 3. Help (vv. 1–5)—“Very present”—exceedingly proven.
 - 4. Presence (v. 7)—closer than our troubles.
 - 5. Intervention (vv. 5, 6, 8, 9).
 - 6. Timing (v. 5)—“and that right early”—at the turning of the day—just when needed.
- C. The expectations of God.
 - 1. The control of fear (v. 2).
 - a. “Therefore” because of this.
 - b. “We will not fear”—statement of fact.
 - c. No matter what may happen (uses most extreme scenario possible).
 - 2. Observing His greatness (v. 8).
 - a. See what God has done.
 - b. See God in what has been done.
 - c. Never forget what God has done in the past.
 - 3. Silence before Him (v. 10).
 - a. “Be still”—let down, relax.
 - b. Forego arguing with God.
 - c. Wait for Him to speak and act.

Conclusion:

Psalm 46 was written for a nation but tailored to individuals. It has a powerful message for us today. God is to us what He was to Israel and more so. This fact should attack fear, should cause us to be silent before Him, and should cause us to let God be God.¹

¹ Wood, C. R. (1994). *Sermon Outlines on Great Doctrinal Themes (61–64)*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications.