

For His lovingkindness is  
everlasting!

(Psalm 136)

WOMEN: The LORD is gracious and merciful; Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness.

MEN: The LORD is good to all, And His mercies are over all His works.

WOMEN: All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD, And Your godly ones shall bless You.

MEN: They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom And talk of Your power;

ALL: To make known to the sons of men Your mighty acts And the glory of the majesty of Your kingdom.

Psalm 145:8-12



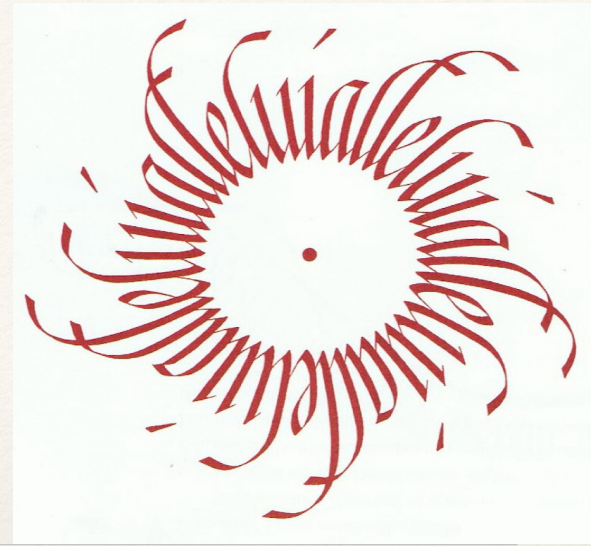
# Biblical Worship

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## Unit 3

# WORSHIP IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

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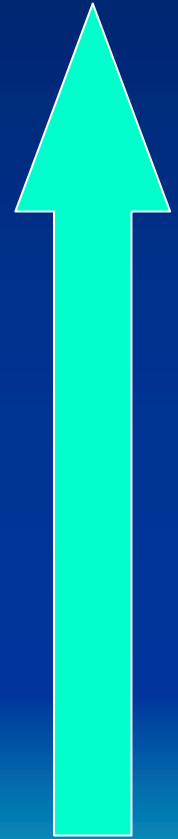
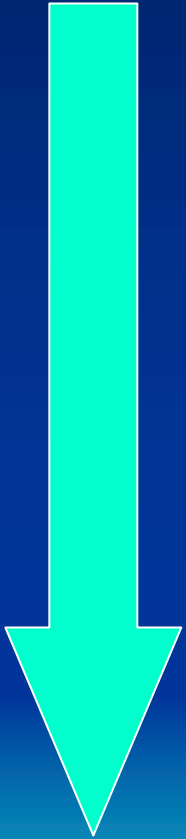
# 1. Important Themes in Old Testament Worship



# Important Themes

## a. WORSHIP AS RESPONSE

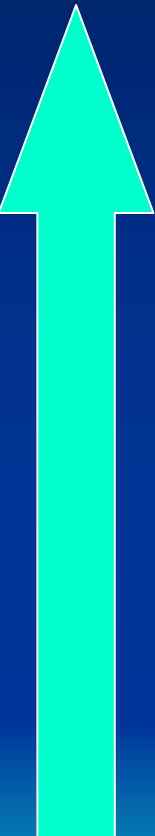
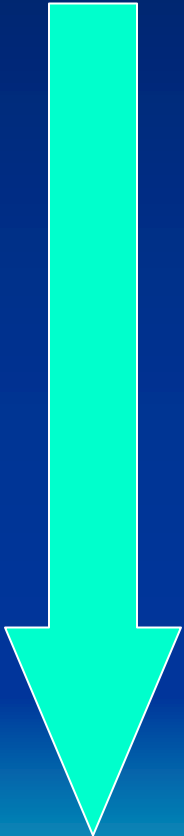
- To revelation (Exodus 3:13-14)
- To redemption (Exodus 3:12)
- To relationship (Exodus 6:7)



# Important Themes

## a. WORSHIP AS RESPONSE

- “The entire sacrificial system, as it is presented in the OT, is comprised within the covenant between the Lord and His people; God has taken the initiative, having both prescribed and provided the means of access to Himself. Worship was thus Israel’s response to the covenant relationship and the means of ensuring its continuance.” (J.G. Davies, “Worship,” in *A Dictionary of Biblical Traditions in English Literature*, ed. David Lyle Jeffrey, p. 851)



# Important Themes

## b. GOD'S GRACE, MERCY, LOVINGKINDNESS

*hesed*

248 x in OT; 127x in Psalms

“The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in *steadfast love*. (Psalm 145:8)

“Surely goodness and *mercy* shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.” (Psalm 23:6)

# Important Themes

## c. WORSHIP OF THE HEART (spiritual sacrifices)

*verses*





# Important Themes

## c. WORSHIP OF THE HEART (spiritual sacrifices)

Individual Reflection:  
HEZEKIAH  
*2 Chronicles 30:1-10*



# Important Themes

## c. WORSHIP OF THE HEART (spiritual sacrifices)

“Man looks on the outward appearance,  
*but God looks on the heart*”  
(1 Samuel 16:7)

The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14)

The widow's mites (Luke 21:1-4)



# Important Themes

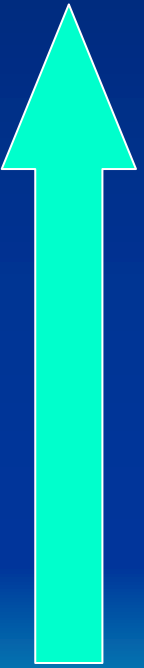
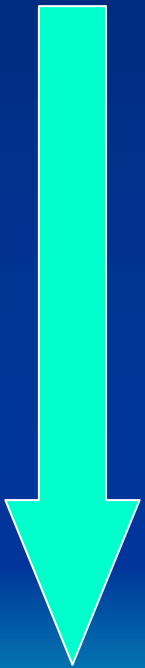
## d. CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD

“NAME”: nature, character, reputation

RESPONSE: personal & public acts of worship

“And there Abraham built an altar to the LORD and *called upon the name* of the LORD.” (Genesis 12:8)

CONTRAST: “Let us make a name *for ourselves*.”  
(Genesis 11:4)



Acts 2:21 And it shall come to pass that everyone who **calls upon the name of the Lord** shall be saved.’

Acts 9:14 “And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who **call on Your name.**”

Acts 9:21 And all who heard him were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who **called upon this name?**”

Acts 22:16 ‘And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, **calling on His name.**’

Rom. 10:13 For “everyone who **calls on the name of the Lord** will be saved.”



# Important Themes

## e. THE PRESENCE OF GOD

(especially in the Tabernacle and Temple)

*lipne Yahweh*

“before the (face of the) LORD”: 236 times in OT

“face is a *synecdoche* for the whole person”

Speaks of RELATIONSHIP

“The LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make His *face* to shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
the LORD lift up His *face* upon you and give you peace.”

(Numbers 6:24-26)



# Important Themes

## e. THE PRESENCE OF GOD

The triune God desires a personal relationship with His people and so makes His presence known to establish and cultivate this relationship. . . . This relational presence of God lies at the heart of the Bible's overall message.

(J. Scott Duvall and J Daniel Hays, *God's Relational Presence: The Cohesive Center of Biblical Theology*, 325)



# Important Themes

## e. THE PRESENCE OF GOD

*passages*



## 2. Important Vocabulary in Old Testament Worship





# Important Vocabulary

a. “to bow down, honor”

*ḥistahavah*

(NT: *proskuneō*)

“Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;  
bring an offering and come before Him!

*Worship* the LORD in the splendor of holiness.”  
(1 Chronicles 16:29)



# Important Vocabulary

b. “to serve”

*‘abad*

(NT: *latreuō*)

“as for me and my house, we will *serve* the LORD.” (Joshua 24:15)

“you will not *worship* them or serve them” (Exodus 20:5)



# 3. Worship in Old Testament History



# 3. Worship in Old Testament History

## a. The Beginning Period (Genesis 1–11)

*Creation (1–2)*

*Fall (3)*



# 3. Worship in Old Testament History

## a. The Beginning Period (Genesis 1–11)

### *Cain and Abel (4:1-17)*

“*By faith* Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain” (Hebrews 11:4)

### *Jubal (4:21)*

(first mention of music in the Bible)

“His brother’s name was Jubal;  
he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe.”

### *Seth and Enosh (4:26)*

“To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh.  
At that time people began to call upon the name of the LORD.”  
(Genesis 4:26)



# 3. Worship in Old Testament History

## a. The Beginning Period (Genesis 1–11)

### *Noah and the Flood (6–8)*

“Then Noah built an altar to the LORD  
and took some of every clean animal  
and some of every clean bird  
and offered burnt offerings on the altar.”

(Genesis 8:20)



# 3. Worship in Old Testament History

## a. The Beginning Period (Genesis 1–11)

### *The Tower of Babel (11)*

“Come, let us build ourselves a city  
and a tower with its top in the heavens,  
*and let us make a name for ourselves.*”

(Genesis 11:4)

Judgement



# 3. Worship in Old Testament History

## a. The Beginning Period (Genesis 1–11)

### *The Tower of Babel (11)*

#### Praise

“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, *from all tribes and peoples and languages*, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’”

(Revelation 7:9-10)

“It was the spectacular sin on the plains of Shinar that gave rise to the multiplying of language that ends in the most glorious praise to Christ from every language on earth.” (John Piper)





# 3. Worship in Old Testament History

## b. The Patriarchal Period (Genesis 12–50)



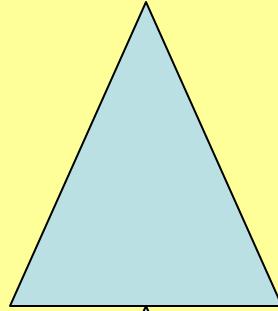
# 3. Worship in Old Testament History

## b. The Patriarchal Period (Genesis 12–50)

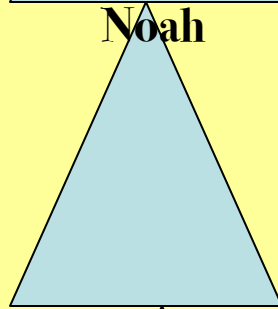
*Abraham*



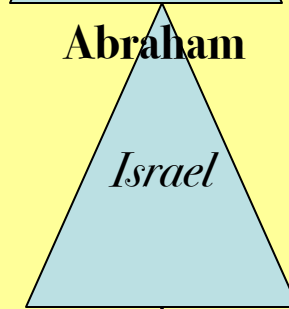
**Adam & Eve**



**Noah**

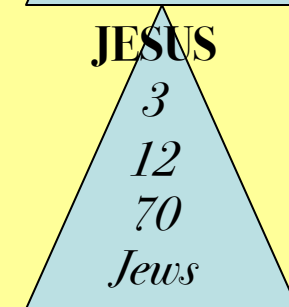


**Abraham**



*Israel*

**JESUS**



*3*

*12*

*70*

*Jews*

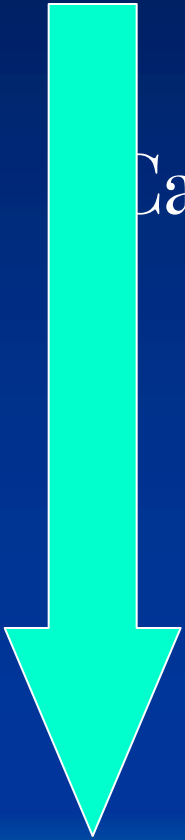
*Gentiles*  
*(Nations)*

# *Abraham*

Call (12:1-3)

*a unique worshiping people*

“the people whom I formed for Myself  
that they might declare my praise.”  
(Isaiah 43:21)

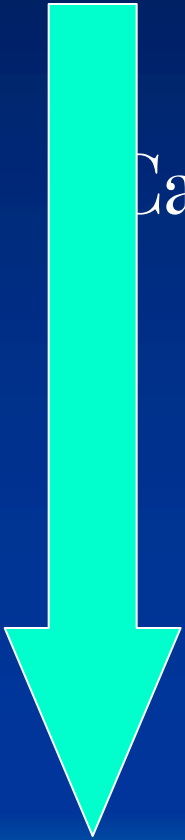


# *Abraham*

Call (12:1-3)

*a worldwide purpose*

“and in you all the families  
the earth will be blessed.”  
(Genesis 12:3)



# *Abraham*



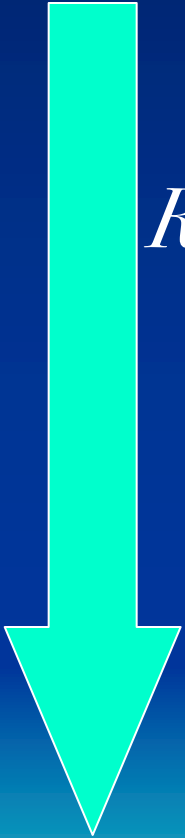
Call (12:1-3)

Response (12:8)



# *Abraham*

*Revelation* (promises,  
names of God,  
appearances)

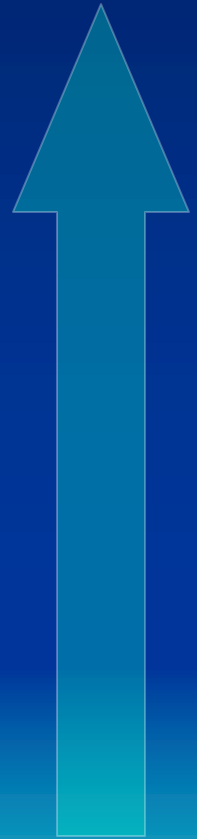
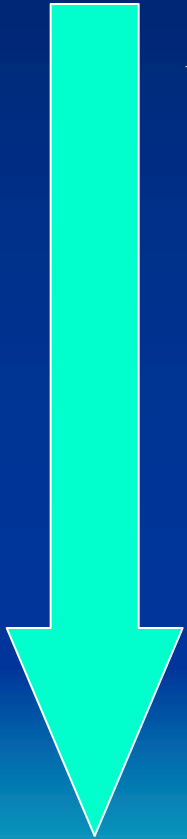


# *Abraham*

*Revelation*

## NAMES

- *El Elyon* (“God Most High,” 14:18-19)
- *El Shaddai* (“God Almighty,” 17:1-2)
- *El Olam* (“the Everlasting God,” 21:33)
- *Yahweh Jireh* (“the LORD who Sees/  
Provides,” 22:14)





# *Abraham*



*Revelation* (promises,  
names of God,  
appearances)

*Response* (faith, 15:6;  
altars, sacrifices, prayers)



# *Abraham*

## A TEST OF LOVE (Genesis 22)

### The Test (22:1-2)



# *Abraham*

## A TEST OF LOVE (Genesis 22)

### The Test (22:1-2)

#### **BREAKOUT:**

What do you think might have happened between verses 2 and 3?



# *Abraham*

## A TEST OF LOVE (Genesis 22)

The Test (22:1-2)

The Response of Worship (22:3-11)

The Provision and Promises of  
God (22:12-20)



*Abraham*

A TEST OF LOVE (Genesis 22)

*Abe Kuruvilla*



## *Isaac*

From there [Isaac] went up to Beersheba. And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, “I am the God of Abraham your father. Fear not, for I am with you and will bless you and multiply your offspring for my servant Abraham’s sake.”

So he built an altar there and called upon the name of the LORD and pitched his tent there.

(Genesis 26:23-25)





*Jacob*

Genesis 28:10-22

(John 1:47-51)

# *Jacob*

“By faith Jacob, when dying,  
blessed each of the sons of Joseph,  
bowing in worship  
over the head of his staff.”

(Hebrews 11:21)





# 3. Worship in Old Testament History

## c. The Exodus



## c. The Exodus

3 purposes of God:

1) TO MAKE HIS NAME GREAT

to demonstrate His greatness  
and power



## BEFORE MOSES AND THE PEOPLE

Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in His servant Moses.

(Exodus 14:31)

Exodus 8:22; 10:2; 14:14; 15:11; Psalm 106:8



# BEFORE EGYPT

“Egypt will know that I am the Lord.” (Exodus 7:5)

Exodus 8:22; 10:2; 14:14; 14:31; 15:11



## BEFORE PHAROAH

“But for this purpose I have raised you up,  
to show you My power, so that My name  
may be proclaimed in all the earth.”

(Exodus 9:16)

Exodus 7:17; 8:10; 9:14, 29



## BEFORE THE NATIONS

[Rahab] said to the men, “I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for *the LORD your God, He is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.*” (Joshua 2:9-11)

Exodus 15:13-16; I Chronicles 17:21



## c. The Exodus

3 purposes of God:

2) TO JUDGE THE FALSE GODS AND  
FALSE WORSHIP OF EGYPT

to show the power  
of the true God



“For I will pass through the land of Egypt  
that night, and I will strike all the firstborn  
in the land of Egypt, both man and beast;  
and on all the gods of Egypt  
I will execute judgments:  
I am the LORD.”  
(Exodus 12:12)

Exodus 7:4; 8:18-19; 11:9-10





## c. The Exodus

3 purposes of God:

3) TO REDEEM A *WORSHIPING*  
PEOPLE FOR HIMSELF



“Let my people go, that they may serve [worship] Me.”  
(Exodus 5:1; 7:16; 8:1, 20; 9:1, 13; 10:3)

When Israel went out from Egypt,  
the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,  
Judah became His sanctuary,  
Israel His dominion. (Psalm 114:1-2)

“...the people whom I formed for Myself  
that they might declare My praise.”  
(Isaiah 43:21)



## d. The Mosaic Covenant

### GOD'S PROMISES

1) The PRESENCE of God among His  
people



Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting,  
and the glory of the LORD  
filled the tabernacle.

(Exodus 40:34)



## d. The Mosaic Covenant

### GOD'S PROMISES

2) A unique RELATIONSHIP  
with His people



“And I . . . will be your God,  
and you shall be My people.”  
(Leviticus 26:12)



## d. The Mosaic Covenant

GOD'S PROMISES

GOD'S EXPECTATION IN RESPONSE:

*their WORSHIP*



# God's expectation: their *worship*

- *Exclusive worship*
- *Word-directed worship*
- *Lifestyle worship*
- *Ritual worship*
- *Testimony worship*
- *Typological worship*





# God's expectation: their *worship*

- Exclusive worship

*And God spoke all these words, saying,*

*“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.*

*You shall have no other gods before Me.”*

*(Exodus 20:1-3; Deuteronomy 5:6-7)*



# In Matt. 22:37-40 Jesus summarized the summary of the law, the Ten Commandments:

Exodus 20:1-17

I Thou shalt have no  
other gods before me

II Thou shalt not make  
any graven images

**Relationship  
to  
God**

III Thou shalt not take  
the name of the  
Lord thy God in vain

IV Remember the sabbath  
day, to keep it holy

V Honor thy father  
and Mother

VI Thou shalt not kill

**Relationship  
with  
Others**

VII Thou shalt not commit  
adultery

VIII Thou shalt not steal

IX Thou shalt not bear  
false witness

X Thou shalt not covet

# God's expectation: their *worship*

- Word-directed worship

*Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the rules.*

*And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do."*

*And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. (Exodus 24:3-4)*



# God's expectation: their *worship*

- Lifestyle worship

*“You shall be to me a kingdom of priests  
and a holy nation.” (Exodus 19:6)*



# God's expectation: their *worship*

- Ritual worship

*Exodus/Leviticus*

**BREAKOUT**

Why do you think God  
instituted such a  
complicated system?



# God's expectation: their *worship*

- Ritual worship: *Why so complicated?*
  - *Holiness, beauty and majesty of God*
  - *Seriousness of sin*
  - *Grace (temporary covering for sin)*
  - *Test of obedience*
  - *Frustration/preparation*



# God's expectation: their *worship*

- Testimony worship

in obedience: *Deut 28:1-14; 2 Chron 7:17-18*

*May God be gracious to us and bless us*

*and make His face to shine upon us,*

*that Your way may be known on earth,*

*Your saving power among all nations.*

*Let the peoples praise You, O God;*

*let all the peoples praise You!*

*Let the nations be glad and sing for joy. (Psalm 67:1-4)*



# God's expectation: their *worship*

- Testimony worship

in obedience: *Deut 28:1-14; 2 Chron 7:17-18*

in disobedience: *Deut 28:15-68; 2 Chron 7:19-22)*

*Everyone passing by will be astonished and say, “Why has the LORD done thus to this land and to this house?” Then they will say, “because they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods and worshiped them and served them. Therefore He has brought all this disaster on them.”*

*(2 Chron 7:21-22)*





# God's expectation: their *worship*

- Testimony worship

in obedience: *Deut 28:1-14; 2 Chron 7:17-18*

in disobedience: *Deut 28:15-68; 2 Chron 7:19-22)*

*“Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. And I will vindicate the holiness of My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes.” (Ezekiel 36:22-23)*



# God's expectation: their *worship*

- Typological worship

*Day of Atonement*

*Tabernacle (Exodus 25:40; Hebrews 8:5;  
9:24; 10:1)*



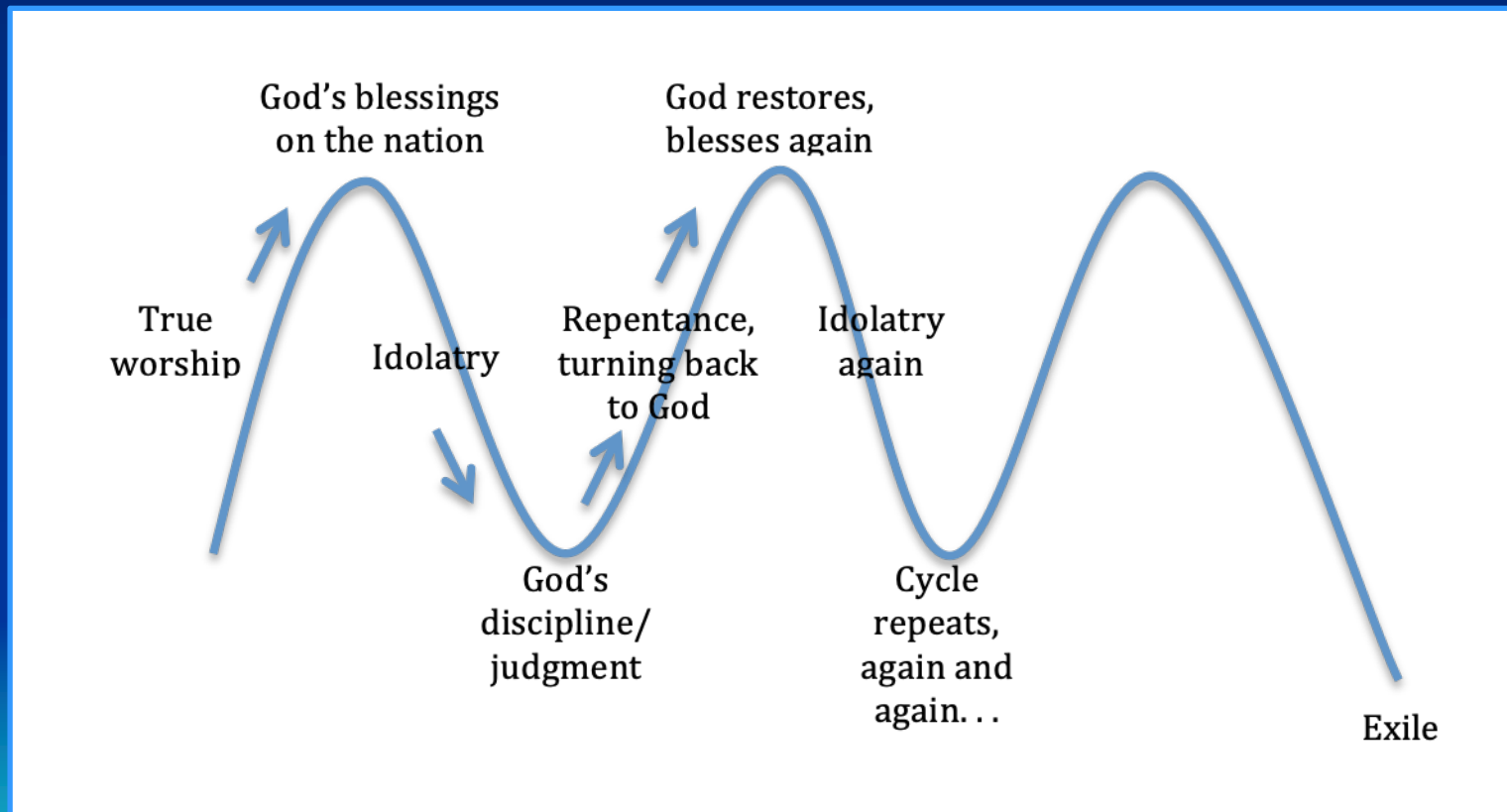
## e. Pre-exilic Israel

- Conquest of the land
  - ❖ Destruction of false worship
  - ❖ Establishment of true worship
  - ❖ BUT: Psalm 106:34-39



# 5. Pre-exilic Israel

- Cycles



## e. Pre-exilic Israel

- Cycles

They did not destroy the peoples,  
as the LORD commanded them,  
but they mixed with the nations  
and learned to do as they did.

They served their idols,  
which became a snare to them.



Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against his  
people, and He abhorred His heritage;  
He gave them into the hand of the nations,  
so that those who hated them ruled over them.  
Their enemies oppressed them,  
and they were brought into subjection under their  
power.



Many times He delivered them,  
but they were rebellious in their purposes  
and were brought low through their iniquity.

Nevertheless, He looked upon their distress,  
when He heard their cry.

For their sake He remembered His covenant,  
and relented according to the abundance  
of His steadfast love.

(Psalm 106:34-35,40-45)



## e. Pre-exilic Israel

- King David





# King David

## *1. Organized the worship life of the nation*

Then he appointed some of the Levites as ministers before the ark of the LORD, to invoke, to thank, and to praise the LORD, the God of Israel. Asaph was the chief, and second to him were Zechariah, Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, Obed-edom, and Jeiel, who were to play harps and lyres; Asaph was to sound the cymbals, and Benaiah and Jahaziel the priests were to blow trumpets regularly before the ark of the covenant of God. Then on that day David first appointed that thanksgiving be sung to the LORD by Asaph and his brothers.

(1 Chronicles 16:4-7)

1 Chronicles 6:31-48; 9:33-34; 15:16-22; 25:1-7



And [Hezekiah] stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, harps, and lyres, *according to the commandment of David* and of Gad the king's seer and of Nathan the prophet, for the commandment was *from the LORD through His prophets.*

(2 Chronicles 29:25)



# King David

## *2. An example of a true worshiper*

“a man after My own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14)

Because Your steadfast love is *better than life*,  
my lips will praise You.

So I will bless You as long as I live;

in Your name I will lift up my hands.

(Psalm 63:3-4)



# King David

*3. Wrote many songs for private and corporate  
worship*

73 of the Psalms



## e. Pre-exilic Israel

- Solomon and the Temple

And when the priests came out of the Holy Place,  
a cloud filled the house of the LORD,  
so that the priests could not stand to minister  
because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD  
filled the house of the LORD.

(1 Kings 8:10-11; also 2 Chronicles 7:1)



## e. Pre-exilic Israel

- Worsening idolatry

Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. . . . And *he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD*, according to the despicable practices of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel.

(2 Chronicles 21:1-2)



## e. Pre-exilic Israel

- Worsening idolatry (though a few revivals)

In the third year of Hoshea son of Elah, king of Israel, Hezekiah the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign. . . .

*And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD,*  
according to all that David his father had done.

He removed the high places and broke the pillars and cut down the Asherah. (2 Chronicles 18:1-2)



## e. Pre-exilic Israel

- Exile 586 B.C.

The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by His messengers, because He had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place. But they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising His words and scoffing at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD rose against His people, until there was no remedy.

(2 Chronicles 36:15-16)





## e. Pre-exilic Israel

- Exile 586 B.C.

And many nations will pass by this city, and every man will say to his neighbor, “Why has the LORD dealt thus with this great city?” And they will answer, “Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD their God and worshiped other gods and served them.”

(Jeremiah 22:8-9)



## e. Pre-exilic Israel

- Exile 586 B.C.

Then the glory of the LORD went out from the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubim.

(Ezekiel 10:18)



# f. Exilic and Post-exilic Worship

- The synagogue

- ❖ The Shema

- ❖ Prayers

- ❖ Reading of the Torah *and commentary*

*(cf. Luke 4:16-27; Acts 13:15, 27; 15:21)*



## f. Exilic and Post-exilic Worship

- The return
  - ❖ City wall, city, temple rebuilt (no glory)  
(Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai)
  - ❖ Reinstitution of priesthood and sacrifices
  - ❖ Extensive development of traditions and legalism
  - ❖ After Malachi: 400 years of silence



# D. The Psalms

- Their uniqueness

“It is reported that Athanasius, an outstanding Christian leader of the fourth century, declared that the Psalms have a unique place in the Bible because most of Scripture speaks *TO US*, while the Psalms speak *FOR US*.”

(Bernhard W. Anderson, *Out of the Depths: The Psalms Speak for Us Today*, x)



# D. The Psalms

- Different authors

David (73)

Asaph (12)

Sons of Korah (11)

Solomon (2)

Moses (1)

Heman (1)

Ethan (1)

unknown (49)



# D. The Psalms

- Different themes

Salvation History Psalms

Laments (Community and Individual)

Songs of Thanksgiving

Hymns of Praise

Festival Songs and Liturgies

Songs of Trust and Meditation

(Anderson, *Out of the Depths*, 170-71)



# D. The Psalms

- Their tone

“I want to stress what I think that we (or at least I) need more [than instruction about sacrifice]; the joy and delight in God which meet us in the Psalms. . . . These poets knew far less reason than we for loving God. They did not know that He offered them eternal joy; still less that He would die to win it for them. Yet they express a longing for Him, for His mere presence, which comes only to the best Christians or to Christians in their best moments.





They long to live all their days in the Temple so that they may constantly see ‘the fair beauty of the Lord’ (Psalm 27:4). Their longing to go up to Jerusalem and ‘appear before the presence of God’ is like a physical thirst (42). From Jerusalem His presence flashes out ‘in perfect beauty’ (50:2). Lacking that encounter with Him, their souls are parched like a waterless countryside (63:1). They crave to be ‘satisfied with the pleasures’ of His house (65:4). Only there can they be at ease, like a bird in the nest (84:1-3). One day of those ‘pleasures’ is better than a lifetime spent elsewhere (84:11-12).

I have rather-- though the expression may seem harsh to some-- call this the ‘appetite for God’ than the ‘love of God’ . . . . It has all the cheerful spontaneity of a natural, even a physical, desire.”

(C. S. Lewis, *Reflections on the Psalms*, 50-51)

# D. The Psalms

- God in the Psalms
  - ❖ His Powerful Protection
  - ❖ His Gentle Care
  - ❖ His Loyal Love (*hesed*)



# D. The Psalms

*Rejoice with trembling. (Psalm 2:11)*

*The LORD is my strength and my shield;  
in Him my heart trusts, and I am helped;  
my heart exults,*

*and with my song I give thanks to Him. (Psalm 28:7)*

*Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to Your name give glory. (Psalm  
115:1)*



# D. The Psalms

Psalm 150

*Hallelu-jah!*



# Scripture in Worship



- Leader reads (also: Psalm 150, “Praise!”)
- Other readers (incl. children, Psalm 23)
- Read together
- Responsive reading: leader/people;  
left/right; men/women; Psalm 136
- Dramatic reading: one person/different voices; different persons
- Act out (with or without costumes)
- Sung response (Psalm 136)

# Reading Scripture

- **PREPARE**

- Study the text
- Pray
- Mark: key words, pauses



- **READ**

- Don't rush!
- Expressive: emphasis, pauses
- Declare it as God's truth!

# Your favorite psalm?

- Why?
- What does the Psalm teach you about worship?
- Read 1-2 verses *expressively*





# III. Worship in the Old Testament

- Revelation and Response
- God's *hesed*
- Worship of the Heart
- Promise of a New Covenant  
(Law written on the heart; Holy Spirit within)
- Promise of God's Presence (John 1:14)

