

## Etymology-English

The modern day word “worship” comes from the old English word “worthship.” It’s interesting to note that “worthship” denotes the worthiness of someone. In regards to worship, we are speaking of God’s worthiness to be worshiped, not of our worthiness to approach God. This feeling of unworthiness can be a major hindrance to worship.

When we realize that He has done for us what no other could have done, it’s easier to worship Him.

## Worship and Praise Etymology-Word Study

### Hebrew Words:

**shachah** (172 times in the Old Testament) To bow down, revere, fall down, stoop, crouch

Gen 18:1-2

The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground. (NIV)

Gen 24:52

When Abraham's servant heard what they said, (that Rebekah could be the wife of Isaac) he bowed down to the ground before the LORD. (NIV)

Exod 4:31

And when they heard that the LORD was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped. (NIV)

Shachah is an outward expression of an inward attitude.

**hallal** (99 times in the Old Testament) To praise, to laud, boast of, celebrate, to be clamorously foolish. Hallelujah is derived from hallal.

Ps 69:30

I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving. (NIV)

Jer 20:13

Sing to the LORD! Give praise to the LORD! He rescues the life of the needy from the hands of the wicked. (NIV)

1 Chr 16:4

He appointed some of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, to make petition, to give thanks, and to praise the LORD, the God of Israel: (NIV)

**yadah**

(over 90 times: 53 times as “praise,” 32 times as “give thanks,” 16 times as “confess,” and 5 times as “thanks.”) To worship with extended hands, to throw out the hands, to give thanks to God. The root word “yad” means “hand.” With yadah the use of hands is emphasized.

2 Chr 20:21

After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: "Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever." (NIV)

Ps 9:1

I will praise you, O LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders. (NIV)

Ps 52:9

I will praise you forever for what you have done; in your name I will hope, for your name is good. I will praise you in the presence of your saints. (NIV)

**barak**

(70 times as praise to God, over 200 times to declare the origin of power for success). Barak denoted blessing or blessings from God as well as between people. The emphasis of barak is on blessing God.

1 Chr 29:10

David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, "Praise be to you, O LORD, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. (NIV)

Job 1:21

"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised." (NIV)

Ps 144:1

Praise be to the LORD my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle. (NIV)

**tehillah**

(over 50 times in the Old Testament) To sing or laud. The singing of :”hallal” or hallelujahs.

Neh 9:5b

Stand up and praise the LORD your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise. (NIV)

Ps 100:4

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.(NIV)

Isa 42:12

Let them give glory to the LORD and proclaim his praise in the islands.  
(NIV)

**zamar**

(Approximately 40 times in the Old Testament) To pluck the strings of an instrument, to praise with song. It is found almost exclusively in the Psalms. It is mainly involved with music.

1 Chr 16:9

Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. (NIV)

Ps 98:4-5

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, (NIV)

Ps 104:33

I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.  
(NIV)

**todah**

To extend the hands in a sacrifice of praise. thanksgiving, offering thanks. Todah sometimes refers to thanksgiving beforehand.

Ps 26:6-7

I wash my hands in innocence, and go about your altar, O LORD, proclaiming aloud your praise and telling of all your wonderful deeds.  
(NIV)

Ps 107:22

Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy.  
(NIV)

Isa 51:3

The LORD will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the LORD. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing. (NIV)

## Other Hebrew words for praise and worship:

<u>Transliteration</u>	<u>English Meaning</u>	<u>Times used</u>
samah	Rejoice, be glad	64
havah	Worship, kneel, prostrate	65
mizor	Psalm	57
gil	Shout, circle in Joy	29
ranan	Shout with joy	42
shir	Sing	31
kaved	Honor, glorify	12
zakar	Remember, acknowledge, praise	12
saphar	Recount, proclaim	18
rinnah	Shout of joy	18
rua	Shout in triumph	13
sus	Rejoice	10
shama	Proclaim	10

## Greek Words (alphabetical)

**aineo** (9 times) Verb: to glorify or praise

Luke 2:13-14

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." (NIV)

Luke 19:37

When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: (NIV)

Acts 2:46-47

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (NIV)

Acts 3:8

He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. (NIV)

**ainos** (3 times) noun/verb: praise

Luke 18:43

Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God. (NIV)

Matt 21:16

"Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, "'From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise'?" (NIV)

Heb 13:15

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise-- the fruit of lips that confess his name. (NIV)

**doxa**

(170 times but not all connected with worship) noun: glory, ascribing to God the honor due Him. The English word "doxology" is derived from doxa.

Rom 11:36

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. (NIV)

Phil 4:20

To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (NIV)

Gal 1:3-5

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (NIV)

**humneo/humnos** (8 times) verb: to sing praise to.

Heb 2:12

He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises."(NIV)

Acts 16:25

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. (NIV)

Eph 5:19

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, (NIV)

**megaluno** (9 times) Verb: to magnify, to make great, long or large.

Luke 1:46

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord (NIV)

Acts 10:46

For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, (NIV)

Acts 19:17

When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. (NIV)

**psallo**

Verb: to sing praise in spiritual ecstasy or to make melody.

**psalmos**

(4 times) Noun: A song of praise.

James 5:13

Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. (NIV)

Eph 5:19

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, (NIV)

1 Cor 14:15

So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind. (NIV)

**Proskuneo**

(Over 57 times in the New testament) Verb: to kiss towards, to turn as to kiss, to fall down and worship. It is a combination of two Greek words: *pros* (toward) and *kuneo* (kiss). Proximity required for kissing.

(meaning to *kiss*, like a dog *licking* his master's hand); to *fawn* or *crouch to*, that is, (literally or figuratively) *prostrate* oneself in homage (*do reverence to, adore*): - worship.

**Thayer Definition:**

- 1) to kiss the hand to (towards) one, in token of reverence
- 2) among the Orientals, especially the Persians, to fall upon the knees and touch the ground with the forehead as an expression of profound reverence
- 3) in the NT by kneeling or prostration to do homage (to one)
  - 3a) used of homage shown to men and beings of superior rank

### **Other Greek words for praise and worship:**

<b><u>Transliteration</u></b>	<b><u>English Meaning</u></b>	<b><u>Times used</u></b>
eucharisteo	Give thanks	35
eucheristia	Thanksgiving	14
agallio	Exalt, be glad	10
pipto	To fall to the ground	15
chairo	To rejoice	28
kauchaomai	To boast	8
oda	Song	5
hosanna	Save, Lord	5
sebomai	To revere, hold in awe	8
latreuo	To worship publicly, to To render religious service	4