

Unleashed Worship

Long Beach Alliance Church • December 23rd, 2012 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**But the hour is coming, and is now here,
when the true worshipers will worship the
Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is
seeking such people to worship him.**

~John 4:23 (ESV)

1) The Singular Concept Of “Spirit & Truth”

- A) While speaking with a Samaritan woman at a well in the town of Sychar (John 4:5-26) Jesus Christ shifted worship away from the territorialism of physical locales to a refocused emphasis on “spirit and truth” (4:23-24).
- B) In other words, the object of worship (God) is no longer found in a temple/shrine, but in spiritual rebirth (born again, John 3:3-8) which can only come through active and ongoing believing in Jesus Christ (3:14-18).
- C) Worship is redefined as being located in the rebirthed hearts of God’s people! Worship exemplified by God’s historical people (the Jews), is now expressed “24/7” wherever God’s people find themselves (Romans 12:1).

2) Our Rich Historical Example Of Worship

- A) Whenever we encounter people (a person, community, or entire nation) worshipping God in the Bible, they are holistically encountering God. This was also Jesus Christ’s command in paraphrasing the Old Testament (Mark 12:30).
- B) There are many rich descriptions of worship in the Bible, captured by over 60 different words (55+ in the Old Testament) for acts of worship to God!

- C) The underpinnings of our worship of God comes from this rich history. The Bible notes (1st Peter 2:9), that we are designed to respond to God's love by responding in worship to God/Christ/Holy Spirit. During this remarkable advent season, we are called to respond in worship!

3) The Holistic Words Of Biblical Worship

- A) While there are 60+ words describing different aspects of worship in the Bible, there are 8 words which are very significant. Each is part of our rich biblical history...
- B) Chavah, חָוָה - to bow down in worship, in awe, in reverence, in deepest respect. A very common biblical word for worship, used over 100 times (e.g. Psalm 95:6).
- C) Yadah, יָדָה, related to the word Yad, יָד (hand) - to use the hands or arms in worship, extending hands to give thanks, raising hands in reverence or adoration (e.g. Psalm 79:13).
- D) Halal, הָלַל, to praise loudly with your voice, to make great and exuberant boasts. Related to the word "shine." To make extravagant celebration with dancing. This is the root of "Hallelujah," or "Praise the Lord!" (Psalm 148:1).
- E) Barak, בָּרַךְ, to bless, honor, kneel. To physically or spiritually kneel before God in worship, often as word or phrase of submission, honor, or blessing (Job 1:21).
- F) Shachach, שָׁחָח, to bow down in joyous worship, to stoop to the ground in submission and reverence (Isaiah 60:14).
- G) Zamar, זָמַר, to sing while accompanied by an instrument. To celebrate with instruments and voices (Psalm 33:2).
- H) Shavach, שָׁבַח, to laud or praise in a loud voice, commend, congratulate, to celebrate in God (Psalm 117:1).
- I) Ahvad, עָבַד, to serve or work for God in response to His mighty works or deliverance. To labor on behalf of God in response to His works (Psalm 143:12).