

## ~WORSHIP (689)

[Hebrew, 'a-vadh', *hish-ta-chawah*', Greek, *la-treu'o*]

· Hebrew And Greek Terms

· Worship That Is Acceptable To God

- The rendering of reverent honor or homage. True worship of the Creator embraces every aspect of an individual's life. The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians;
- Therefore, whether you are eating or drinking or doing anything else, **do all things for God's glory**. (1 Corinthians 10:31)
- When Yehowah God created Adam, He did not prescribe a particular ceremony or a means by which perfect man might approach Him in **worship**. Nevertheless, Adam was able to serve or worship his Creator by faithfully doing the will of his heavenly Father.
- Later, to the nation of Israel, Yehowah did outline a certain way of approach in worship, including sacrifice, a priesthood, and a material sanctuary.
- For since the Law has a **shadow of the good things to come**, but not the very substance of the things, men can never with the same sacrifices from year to year which they offer continually make those who approach perfect. (Hebrews 10:1)
- The primary emphasis has always been on exercising faith doing the will of Yehowah God and not on ceremony or ritual.
- Not everyone saying to me; Lord, Lord! Will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but the **one doing the will of my Father** who is in the heavens will. (Matthew 7:21)
- Thus, too, faith, if it does not have works, is dead in itself. (James 2:17)
- Nevertheless, a certain one will say; You have faith, and I have works. Show me your faith apart from the works, and I shall show you my faith by my works. (James 2:18)
- You believe there is one God, do you? You are doing quite well. And yet the demons believe and shudder. (James 2:19)

- **But do you care to know, O empty man, that faith apart from works is inactive? (James 2:20)**
- **Was not Abraham our father declared righteous by works after he had offered up Isaac his son upon the altar? (James 2:21)**
- **You behold that his faith worked along with his works and by his works his faith was perfected. (James 2:22)**
- **And the scripture was fulfilled which says; Abraham put faith in Yehowah, and it was counted to him as righteousness, and he came to be called, Yehowah's friend. (James 2:23)**
- **You see that a man is to be declared righteous by works, and not by faith alone. (James 2:24)**
- **In the same manner was not also Rahab the harlot declared righteous by works, after she had received the messengers hospitably and sent them out by another way? (James 2:25)**
- **Indeed, as the body without spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead. (James 2:26)**

**See Also APPROACH TO GOD**

- **As the prophet Micah put it; With what shall I confront Yehowah? With what shall I bow myself to God on high? Shall I confront him with whole burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will Yehowah be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of torrents of oil?**
- **Shall I give my firstborn son for my revolt, the fruitage of my belly for the sin of my soul? He has told you, O earthling man, what is good. And what is Yehowah asking back from you but to exercise justice and to love kindness and to be modest in walking with your God?**
- **With what shall I confront Yehowah? With what shall I bow myself to God on high? Shall I confront him with whole burnt offerings, with calves a year old? (Micah 6:6)**
- **Will Yehowah be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of torrents of oil? Shall I give my firstborn son for my**

revolt, the fruitage of my belly for the sin of my soul? (**Micah 6:7**)

- He has told you, O earthling man, what is good. And what is Yehowah asking back from you but to exercise justice and to love kindness and to be modest in walking with your God? (**Micah 6:8**)
- Not concerning your sacrifices do I reprove you, nor concerning your whole burnt offerings that are in front of me constantly. (**Psalms 50:8**)
- I will not take out of your house a bull, out of your pens he-goats. (**Psalms 50:9**)
- For to me belongs every wild animal of the forest, the beasts upon a thousand mountains. (**Psalms 50:10**)
- I well know every winged creature of the mountains, and the animal throngs of the open field are with me. (**Psalms 50:11**)
- If I were hungry, I would not say it to you, for to me the productive land and its fullness belong. (**Psalms 50:12**)
- Shall I eat the flesh of powerful bulls, and the blood of he-goats shall I drink? (**Psalms 50:13**)
- Offer thanksgiving as your sacrifice to God, and pay to the Most High your vows. (**Psalms 50:14**)
- And call me in the day of distress. I shall rescue you, and you will glorify me. (**Psalms 50:15**)
- The one offering thanksgiving as his sacrifice is the one that glorifies me, and as for the one keeping a set way, I will cause him to see salvation by God. (**Psalms 50:23**)

#### •• Hebrew And Greek Terms

- Most Hebrew and Greek words that can denote **worship** can also be applied to acts other than worship. However, the context determines in what way the respective words are to be understood.
- One of the Hebrew words conveying the idea of **worship**, '*a-vadh*' basically means serve.

- Twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, but the thirteenth year they rebelled. (**Genesis 14:4**)
- And he began to say to Abram; You may know for sure that your seed will become an alien resident in a land not theirs, and they will have to serve them, and these will certainly afflict them for four hundred years. (**Genesis 15:13**)
- After that Laban said to Jacob; Are you my brother, and must you serve me for nothing? Tell me, What are your wages to be? (**Genesis 29:15**)
- Serving or **worshipping** Yehowah required obedience to all of his commands, doing his will as a person exclusively devoted to him.
- And now if you will strictly obey my voice and will indeed keep my covenant, then you will certainly become my special property out of all other peoples, because the whole earth belongs to me. (**Exodus 19:5**)
- See, I do put before you today life and good, and death and bad. (**Deuteronomy 30:15**)
- If you will listen to the commandments of Yehowah your God, which I am commanding you today, so as to love Yehowah your God, to walk in his ways and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judicial decisions, then you will be bound to keep alive and to multiply, and Yehowah your God must bless you in the land to which you are going to take possession of it. (**Deuteronomy 30:16**)
- But if your heart turns away and you do not listen, and you are actually seduced and bow down to other gods and serve them. (**Deuteronomy 30:17**)
- I do tell you today that you will positively perish. You will not lengthen your days on the ground to which you are crossing the Jordan to go to take possession of it. (**Deuteronomy 30:18**)
- I do take the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you today, that I have put life and death before you, the blessing and the malediction, and you must choose life in order, that you may keep alive, you and your offspring. (**Deuteronomy 30:19**)

- **By loving Yehowah your God, by listening to his voice and by sticking to him, for he is your life and the length of your days, that you may dwell upon the ground that Yehowah swore to your forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to give to them. (Deuteronomy 30:20)**
- **And now fear Yehowah and serve him in faultlessness and in truth, and remove the gods that your forefathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt, and serve Yehowah. (Joshua 24:14)**
- **Now if it is bad in your eyes to serve Yehowah, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve, whether the gods that your forefathers who were on the other side of the River served or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are dwelling. But as for me and my household, we shall serve Yehowah. (Joshua 24:15)**
- **Therefore, for an individual to engage in any ritual or act of devotion toward any other gods signified his abandoning true **worship**.**
- **And it must occur that if you will without fail obey my commandments that I am commanding you today so as to love Yehowah your God and to serve him with all your heart and all your soul. (Deuteronomy 11:13)**
- **I also shall certainly give rain for your land at its appointed time, autumn rain and spring rain, and you will indeed gather your grain and your sweet wine and your oil. (Deuteronomy 11:14)**
- **And I shall certainly give vegetation in your field for your domestic animals, and you will indeed eat and be satisfied. (Deuteronomy 11:15)**
- **Watch out for yourselves for fear your heart may be enticed, and you do turn aside and **worship** other gods and bow down to them. (Deuteronomy 11:16)**
- **And Yehowah's anger does blaze against you, and he does shut up the heavens so that no rain will occur and the ground will not give its produce and you have to perish speedily from off the good land that Yehowah is giving you. (Deuteronomy 11:17)**
- **And they proceeded to take their daughters as wives for**

- themselves, and their own daughters they gave to their sons, and they took up serving their gods. (**Judges 3:6**)
- So the sons of Israel did what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, and they were forgetful of Yehowah their God and went serving the Baals and the sacred poles. (**Judges 3:7**)
  - Another **Hebrew** term that can denote **worship** is *hish-ta-chawah'*, which primarily means, **bow down**.
  - Anxious care in the heart of a man is what will cause it to bow down, but the good word is what makes it rejoice. (**Proverbs 12:25**)
  - Or do obeisance. Whereas such bowing could at times simply be an act of respect or of courteous regard toward another person
  - Now the two angels arrived at Sodom by evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot caught sight of them, then he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the earth. (**Genesis 19:1**)
  - And he proceeded to say; Please, now, my lords, turn aside, please, into the house of your servant and stay overnight and have your feet washed. Then you must get up early and travel on your way. To this they said; No, but in the public square is where we shall stay overnight. (**Genesis 19:2**)
  - In time Jacob raised his eyes and looked, and here Esau was coming and with him four hundred men. Consequently he divided off the children to Leah and to Rachel and to the two maidservants. (**Genesis 33:1**)
  - And he put the maidservants and their children foremost and Leah and her children after them and Rachel and Joseph to the rear of them. (**Genesis 33:2**)
  - And he himself passed on ahead of them and proceeded to bow down to the earth seven times until he got near to his brother. (**Genesis 33:3**)
  - And Esau went running to meet him, and he began to embrace him and fall upon his neck and kiss him, and they burst into tears. (**Genesis 33:4**)

- Then he raised his eyes and saw the women and the children and said; Who are these with you? To which he said; The children with whom God has favored your servant. (**Genesis 33:5**)
- At that the maidservants came forward, they and their children, and bowed down. (**Genesis 33:6**)
- After that he had still another dream, and he related it to his brothers and said; Here I have had a dream once more, and here the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me. (**Genesis 37:9**)
- Then he related it to his father as well as his brothers, and his father began to rebuke him and say to him; What does this dream that you have dreamed mean? Am I and also your mother and your brothers for certain going to come and bow down to the earth to you? (**Genesis 37:10**)
- It could also be an expression of **worship**, indicating ones reverence and gratitude to God and submission to his will. When used with reference to the true God or false deities, the word *hish-ta-chawah'* is at times associated with sacrifice and prayer.
- Abraham now said to his attendants; You stay here with the ass, but I and the boy want to go on over there and **worship** and return to you. (**Genesis 22:5**)
- After that Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and put it upon Isaac his son and took in his hands the fire and the slaughtering knife, and both of them went on together. (**Genesis 22:6**)
- And Isaac began to say to Abraham his father; My father! In turn he said; Here I am, my son! So he continued; Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the sheep for the burnt offering? (**Genesis 22:7**)
- And the man proceeded to bow down and prostrate himself before Yehowah (**Genesis 24:26**)
- And say; Blessed be Yehowah the God of my master Abraham, who has not left his loving-kindness and his trustworthiness toward my master. I being on the way, Yehowah has led me to

- the house of the brothers of my master. (**Genesis 24:27**)
- But the remainder of it he actually makes into a god itself, into his carved image. He prostrates himself to it and bows down and prays to it and says; Deliver me, for you are my god. (**Isaiah 44:17**)
  - This would indicate that it was common to bow down when praying or offering sacrifice.

**See Also PRAYER**

**See Also OBEISANCE**

- The **Hebrew** root *sa-ghadh'*, basically signifies **prostrate oneself**.
- And it has become something for man to keep a fire burning. So he takes part of it that he may warm himself. In fact he builds a fire and actually bakes bread. He also works on a god to which he may bow down. He has made it into a carved image, and he **prostrates** himself to it. (**Isaiah 44:15**)
- But the remainder of it he actually makes into a god itself, into his carved image. He **prostrates** himself to it and bows down and prays to it and says; Deliver me, for you are my god. (**Isaiah 44:17**)
- And no one recalls to his heart or has knowledge or understanding, saying; The half of it I have burned up in a fire, and upon its coals I have also baked bread, I roast flesh and eat. But the rest of it shall I make into a mere detestable thing? To the dried-out wood of a tree shall I **prostrate** myself? (**Isaiah 44:19**)
- There are those who are lavishing out the gold from the purse, and with the scale beam they weigh out the silver. They hire a metalworker, and he makes it into a god. They **prostrate** themselves, yes, they bow down. (**Isaiah 46:6**)
- The Aramaic equivalent is usually associated with **worship**.
- That at the time that you hear the sound of the horn, the pipe, the zither, the triangular harp, the stringed instrument, the bagpipe and all sorts of musical instruments, you fall down and **worship** the image of gold that Nebuchadnezzar the king has set



up. (Daniel 3:5)

- And whoever does not fall down and **worship** will at the same moment be thrown into the burning fiery furnace. (Daniel 3:6)
- Because of this, at the same time as all the peoples were hearing the sound of the horn, the pipe, the zither, the triangular harp, the stringed instrument and all sorts of musical instruments, all the peoples, national groups and languages were falling down and **worshipping** the image of gold that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up. (Daniel 3:7)
- You yourself, O king, set forth the command that every man that hears the sound of the horn, the pipe, the zither, the triangular harp, the stringed instrument, and the bagpipe and all sorts of musical instruments, should fall down and **worship** the image of gold. (Daniel 3:10)
- And that whoever would not fall down and **worship** should be thrown into the burning fiery furnace. (Daniel 3:11)
- There exist certain Jews whom you appointed over the administration of the jurisdictional district of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, these able-bodied men have paid no regard to you, O king, they are not serving your own gods, and the image of gold that you have set up they are not **worshipping**. (Daniel 3:12)
- At that time Nebuchadnezzar, in a rage and fury, said to bring in Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Consequently these able-bodied men were brought in before the king. (Daniel 3:13)
- Nebuchadnezzar was answering and saying to them; Is it really so, O Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you are not serving my own gods, and the image of gold that I have set up you are not **worshipping**? (Daniel 3:14)
- Now if you are ready so that when you hear the sound of the horn, the pipe, the zither, the triangular harp, the stringed instrument, and the bagpipe and all sorts of musical instruments, you fall down and **worship** the image that I have made, all right. But if you do not worship, at that same moment you will be thrown into the burning fiery furnace. And who is that god that can rescue you out of my hands? (Daniel 3:15)

- But if not, let it become known to you, O king, that your gods are not the ones we are serving, and the image of gold that you have set up we will not **worship**. (**Daniel 3:18**)
- Nebuchadnezzar was answering and saying; Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who sent his angel and rescued his servants that trusted in him and that changed the very word of the king and gave over their bodies, because they would not serve and would not **worship** any god at all except their own God. (**Daniel 3:28**)
- At that time King Nebuchadnezzar himself fell down upon his face, and to Daniel he paid homage, and he said to offer even a present and incense to him. (**Daniel 2:46**)
- To refer to King Nebuchadnezzar's paying homage to Daniel, **prostrating** himself before the prophet.
- The **Greek** verb *la-treu'o*.
- To grant us, after we have been rescued from the hands of enemies, the privilege of fearlessly rendering sacred service to him (**Luke 1:74**)
- And she was a widow now eighty-four years old, who was never missing from the temple, rendering sacred service night and day with fastings and supplications. (**Luke 2:37**)
- In reply Jesus said to him; It is written: It is Yehowah your God you must **worship**, and it is to him alone you must render sacred service. (**Luke 4:8**)
- And that nation for which they will slave I shall judge, God said; and after these things they will come out and will render sacred service to me in this place. (**Acts of Apostles 7:7**)
- And the **Greek** noun *la-trei'a*.
- Men will expel you from the synagogue. In fact, the hour is coming when everyone that kills you will imagine he has rendered a sacred service to God. (**John 16:2**)
- Who, as such, are Israelites, to whom belong the adoption as

sons and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the sacred service and the promises. (**Romans 9:4**)

- Convey the idea of rendering not merely an ordinary, mundane service but sacred service.
- The Greek word *pro-sky-ne'o* corresponds closely to the Hebrew term, *hish-ta-chawah'*, in expressing the thought of obeisance and, at times, **worship**. The term *pro-sky-ne'o* is used in connection with a slaves doing obeisance to a king.
- Therefore the slave fell down and began to do obeisance to him, saying; Be patient with me and I will pay back everything to you. (**Matthew 18:26**)
- As well as the act Satan stipulated when he offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.
- Again the Devil took him along to an unusually high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. (**Matthew 4:8**)
- And he said to him; All these things I will give you if you fall down and do an act of **worship** to me. (**Matthew 4:9**)
- Had he done obeisance to the Devil, Jesus would thereby have signified submission to Satan and made himself the Devils servant. But Jesus refused, saying; Go away, Satan! For it is written: It is Yehowah your God you must **worship**, form of Greek, *pro-sky-ne'o* or, in the Deuteronomy account that Jesus was quoting, Hebrew *hish-ta-chawah'*, and it is to him alone you must render sacred service, form of Greek, *la-treu'o* or Hebrew, *'a-vadh'*.
- Then Jesus said to him; Go away, Satan! For it is written: It is Yehowah your God you must **worship**, and it is to him alone you must render sacred service. (**Matthew 4:10**)
- You must not bow down to them or be led to serve them, because I Yehowah your God am a God exacting exclusive devotion, bringing punishment for the error of fathers upon sons and upon the third generation and upon the fourth generation, in the case of those who hate me. (**Deuteronomy 5:9**)
- Yehowah your God you should fear, and him you should serve,

and by his name you should swear. ([Deuteronomy 6:13](#))

- Similarly, **worship**, obeisance, or bowing down to the wild beast and its image is linked with service, for the worshipers are identified as supporters of the wild beast and its image by having a mark either on the hand, with which one serves, or on the forehead, for all to see. Since the Devil gives the wild beast its authority, worshiping the wild beast means, in reality, worshiping or serving the Devil.
- And they **worshiped** the dragon because it gave the authority to the wild beast, and they worshiped the wild beast with the words; Who is like the wild beast, and who can do battle with it? ([Revelation 13:4](#))
- And there was granted it to give breath to the image of the wild beast, so that the image of the wild beast should both speak and cause to be killed all those who would not in any way **worship** the image of the wild beast. ([Revelation 13:15](#))
- And it puts under compulsion all persons, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the slaves, that they should give these a mark in their right hand or upon their forehead. ([Revelation 13:16](#))
- And that nobody might be able to buy or sell except a person having the mark, the name of the wild beast or the number of its name. ([Revelation 13:17](#))
- And another angel, a third, followed them, saying in a loud voice; If anyone **worships** the wild beast and its image, and receives a mark on his forehead or upon his hand. ([Revelation 14:9](#))
- He will also drink of the wine of the anger of God that is poured out undiluted into the cup of his wrath, and he shall be tormented with fire and sulphur in the sight of the holy angels and in the sight of the Lamb. ([Revelation 14:10](#))
- And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever, and day and night they have no rest, those who **worship** the wild beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name. ([Revelation 14:11](#))

- Other **Greek** words associated with **worship** are drawn from *eu-se-be'o*, *thre-skeu'o*, and *se'bo-mai*. The word *eu-se-be'o* means, **give godly devotion to, venerate, revere**.
- For instance, while passing along and carefully observing your objects of **veneration** I also found an altar on which had been inscribed, **To an Unknown God**. Therefore what you are unknowingly giving godly devotion to, this I am publishing to you. (**Acts of Apostles 17:23**)
- This term is used with reference to the godly devotion or veneration that the men of Athens were giving to an, **Unknown God**. From *thre-skeu'o* comes the noun *thre-skei'a*, understood to designate a **form of worship**, whether true or false.
- That have been previously acquainted with me from the first know, if they but wish to bear witness, that according to the strictest sect of **our form of worship** I lived a Pharisee. (**Acts of Apostles 26:5**)
- Let no man deprive you of the prize who takes delight in a mock humility and a form of **worship** of the angels, taking his stand on the things he has seen, puffed up without proper cause by his fleshly frame of mind. (**Colossians 2:18**)
- The true **worship** practiced by Christians was marked by genuine concern for the poor and complete separateness from the ungodly world.
- If any man seems to himself to be a formal **worshiper** and yet does not bridle his tongue, but goes on deceiving his own heart, this man's form of worship is futile. (**James 1:26**)
- The form of **worship** that is clean and undefiled from the standpoint of our God and Father is this. To look after orphans and widows in their tribulation, and to keep oneself without spot from the world. (**James 1:27**)
- The **Greek** word *se'bo-mai*.
- It is in vain that they keep **worshipping** me, because they teach commands of men as doctrines. (**Matthew 15:9**)
- It is in vain that they keep **worshipping** me, because they teach as

doctrines commands of men. (**Mark 7:7**)

- Accordingly he transferred from there and went into the house of a man named Titius Justus, a **worshiper** of God, whose house was adjoining the synagogue. (**Acts of Apostles 18:7**)
- Moreover, the danger exists not only that this occupation of ours will come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be esteemed as nothing and even her magnificence which the whole district of Asia and the inhabited earth **worships** is about to be brought down to nothing. (**Acts of Apostles 19:27**)
- And the related **Greek** term *se-ba'zo-mai*.
- Even those who exchanged the truth of God for the lie and **venerated** and rendered sacred service to the creation rather than the One who created, who is blessed forever. Amen. (**Romans 1:25**)
- **Mean, revere, venerate, worship.** Objects of worship or of devotion are designated by the noun *se'ba-sma*.
- For instance, while passing along and carefully observing your objects of veneration I also found an altar on which had been inscribed, **To an Unknown God**. Therefore what you are unknowingly giving godly devotion to, this I am publishing to you. (**Acts of Apostles 17:23**)
- He is set in opposition and lifts himself up over everyone who is called, god, or an object of **reverence**, so that he sits down in the temple of The God, publicly showing himself to be a god. (**2 Thessalonians 2:4**)
- Two other terms are from the same verb stem, with the prefix *The-os'*, **God**. These are *the-o-se-bes'*, meaning, **God-revering**.
- We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is **God-fearing** and does his will, he listens to this one. (**John 9:31**)
- And *the-o-se'bei-a*, denoting, **reverence of God**.
- But in the way that befits women professing to **reverence God**, namely, through good works. (**1 Timothy 2:10**)

- These two terms correspond somewhat to the German word for **public worship**, namely, *Gottesdienst*, a combination of God and **service**.

### See Also **GODLY DEVOTION**

#### ·· **Worship That Is Acceptable To God**

- Yehowah God accepts only the **worship** of those who comport themselves in harmony with his will.
- It is in vain that they keep **worshipping** me, because they teach commands of men as doctrines. (**Matthew 15:9**)
- It is in vain that they keep **worshipping** me, because they teach as doctrines commands of men. (**Mark 7:7**)
- To a Samaritan woman Christ Jesus said;
- Jesus said to her; Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you people **worship** the Father. (**John 4:21**)
- You **worship** what you do not know. We worship what we know, because salvation originates with the Jews. (**John 4:22**)
- Nevertheless, the hour is coming, and it is now, when the true **worshippers** will worship the Father with spirit and truth, for, indeed, the Father is looking for suchlike ones to **worship** him. (**John 4:23**)
- God is a Spirit, and those **worshipping** him must **worship** with **spirit and truth**. (**John 4:24**)
- The words of Jesus clearly showed that true **worship** would not depend upon the presence or use of visible things and geographic locations.
- Instead of relying on sight or touch, the true **worshiper** exercises faith and, regardless of the place or things about him, maintains a worshipful attitude.

- Thus he **worships**, not with the aid of something that he can see or touch, but with spirit. Since he has the truth as revealed by God, his worship is in agreement with the truth.
- Having become acquainted with God through the Bible and evidence of the operation of God's spirit in his life, the person who worships with spirit and truth definitely knows what he is **worshipping**.