

Worship in the Bible
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Study Guide – Patriarchal Age

Definition of Worship

Merriam Webster

Verb Form 1. To honor or show reverence for as a divine being or supernatural power 2. To regard with great or extravagant respect, honor, or devotion to perform or take part in worship or an act of worship

Noun Form 1. Reverence offered a divine being or supernatural power also : an act of expressing such reverence 2. A form of religious practice with its creed and ritual 3. Extravagant respect or admiration for or devotion to an object of esteem

In the Bible, the Hebrew word **shachah (שָׁחָה)** (shah-'ha) denotes the act of bowing down or worship. The Greek word proskuneō, (**προσκυνέω**) (pros-q- 'now) rendered in English as “worship,” means “to encounter God and praise Him.”

Creation of Man - Genesis 1:26-31; Genesis 2:7-8; Genesis 2:15-17; Genesis 2:20-24

- 1. Do we see man worshiping God in the Garden? Yes or No?**
- 2. If so how?**
- 3. What worship did God command?**
- 4. After Sin, What does the relationship between God and Man look like? (Genesis 3:23-24)**

The First Post Fall Period

We divide the first period of worship as the Patriarchal Age (Period or Dispensation). It is characterized by prominent patriarchs such as: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, including other less prominent Old Testament persons;(example: the sons of Jacob). During this time, societal structures was male-dominated, with lineage and property passing through males. The family or clan served as the fundamental unit, with the head of the household wielding significant authority. This era is marked by the absence of a Sabbath observance and the use of the term 'generation' to specify a hundred-year period, indicating its historical and theological significance. It is also the era referenced in which God reveals Himself as El Shaddai (God Almighty; All-sufficient One; The God of the Mountain {aka: Mt. Sinai}).

The Patriarchal age – begins with creation in Genesis 1 and ends with the giving of the law on Mt. Sinai. (Exodus 20; John 7:22; Acts 7:8-9; Romans 11:16; Hebrews 7:4)

During this time God speaks directly to man. Examples: Adam & Eve-Genesis 3; Noah-Genesis 8:15, 9:8; Hagar-Genesis 16:13, Abram-Genesis 17:33, Genesis 24:7; Laban-Genesis 31:29; Genesis-Israel(aka: Jacob) 46:2 Moses-Exodus 3.

Patriarchal Age - Worship

Cain and Abel Genesis 4: 1-7

1. **What does this first recorded worship look like?** (Genesis 4: 3 And in the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground. 4 And Abel brought of the firstborn of his flock and of the fat portions. And the Lord had respect *and* regard for Abel and for his offering, 5 But for Cain and his offering He had no respect *or* regard. So Cain was exceedingly angry *and* indignant, and he looked sad *and* depressed. 6 And the Lord said to Cain, Why are you angry? And why do you look sad *and* depressed *and* dejected? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin crouches at your door; its desire is for you, but you must master it.
2. **Why does God accept Abel's offering and not Cain's** (Genesis 4:7) “sin crouches at your door”

Noah Genesis 8

1. **What is the first act of worship following the flood ?** (Genesis 8:20) And Noah built an altar to the Lord and took of every clean [four-footed] animal and of every clean fowl *or* bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.
2. **How does God accept Noah's offering?** (Genesis 8:21) When the Lord smelled the pleasing odor [a scent of satisfaction to His heart], the Lord said to Himself, I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the imagination (the strong desire) of man's heart is evil *and* wicked from his youth; neither will I ever again smite *and* destroy every living thing, as I have done

Abram Genesis 13

1. **What is Abram's first recorded act of worship?** (Genesis 12:8) From there he pulled up [his tent pegs] *and* departed to the mountain on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord.
2. **What is Lot's first recorded act of worship?** (Genesis 13) The Bible does not list anything specific to Lot worshipping God.

Abram Genesis 14

1. **Who is King Melchizedek** (Genesis 14:18-24)* Side Study
2. **What are Abram's act of worship?** (Genesis 14:22-24) Honor to God to give Him everything So that God received the credit for the victory.

Abram Genesis 15

1. **What did God's command Abram's as acts of worship?** (Genesis 15:6) After these things, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram, I am your Shield, your abundant compensation, *and* your reward shall be exceedingly great. 2 And Abram said, Lord God, what can You give me, since I am going on [from this world] childless and he who shall be the owner *and* heir of my house is this [steward] Eliezer of Damascus? 3 And Abram continued, Look, You have given me no child; and [a servant] born in my house is my heir. 4 And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, This man shall not be your heir, but he who shall come from your own body shall be your heir. 5 And He brought him outside [his tent into the starlight] and said, Look now toward the heavens and count the stars—if you are able to number them. Then He said to him, So shall your descendants be. 6 And he [Abram] believed in (trusted in, relied on, remained steadfast to) the Lord, and He counted it to him as righteousness (right standing with God). 7 And He said to him, I am the [same] Lord, Who

brought you out of Ur of the Chaldees to give you this land as an inheritance. 8 But he [Abram] said, Lord God, by what shall I know that I shall inherit it?

2. **What is God's command Abram as act of worship?** (Genesis 15:9-10) 9 And He said to him, Bring to Me a heifer three years old, a she-goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon. 10 And he brought Him all these and cut them down the middle [into halves] and laid each half opposite the other; but the birds he did not divide.

Abram Genesis 17

1. **What did God command Abram's as act of worship?** (Genesis 17:11; 24-27) 9 And God said to Abraham, As for you, you shall therefore keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. 10 This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your posterity after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. 11 And you shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be a token or sign of the covenant (the promise or pledge) between Me and you. 12 He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male throughout your generations, whether born in [your] house or bought with [your] money from any foreigner not of your offspring. 13 He that is born in your house and he that is bought with your money must be circumcised; and My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. 14 And the male who is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant.
2. **Abram worships God** Genesis 17:21-27 21 But My covenant, My promise and pledge, I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year. 22 And God stopped talking with him and went up from Abraham. 23 And Abraham took Ishmael his son and all who were born in his house and all who were bought with his money, every male among [those] of Abraham's house, and circumcised [them] the very same day, as God had said to him. 24 And Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised. 25 And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old when he was circumcised. 26 On the very same day Abraham was circumcised, and Ishmael his son as well. 27 And all the men of his house, both those born in the house and those bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised along with him.

Abram Genesis 18

1. **How did Abraham worship?** Now the Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks *or* terebinths of Mamre; as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day, 2 He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men stood at a little distance from him. He ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the ground

Abraham Genesis 21

1. **What did God tell Abraham that HE wanted him to do?**
 - a. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him.
2. **Is this worship?**
3. **What is the significance of this narrative to us?**

Abraham Genesis 22

1. **What did God tell Abraham that HE wanted him to do?**

[God] said, Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah; and offer him there as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains of which I will tell you. 3 So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young

men with him and his son Isaac; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and then began the trip to the place of which God had told him. 4 On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. 5 And Abraham said to his servants, Settle down *and* stay here with the donkey, and I and the young man will go yonder and worship and come again to you. 6 Then Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on [the shoulders of] Isaac his son, and he took the fire (the fire pot) in his own hand, and a knife; and the two of them went on together. 7 And Isaac said to Abraham, My father! And he said, Here I am, my son. [Isaac] said, See, here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt sacrifice? 8 Abraham said, My son, God Himself will provide a lamb for the burnt offering. So the two went on together. 9 When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there; then he laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar on the wood. 10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand and took hold of the knife to slay his son. 11 But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, Abraham, Abraham! He answered, Here I am. 12 And He said, Do not lay your hand on the lad or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear *and* revere God, since you have not held back from Me *or* begrudged giving Me your son, your only son. 13 Then Abraham looked up *and* glanced around, and behold, behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up for a burnt offering *and* an ascending sacrifice instead of his son! 14 So Abraham called the name of that place The Lord Will Provide. And it is said to this day, On the mount of the Lord it will be provided.

2. **Is this worship?**

3. **What is the significance of this narrative to us?**

Moses Exodus 3-4

1. **What did God command Moses to do as acts of worship?** (Exodus 4:25) [Now apparently he had failed to circumcise one of his sons, his wife being opposed to it; but seeing his life in such danger] Zipporah took a flint knife and cut off the foreskin of her son and cast it to touch [Moses'] feet, and said, Surely a husband of blood you are to me!

2. **What did the Israelites do as worship?** (Exodus 4:31) 31 And the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the Israelites, and that He had looked [in compassion] upon their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped.

Important events specific to the Patriarchal age:

1. **God's first "Forever" Covenant {Noah - Rainbow (Genesis 9:11-17)}**

2. **God's second "Forever Covenant {Abram - Great Nation (Genesis 12:1-3)}**

3. **God's third "Forever Covenant {Abram - Land (Genesis 15:18)}**

4. **God's fourth "Forever Covenant {Abram - Father of Nations (Genesis 17:5)}**