

Long Branch Baptist Church

September 1, 2021

Wednesday Night Bible Study

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Dial-in (978) 990-5290 – Access Code 4423893#

Rev. Dr. Morris Oliver

Rev. Marilyn Smith

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1Chronicles 16:29

Give to the Lord glory due to His name:

Bring an offering and come before Him.

Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of Holiness

*Continued Lesson:*

Others pour their time and energy into totems of power, obtaining or seeking approval, physical exercise, success, and internet communications. We may not consider our obsession with these things acts of worship, but they are.

They are what we look to, to get us up in the morning and keep us going throughout the day. True worship of God happens when we put God first in our lives.

Worship is a word associated with religion. Worship can be found in the lives of people who are:

* Secularist - is a person who rejects religion or the belief that religion should not be part of the affairs of the state or part of public education.

1. Secularism permeates all facets of our society: education, government, the criminal justice system, the news media, the entertainment industry, etc. Secularists believe that man is the measure of all things, that morals are man-centered, not God-centered. Therefore, no one is entitled to determine right from wrong, and morality is best determined by what is good for today’s culture. Secularists do not believe that mankind can have a set of permanent values such as are taught in the Bible. Secularism pays lip service to tolerance and diversity, yet many times secularists are intolerant of those who look to the Bible as God’s standard for morality.
2. Psalm 10:4; 2 Timothy; Revelation 12:9

* Agnostic - (doubting Thomas) – a person who feels or express doubt about something. A skeptic or unbeliever.

1. Agnosticism is the view that the existence of God is impossible to be known or proven. The word “agnostic” essentially means “without knowledge.” Agnosticism is a more intellectually honest form of atheism. Atheism claims that God does not exist—an unprovable position. Agnosticism argues that God’s existence cannot be proven or unproven—that it is impossible to know whether or not God exists. (*Cited: Got Questions*)
2. The Bible tells us that we must accept by faith that God exist. Hebrews 11:6
3. God is spirit (John 4:24) so He cannot be touched. Unless God chooses to reveal himself, he is invisible to our senses. Roman 1:20
4. The Bible declares the existence of God can be clearly seen in the universe. Psalm 19:1-4
5. Sensed in nature. Romans 1:18-22
6. Confirmed in our hearts. Ecclesiastes 3:11

* Atheist - A person who disbelieves or lacks belief in the existence of God or gods.

1. Atheism is not a new development. Psalm 14:1 written by David around 1000 B.C., mentions atheism: “The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’” Recent statistics show an increasing number of people claiming to be atheists, up to 10 percent of people worldwide. So why are more and more people becoming atheists?
2. The Bible tells us that God’s existence must be accepted by faith. Hebrews 11:6 declares, “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.” The Bible reminds us that we are blessed when we believe and trust in God by faith: “Then Jesus told him, ‘Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed John 20:29.
3. 1 Corinthians 14-16; Psalm 14:1; 2 Timothy 4:3; \*Colossians 2:8; Psalm 19:1-4.

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~ Old Testament Sacrifices/Worship ~

In the Old Testament period, their main function was to carry out the worship of God through the offering of sacrifices. There were essentially two different kinds of sacrifices: sin offerings, which were offered for moral offenses, and thank offerings, which were offered to express gratitude for God's goodness and blessing. We will explore types of worship and different types of animal sacrifices.

There were five main types of sacrifices/offerings in the Old Testament.

* The burnt offering: Genesis 8:20; 22:2; Exodus 10:24. God set times for priest to give offering for the benefit for the Israelites, although the animal sacrifice varied (different animals)

1. \*Every morning and evening: (Exodus 29:38-42; Numbers 28:2)  
   \*Each Sabbath (Numbers 28:9-10)  
   \*The beginning of each month (Numbers 28:11)

\*At Passover (Numbers 28:19)  
\*With the new grain/first fruits offering at the Feast of Weeks (Numbers 28:27)  
\*At the Feast of Trumpets/Rosh Hashanah (Numbers 29:1)

\*At the new moon (Numbers 29:6)

* The grain offering: Leviticus 2:2,4-5,11, 13

1. A grain offering would have most likely been one of wheat or barley, depending on what was available. While other sacrifices had very specific instructions from God as to how they were to be offered, the rules governing grain offerings had some flexibility.

* The peace offering: Leviticus 7:11-21

1. It was a voluntary sacrifice given to God in three specific instances. First, a peace offering could be given as a freewill offering, meaning that the worshiper was giving the peace offering to say thank you for God’s unsought generosity. It was basically just a way to praise God for His goodness. The second way a peace offering could be given was alongside a fulfilled vow. A good example of this was when Hannah fulfilled her vow to God by bringing Samuel to the temple; on that occasion she also brought a peace offering to express the peace in her heart toward God concerning her sacrifice—it was a way to say, “I have no resentment; I am holding nothing back in the payment of my vow.” The third purpose of a peace offering was to give thanksgiving for God’s deliverance in an hour of dire need. None of these three reasons to sacrifice had anything to do with propitiation, with appeasing God, or with pacifying Him.

* The sin offering:

1. A sin offering was a sacrifice, made according to the Mosaic Law, which provided atonement for sin. The Hebrew phrase for “sin offering” literally means “fault offering.” The sin offering was made for sins committed in ignorance, or unintentional sins. The ritualistic method of the sin offering and the animal to be offered varied depending on the status of the sinner. For example, a high priest who sinned unintentionally would offer a young bull. A king or a prince would offer a young male goat. People in the private sector would sacrifice a young female goat or lamb, unless they were too poor, in which case they were only required to offer two turtledoves or pigeons. Full details of the sin offering, and the requirements associated with it are enumerated in Leviticus 4 and Numbers 15.

* Trespass/Guilt Offering: Leviticus 5:14-19; 7:1-7; 14:12-18.

1. The trespass/guilt offering was required when a person unintentionally violated some of the Lord’s holy things. “Holy things” would normally refer to things that had been dedicated to the Lord—anything from the sanctuary itself to the portion of the offerings that were normally reserved for the priests. How this could happen *inadvertently* is not spelled out, but perhaps a person forgot to fulfill a vow, made some mistake in the fulfilling of it, accidently ate food that was reserved for the priests, or mistakenly ate a firstborn animal from his own flock. In these cases, the offender had to bring a sacrificial animal (an unblemished ram or male lamb) to offer and compensate the priests an extra 20 percent for what they had been deprived.

**Old Testament worshipers worshiped through Animal sacrifice.**

* Animal sacrifice:

God required animal sacrifices to provide a temporary covering of sins and to foreshadow the perfect and complete sacrifice of Jesus Christ in (Leviticus 4:35, 5:10). Animal sacrifices is an important theme found throughout Scripture because “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness” (Hebrew 9:22). When Adam and Eve sinned, animals were killed by God to provide clothing for them (Genesis 3:21).

Cain and Abel brought sacrifices to the Lord. Cain’s was unacceptable because he brought fruit, while Abel’s was acceptable because his was the “firstborn of his flock” (Genesis 4:4-5). After the flood receded, Noah sacrificed animals to God (Genesis 8:20-21). God is pleased with a sacrifice that comes from true love and obedience.

**Old Testament worshipers sacrificed on.**

* Altars:

The word *altar* is first used in Genesis 8:20 when Noah built an altar to the Lord after leaving the ark.

Throughout the book of Exodus, God ordained altars for the purpose of sacrifice, adoration, and worship.

An altar always represented a place of consecration. Before God gave His Law to Moses, men made altars wherever they were out of whatever material was available.

An altar is any structure upon which offerings such as sacrifices are made for religious purposes. It was usually a raised platform with a flat surface. There are over four hundred references to altars in the Bible. However, the idea was present as early as Genesis 4:3-4 when Cain and Abel brought their sacrifices to the Lord. They most likely presented their offerings on some type of altar, even though the word *altar* is not used in that passage.

Sometimes God Himself commanded that an altar be built after He had delivered someone in a miraculous way (Deuteronomy 27:4-7; Exodus 30:1). Such an altar would be a memorial to help future generations remember the mighty works of the Lord. Because atonement is God’s work, the Law specified that an altar made of stones must be made with natural, uncut stones, “for you will defile it if you use a tool on it” (Exodus 20:25).

People who built an alter to the Lord

* Abram - (Genesis 12:7)
* Isaac - (Genesis 26:24-25)
* Jacob - (Genesis 35:3)
* David - (1 Chronicles 21:18; 26)
* Gideon - (Judges 6:24)

***Research*:**

Find instances of others and Old Testament that built an altar unto the Lord.

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**Old Testament Worshippers worshipped in *specific places*:**

**Pillars, Trees, and Mountains (High Places)**

* 1 King 3:2 says, “meanwhile the people sacrificed at the high places, because there was no house built for the name of the Lord until those days.” High place or High places in a Biblical context means place(s) of worship. High places were places of worship on an elevated piece of ground. When the Israelites first entered the promised land, they were told to destroy the high places, idols, and molten images of the Canaanite inhabitants (Numbers 33:52). They were also instructed not to worship at high places that were Canaanite sites (Deuteronomy 12:2-3). They were told Yahweh/God wanted to be worshiped in another way: “You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way. But you shall seek the place that the Lord your God will choose out of all your tribes to put his name and make his habitation there” (Deuteronomy 12:4-5).

1. The high places were intended to serve Israel’s worshipping needs for only a season. Until a temple to Yahweh/God was built, the Israelites worshiped God at a local center of worship (primarily High Places).
2. Solomon built the first Temple for God. It stood next to the King’s palace.
3. The prophet Samuel blessed sacrifices that were offered at high places, and Solomon sacrificed 1000 burnt offerings on the altar in Gibeon.
4. The temple brought the 12 tribes together as one people to worship God in one place.
5. God took up residency and his temple and the need for other centers of worship became obsolete (1 King 9:3).
6. Not only did Solomon build a temple, but he also on a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, and for Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites.
7. There were High Places on *hills.* 2 Kings 16:4; 2 Kings 17:29; and 1 Kings 11:7
8. There were High places in *towns.* 1 Kings 13:32 and 2 Kings 17:29
9. To learn more about the High Places, go to this link: Good information. Copy and paste this link.
10. https://www.biblestudytools.com/encyclopedias/isbe/high-place.html

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References:

Sarah Young – Jesus Calling

Hooker, Ashley Living a Worship Life

Got Questions

Timeline

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For the last month, we have acquired knowledge and gained an understanding of the meaning of true worship and how God commanded the Israelites to worship in the Old Testament. We learned that worship must reflect a proper view of God. It cannot be manipulative or self-serving. Worship cannot accommodate to the world’s standards. As believers, we must take our commitment seriously by remaining above reproach and avoid anything that will lead us astray. Our commitment to God ought to be evidence in our daily walk.

**Overview of the Old Testament**

**Worship through various offerings of sacrifice.**

* Altars were erected and used to sacrifice offerings to God. Throughout the book of Exodus, God-ordained altars for the purpose of sacrifice, adoration, and worship.
* **The different types of sacrifice:**

1. Animal sacrifice
2. Grain sacrifice
3. Peace sacrifice
4. Sin sacrifice
5. Animal sacrifice
6. Trespass/Guilt sacrifice

**When sacrifices were offered in ancient times, they were provided as a fulfillment of Biblical commandments:**

* The symbolism of animal sacrifice in the Bible was an expression of God's justice and grace at the same time. The symbolism of animal sacrifice in the Bible is an expression of God's justice and grace at the same time.
* These sacrifices showed the Israelites how much God wanted to stay in His covenant relationship with them, so they could become the “kingdom of priests” who would reflect God's good nature.

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The time between the last writings of the Old Testament and the appearance of Christ is known as the “intertestamental” (or “between the testaments”) period. The Old Testament closes approximately at 430 B.C.  At this point Israel was firmly established in the land of Palestine and had their Temple and city rebuilt. The time period between 430 B.C. and the ministry of John the Baptist is known as the 400 silent years.  The term is derived from two factors: 1) The Lord did not send any prophets during this period, and 2) None of the inspired Scriptures were written during this period.  The voice from heaven that broke the silence came from the ministry of John the Baptist, who had the privilege of announcing the coming of the Messiah.  The 400 silent years were very eventful years, but the Lord chose for His own reasons too not have any inspired Scriptures written during this period. Much of what happened was predicted by the prophet Daniel. (See Daniel chapters 2, 7, 8, and 11 and compare to historical events.)

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*At the beginning of our lesson, it was stated that* Jesus did not come to abolish the Law of Moses, which is in Matthew 5:17, “Do not think I came to destroy the Law or the prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

**Christ Fulfills the Law**

**Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets**:

* Jesus here began a long discussion of the law and wanted to make it clear that He did not oppose what God gave Israel in what we call the Old Testament. He did not come to destroy the Word of God, but to free it from the way the Pharisees and Scribes had wrongly interpreted it.

**The Jews of Jesus’ day referred to the Scriptures as “the Law and the Prophets”.**

* Matthew 7:12, 11:13, 22:40; Luke 16:16; John1:45; Acts 13:15, 28:23; Romans 3:21; the law, the Prophets, and the Psalms (Luke 24:44; or just the “Law” (Matthew 5:18; John10:34, 12:34, 15:25; 1 Corinthians 14:21
* Jesus wanted to make it clear that He had authority apart from the Law of Moses, but not in contradiction to it. Jesus added nothing to the law except one thing that no man had ever added to the law: perfect obedience. This is certainly one way Jesus came to fulfillthe law. Even though He often challenged man’s interpretations of the law (especially Sabbath regulations), Jesus never broke the law of God.

**New Testament Worship**

**A Change of Sacrifice**

God works in both Old Testament and New Testament times. The one true, eternal living God is God of both testaments.

1 Pet. 2:5. This verse (along with vs. 9) teaches that all Christians are priests. Whereas in the Old Testament, only select Levites had this privilege, every Christian now has this privilege.

**What do priests do?**

In the Old Testament period, their main function was to carry out the worship of God through the offering of sacrifices. There were essentially two different kinds of sacrifices: sin offerings, which were offered for moral offenses, and thank offerings, which were offered to express gratitude for God's goodness and blessing.

The New Testament tells us that Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament sin offerings through his death (Heb. 9:11-14; 10:1-14); therefore, we need never make such sacrifices to God again. But as Christians who have benefited from his sacrifice, we have the privilege to express our gratitude to God for Christ's work in many ways. Peter refers to this in 1 Pet. 2:5 when he says that we "offer up spiritual sacrifices to God." Peter does not specify here what these sacrifices are, except that they are spiritual, not physical.

We don’t see a New Testament altar on earth because Jesus’ death destroyed the meaning to both the Temple with its altar and the Law of Moses that demanded sacrifices on the altar.  All such things, including an altar are long gone.  Also, after Jesus ascended into Heaven true believers became the temple of God, making any man-made building or altar unnecessary. Therefore, we don’t see any mention of a New Testament altar.

New Testament thinking concerning altars can be found in Romans 12:1 where Paul tells us to “offer our bodies as a living sacrifice … for this is our spiritual worship”. Now Paul doesn’t use the word altar here, but it’s inferred since one offers a sacrifice on an altar, and he’s talking about offering ourselves as a living sacrifice. So, what altar could Paul be talking about if there isn’t any such thing as a New Testament altar?

The altar is spiritual and invisible, and we are the sacrifice placed on this altar. Salvation is not just about believing in an historical Jesus. It’s about giving yourself sacrificially to Him. I’d suggest that if you don’t have some kind of struggle or conflict as you make your sacrifice, then you might not actually be sacrificing yourself. The very nature of a sacrifice suggests some kind of conflict and pain. In this case the main conflict is between your will and God’s will.  Giving up your will can be mentally and emotionally painful at times.

The real altar for us New Testament Christians today is that invisible altar that we can access at any time and in any place.  It’s that spiritual place where we give our wills to Jesus to be burned up in the fire of His Spirit.  Each day we have many opportunities to come to this altar and choose Jesus’ ways over ours in whatever situation that faces us. When we choose His way over ours, we are in fact offering our lives again on God’s invisible altar as an act of New Testament worship.

Every human heart has an invisible altar where the war between the flesh and the spirit rages. When we surrender areas of our lives to the control of the Holy Spirit, we are in effect laying that area on the altar before God. It can help to visualize Abraham’s altar where he offered his son Isaac to the Lord (Genesis 22:9) We can ask the Lord what areas of our lives He is requiring that we offer to Him. We can symbolically lay that on the altar and let go. We don’t need a flat-topped surface; we can surrender our lives to God on the altar of our hearts at any time.

**The Importance of Worship:**

One of Jesus’ temptations in the wilderness had to do with the area of worship.

[**Matthew 4:8–10 (KJV)**](https://biblia.com/bible/kjv1900/Matt%204.8%E2%80%9310)  
8. Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9 And saith unto him, all these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 10 Then saith Jesus unto him, get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

* If the devil wants anything from us, that should just be a red flag.
* You can see from this account that worship is a big deal.
* If it’s a big deal to God, it should be a big deal to us.

**The Old Testament Pattern for Worship Versus the New Testament Pattern**

* Do not confuse Old Testament worship with the New Testament pattern.
* They are not the same.
* There is a New Testament Pattern of worship.

**In the New Testament, Thanksgiving Should Be Offered:**

1. To God – [2 Cor. 2:14](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Cor.%202.14)
2. To Christ – [1 Tim. 1:12](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Tim.%201.12)
3. Through Christ – [Rom. 1:8](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom.%201.8), [Col. 3:17](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Col.%203.17), [Heb. 13:15](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Heb.%2013.15)
4. In the Name of Christ – [Eph. 5:20](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Eph.%205.20)
5. On behalf of God’s servants – [2 Cor. 1:11](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Cor.%201.11)
6. In everything – [1 Thess. 5:18](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Thess.%205.18)
7. Before receiving food – [Acts 27:35](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Acts%2027.35), [John 6:11](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%206.11)
8. Always – [Eph. 1:16](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Eph.%201.16), [5:20](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Eph%205.20), [1 Thess. 1:2](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Thess.%201.2)
9. For the gift of Christ – [2 Cor. 9:15](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Cor.%209.15)
10. For Christ’s power and reign – [Rev. 11:17](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rev.%2011.17)
11. For the reception and effectual working of the word of God in others – [1 Thess. 2:13](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Thess.%202.13)
12. For deliverance from indwelling sin, through Christ – [Rom. 7:23-25](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom.%207.23-25)
13. For victory over death and the grave – [1 Cor. 15:57](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Cor.%2015.57)
14. For the triumph of the gospel – [2 Cor. 2:14](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Cor.%202.14)
15. For the conversion of others – [Rom. 6:17](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom.%206.17)
16. For faith exhibited by others – [Rom. 1:8](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom.%201.8)
17. For love exhibited by others – [2 Thess. 1:13](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Thess.%201.13)
18. For the grace bestowed on others – [1 Cor. 1:14](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Cor.%201.14), [Phil. 1:3-5](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Phil.%201.3-5)
19. For the zeal exhibited by others – [2 Cor. 8:16](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Cor.%208.16)
20. For appointment to spiritual service [1 Tim. 1:12](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Tim.%201.12)
21. For the supply of our bodily needs – [Rom. 14:6-7](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom.%2014.6-7)
22. For all people – [1 Tim. 2:1](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Tim.%202.1)
23. For all things – [Eph. 5:20](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Eph.%205.20), [2 Cor. 9:11](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Cor.%209.11)

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