

Beulah Heights University

Research Paper Final Draft

History of Worship in Old Testament and New Testament

Nara Yun

Bi 501 Survey of Old Testament _Online

Dr. Dennis C. Malone

Nov. 11th 2017

All Christians who believe in God come to church Sunday to worship God. This worship is also a way to serve God from the Old Testament times to the present day.

Looking at the meaning of worship in the Bible, the first worship can be seen in the sacraments of Cain and Abel. However, the beginning of public worship has been started from the age of Seth. (Genesis 4:26: Seth also had a son, and called his name Enosh. At that time began to call the name of the LORD.) After that, Abraham built an altar and worshiped where God was present (Gen. 13: 3-4 From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the LORD).

More institutionalized worship was from Moses. If we characterize the Old Testament Israel in one word, they are a worshipping community. It was their faith that bound Israelites as one, and this expression of faith was worship. The worship of the Old Testament had a form of worship for the restoration of right relationship with God. The form of worship was burnt offering, sacrifice, peace offerings, sin offering, and fasting (Lev. 1: 1-7 2."Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'When any of you brings an offering to the LORD, bring as your offering an animal from either the herd or the flock. 3.'" 'If the offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he is to offer a male without defect. He must present it at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting so that it will be acceptable to the LORD. 4.He is to lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it will be accepted on his behalf to make atonement for him. 5.He is to slaughter the young bull before the LORD, and then Aaron's sons the priests shall bring the blood and sprinkle it against the altar on all sides at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. 6.He is to skin the burnt offering and cut it into pieces. 7.The sons of Aaron the priest are to put fire on the altar and arrange wood on the fire.). What is important here is that God has the initiative of Old Testament worships because the worship form for the restoration of relationship with God is not the creation of human beings, but God's direct revelation. However, this worship has done their ordinances of Israelites because Jesus Christ came into the world in the flesh and scarified

himself for us.

On the other hand, the ritual of the Old Testament period was changed to the form of worship in the New Testament. It was the events of Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection that fulfilled the Old Testament priesthood, and the memorial and memorial gathering turned into worship. In other words, Jesus Christ has laid the foundation of New Testament worship, beginning with Pentecost. Therefore, the worship of the New Testament can be worship as an act of the whole personality of the human being to the Creator God.

This worship is the means by which people can meet with God and is the way to dedicate to God. Therefore, worship is a worship of God, and form in worship is a means of expression. There was a ritual for the worship of the days of Israelite patriarchs and wilderness tabernacles, and the worship of the temple after Solomon built the temple was a tradition of this ordinance. In the New Testament times, Christians gathered every Sunday for a sacrament and they heard the sermon from the elders and bishops.

Why do Christians worship God from Old Testament period to today? I would like know worship's meaning through the Bible.

The time when the word "worship" has been used has difference according to express method and situation, but it can be seen that the contents of worship are same. First, the first term which is associated with worship in the Old Testament is אָבְדָה ('abhōdhāh'). The meaning of the word was used in Exodus 12: 25-26 with the word "ceremony." The etymology of this word 'אָבְדָה ('ābhadh) (2 Samuel 15: 8).' means to 'work' and 'to serve'.¹ The second term is אָשַׁח (šāḥāh). The meaning of this word implies the religious concept of worship, obedience, and service in the sense of 'bowing', 'bowing down', and 'worshiping'. This term means that the worshipers express the utmost respect to God in their hearts and minds.² This attitude of worshiper that abandon independence before God and obey God's will should be equipped. Third, the term used in the New Testament is λατρεία

¹ Harris R. Laird, Gleason L. Archer Jr., & Bruce K. Waltke, Theological Word Book of the Old Testament, אָבְדָה א, אָבְדָה אָבְדָה (אָבְדָה: אָבְדָה, 1986), 45.

² Harris R. Laird, Gleason L. Archer Jr., & Bruce K. Waltke, Theological Word Book

(lat-ri'-ah). This means 'service for reward,' 'service for gods.' The New Testament refers this word for three ritual ministries: (Romans 9:4, Hebrews 9:16, Romans 12: 1). Romans 12: 1 refers to the inner life and the outward activity of the living Sacrifices . Lastly, the term ‘לִטְוֹרָה’ (li-toorg-ee'-ah)' means 'service,' and 'liturgy' . This word was used to show the special service performed by the priests and Levites, and all their priestly functions were associated with worship (Luke 1:21; Hebrews 9:21). Some psalms have been identified as “liturgies” because their contents suggest that they were used during public worship. Some of them have internal indication of the ritual setting where they were used, including a procession and a pilgrimage.³ Therefore, worship means to fully serve God according to God's will, without revealing his will before God, and to acknowledge the authority of God, which means the utmost manifestation of man's heart and respect and submission to absolute sovereignty do.

I. Worship in the Old Testament

God created man in His own image (Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own [image](#), in the [image](#) of God he created him; male and female he created them). And God gave humans the ability to communicate and worship with the Creator. The beginning of the worship in the Bible can be seen from the sacrifices of Cain and Abel. However, the beginning of public worship began from the time of Seth (Gen. 4:26). Abraham built an altar in the presence of God and called upon the name of the LORD (Gen. 13: 3).

On the other hand , it was Moses' time that the worship service to God was institutionalized. The opportunity to meet God was made in Sinai worship service and we can see how can communicate with a holy God. Three months after the Exodus, the Israelites arrived at Mount Sinai, where they set up camp(Ex 19.1-2). Following Moses’ instructions, the people prepared for a divine revelation, in which Yahweh with all of the manifestations of the storm-cloud, thunder, lightning,

³ Michael D. Coogan, *The Old Testament: A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scripture*, 3rd Edition, (New York Oxford University Press, 2014),p.464

earthquake-descended on the mountain. In Exodus 20 the giving of the Ten Commandments and other legal directive follows, to which we will return.⁴ God, who keeps the covenant with Israel with the Old Testament Creator, and his love for human beings is the result of his Son Jesus Christ Manifested in person and ministry, and the death of the Calvary Cross is worshiped in the Old Testament. As Jesus Christ came into the world in the flesh, the sacrifice of Judaism Consciousness was ended.

II. Worship in the New Testament

According to the New Testament, Christian worship is rooted in the custom of Judaism. The first Christians, above all, are faithful to their worship in temples and synagogues. Jesus himself also followed the custom of his people. The foundation of the worship is the temple and synagogue customs, along with Jesus and the religious common heritage, which is a symbol of the doctrine. First, Jesus supported Israelite worship. An examination of his relationship to the temple, the synagogue, and the feast confirms this conclusion. Luke and John tell of Jesus' teaching in the temple(Luke 19:47; John 7:14;120-22-24), and all four Gospels describe the cleansing of the temple, in which Jesus demonstrated his concern for the purity of temple worship (Matt. 21: 12-13; Mark 11:15-17; Luke 19-45-46; John 2:13-16). Jesus went regularly to the synagogue on the Sabbath. Jesus attended the feasts of the Israel, and the detail with which he celebrated his last Passover displays his knowledge and appreciation of the major feast of Israel(Matt. 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-26; Luke 22:7-23).⁵ Although there are unique elements not found in the worship, there are relationship between the Old Testament worship and the New Testament worship. There are no fundamental disconnections to worship God between Old Testament and New Testament.

If the Old Testament worship was related with the Temple of Jerusalem, New Testament worship focus on redemption by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The New Testament

⁴ Michael D. Coogan, *The Old Testament: A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scripture*, 3rd Edition, (New York Oxford University Press, 2014),p.107

⁵ Robert E. Webber, *Worship Old and New*, Revised Edition (Zondervan 1994) p.42

worship is sufficient in the earthly life of Jesus Christ. The grace of redemption is the worship of confession.

III. General understanding of worship in the Old Testament

i) Meaning of worship

In the Old Testament, the word that expresses the whole meaning of worship as one word is really hard to find, the word is used suitable for the situation at that time.

First, the word is עָבַד: to serve. It means service which people use it instead of worship comes from English. It is used about 120 times in the Old Testament and means "to serve in the temple," and "to serve in riches and gifts". The second term is "שָׁחָה (bow down)". It means "to bow down" and "to fall down on yourself" It has a religious concept of worship, obedience, and service "I bowed my head, I worshiped" or "I bowed and worshiped".⁶ It has been used more than 40 times in the Old Testament, and used for man (Genesis 18: 8;3: 2; 3: 2) , to the Gentiles (2 Kings 5: 8; 17: 16; 35: 21; 3: 2 Chr. 7:22; Psalm 81: 8; 146: 19). It means the expression of the physical body to be born, which is kneeling or bowing in a modest attitude.

When we summarize the meaning of worship, it is indicated to live according to his will, and the life of worship and obedience. It has become the foundation of the main life of worshipers.⁷

Worship is the surrender of all our thoughts and will to God. Worship is deeply respecting God, the almighty Creator. Moses fell on the ground and worshiped the LORD.

Exodus 34: 8) ,the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down in worship before the (2 Chronicles 20:18).

ii) Understanding the Old Testament Worshipers

Before defining the biblical worshiper, find out meaning of worshiper.

⁶ Genesis 24:26, Exodus 4:31, Exodus 34:8

⁷ Jangbok Jung "Introduction to Christian worship" P 7-8

Worship old and new recognizes theology as a discipline that reflects on its experience, particularly the experience of worship. From a theological point of view worship constitutes the gospel in motion. Worship celebrates God's great acts of salvation. During worship God communicates to the worshipers his salvation and healing, to which people respond with faith, praise, prayer, thanksgiving, and a life of service in the world.

The epicenter for worship with Israel was the central saving event of the Exodus, and with the church it is the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. Through these events God offers a covenant, an agreement with binding stipulations and ritual acts of worship, which under the old covenant occurred at appointed times and places through specific sacred acts. Also, worship is the response of the people to God's saving initiative. Through prescribed acts the people remember the past saving event; and through commemorative time and ritual acts the power of this saving event is communicated again and again. The inner person receives God's acts of salvation communicated in public worship with humility and in reverence and demonstrates his or her continued response to God in a life of service and devotion.¹⁰