

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
Sermon Study Equipping Class

Heaven Help our Worship: Singing Part 1 – Old Testament Help

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

The aim of this week's study is to familiarize yourself with some of the elements of worship in the Old Testament. This study, nor the upcoming sermon is a comprehensive evaluation of Old Testament worship. The following passages and questions are intended to expose you to different emphases in the Old Testament in how key people during this stage of redemptive history engaged with God through the means He prescribed.

1. When you think about how people approached God in worship in the Old Testament, what comes to mind? List some of the components, features, ideas about of Old Testament worship.

**Read Genesis 4:1-7**

2. According to 4:2, what was Abel's vocation and what was Cain's vocation?
3. How did the two men's vocation relate to their offerings in 4:3-4?
4. Look carefully at the description of each man's offering. What are the differences between the description of Cain's offering and Abel's offering other than the content?

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5. Look carefully at God's response to each man in 4:4b-5. What did God mention first in the description of how he had regard or disregard for each man's offering? What is the possible implication of the wording?
  
6. What was Cain's response to God's disregard for his offering in 4:5 and how did God respond to it in 4:6-7? What does this suggest about Cain's heart toward God?
  
7. When did Cain and Abel receive instruction about what they should offer to God as acceptable offerings?
  
8. Clearly, Cain and Abel knew they were to worship God with a symbolic form (offering) and at the same time, God was very interested in their heart's attitude behind the symbolic form. What does this suggest to you about God's expectations of his people in the Old Testament in the way they worshiped Him?

❖ Day 2

9. Read Genesis 12:6-8.
  - a. Why did Abram enter the territory of the Canaanites (see 12:1-5).
  
  - b. What was Abram's response when the Lord appeared to him and told him that the land he had entered was the land God would give his descendants in 12:7

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d. According to the passage, why did Abraham build an altar and where did he receive instruction to do so?

e. What did he do with the altar? What did Abram do when he finally settled in a particular place in the land according to 12:8 and why?

e. What do you learn about the form of worship God desired from this passage?

f. What do you learn about Abram's heart when he worshiped from this passage?

10. Read Genesis 22:1-8.

a. How did Abraham describe what he and his son would go to do and based on 22:2-3, what did this act involve?.

b. Why did God respond favorably to Abraham and his offering according to 22:16-18?

c. What does this account of worship suggest about the acceptable form of worship and the acceptable heart behind the form?

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11. Read Exodus 3:1, 12, where was worship expected?

12. Read Deuteronomy 6:1-6. What should worship consist of both externally and internally?

15 Read through Leviticus 18-19.

a. How would you summarize what worshiping God should look like for the Israelites?

b. As you read, identify every reference to the phrase, "I am the LORD," or "I am the LORD your God." What is the purpose of this phrase in reference to obeying the laws prescribed?

c. What do you learn from this about both the external and internal expectations of God regarding how Israel lived their life in worship?

14 Read Deuteronomy 10:12-11:1. Describe what worshiping God consists of according to this passage.

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❖ Day 3

15 Read through the following passages. For each passage using one or two words list what kind of affections accompany expressions of worship.

- a. Psalm 46:10; 33:8
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. Isaiah 8:13; Psalm 5:7
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- c. Psalm 51:17; Isaiah 57:15
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- d. Psalm 42:1; 73:25-26
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- e. Psalm 30:11-12
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- f. Psalm 42:5; 130:5
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- g. What do these passages suggest about the heart behind external expressions of worship? How are emotions involved in worship?

16. Read the following passages and explain what God's expectations are behind all external obedience to his word:

- a. Isaiah 29:13
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. Isaiah 58:3-8
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- c. Amos 5:21-24

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d. How do these passages relate to external obedience to the Law of Moses?

17. Read 1 Samuel 15:20-23. Describe Saul's approach to obedience in worship and Samuel's rebuke. What does God expect from His people in the Old Testament when they worshiped Him?

18. Read Exodus 20:1-6 and describe what God is concerned about in worship from His people under the Old Testament Law.

19. How would you summarize worship in the Old Testament?

20. How should the approach to worship in the Old Testament impact our worship in this era and why would you say that?

In preparation for Sunday, pray for a heart of obedience in your worship. Pray your outward expressions and inward motivations and emotions in worship align with the truth of God's word.