

Worshipping in Spirit and in Truth



Shalom all

Today is Day 6 of Month 5 on the Creator's calendar, otherwise known as July 13, 2024 on the Roman calendar.

Last week we continued to look at the subject of worship, because it is such a critical issue that is commonly misunderstood.

Often times we hear people blend "praise and worship" as if the subjects are mutually inclusive.

Many lump the two together in the realm of corporate singing. The worship songs are the slow, somber and serious stuff, while praise songs are more upbeat.

Most modern churches even have “worship teams,” whose function is to “lead people into worship.” These worship teams are more akin to bands that play music and sing songs. They should probably be called “praise teams,” because praise is more connected to music than worship.

Indeed, there is no direct connection between worship and music. Worship, as we have seen, is more about a person’s act of submission and obedience.

While there is certainly nothing wrong with instruments, music and singing, it is important to understand that they are not at the heart of worship.

When examining worship over the past couple weeks, we spent a lot of time looking at the event involving Abraham and Isaac when they worshipped YHWH on a mountain in the Land of Moriah through their obedience.

The reason is because that is the first time we read about someone specifically worshiping YHWH. While that is the first time that most Scriptures translate the Hebrew word “shachah” (שָׁחָה) as worship, the word is actually found twice in the Torah prior to that event.

The first time was when YHWH appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre.

“¹ And YHWH appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw

them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed (שתחו) himself to the earth.” Genesis 18:1-2

This event demonstrates the physical act of worship by Abraham when he bowed down before YHWH and the two messengers.

When those same two messengers later went to Sodom, Lot responded similarly.

“The two messengers came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed (שתחו) himself with his face to the earth.” Genesis 19:1

So we consistently see from its initial usage in the Scriptures that worship involves bowing down by putting your face to the ground. It is an outward physical act that is supposed to represent your honor, reverence, and submission to the one you are worshipping.

You could spend a lot of time contrasting these two examples. While Abraham was separated and at the door of his tent, Lot was dwelling among heathens at the gate of the city.

He was mixing with the world and while he showed reverence to the Messengers, he did not want to fully follow their directions which resulted in some catastrophic consequences involving his daughters.

While both Abraham and Lot worshipped, their hearts were clearly not the same. Lot was not worshipping in Spirit and in Truth. Also, it is apparent that YHWH was missing in Lot’s worship. That was intentional as well.

YHWH visited Abraham because he was set apart. YHWH did not visit Lot, because he had mixed himself with the world.

Last week, we focused on the incident involving the Samaritan woman at the well described in John 4.

We examined the context of that setting, but the context goes beyond the physical location in the Land near Mount Gerizim. It is also important to understand the context of the Scriptures.

We talked about the fact that Yahushua was headed north on His way from Yudea to the Galilee. But more importantly, while in Yudea, He had just finished “schooling” one of the elders of Yisrael named Nicodemus.

Here is the encounter as detailed in John 3.

“¹ Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Yahudim. ² This man came to Yahushua by night and said to Him, Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from Elohim, for no one can do these signs that you do unless Elohim is with him. ³ Yahushua answered him, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the Kingdom of Elohim. ⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born? ⁵ Yahushua answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of Elohim. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can these things be?’ ¹⁰ Yahushua answered him, ‘Are you the teacher of Yisrael and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except He

who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ For Elohim so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For Elohim did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of Elohim. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in Elohim.” John 3:1-21

Did you notice the setting? Nicodemus came to Yahushua in the darkness of night.

That is why Yahushua concluded their encounter by emphasizing that He is light, but evil men love the dark.

The crux of the conversation focused on the fact that a person must be born-again in order to see the Kingdom of Elohim. That revelation provided by Yahushua is not so profound to those of us “born-again Christians” raised in Christianity.

I was born in the 1960s, and I remember the Jesus Movement, which lasted through my youth, into the 1970s.

I read a Bible called “The Way” and I was very familiar with the need to be born-again, although the definition of that process is sometimes vague.

Nicodemus, on the other hand, was baffled. He was a leader of the House of Yahudah, circumcised on the eighth day.

He knew the Torah. He was all set. Right?

Wrong, according to Yahushua.

We are all born from the water of the womb. In that sense, we are all the same. The Yahudim had the truth provided through the Torah of Moses, but they needed to be born of the Spirit. While they were a part of the Nation chosen to carry and present the truth to the Nations, they had no special status that gave them a ticket to heaven.

This should not have been a surprise to Nicodemus. Moses spoke of the need to have a circumcised heart, as did many of the prophets.

Nevertheless, Yahushua revealed this truth to the leader of the Yahudim, who came to him in the dark. The symbolism cannot be ignored.

Nicodemus represented the condition of the House of Yahudah. While He had the written Torah - the Truth - he was literally walking in darkness.

The Yahudim had added to the Commandments to the point where Yahushua condemned them by quoting the Prophet Isaiah.

“⁷ You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: ⁸ ‘This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me; ⁹ in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’”
Matthew 15:7-9

So the Yahudim were essentially giving YHWH “lip service,” but their hearts were hardened. They appeared clean on the outside, but they were filthy on the inside.

That is why Yahushua stated: *“²⁵ For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ²⁶ You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.”* Matthew 23:25-26

The Pharisees looked very religious on the outside - in the physical realm. But inside, they were unclean.

Now contrast Nicodemus's conversation with Yahushua to the meeting with the Samaritan woman who represented the House of Yisrael. She came in the light of day to draw water from a well, and Yahushua was waiting at the well for her arrival.

As we already discussed, this was not just any well. This was the well dug by Jacob in the field that he purchased at Shechem.

This harkens back to when Jacob met Rachel at “high day” at a well in a field. As he was standing at a well, Rachel came to draw water for her sheep because she was a shepherdess. (see Genesis 29:1-9)

The Samaritan woman at the well acknowledged the shared origins of Jacob and her belief in YHWH, but the Samaritans were foreigners who adopted the ways of the Covenant. They had been taught their ways after they were brought into the Land. (see 2 Kings 17:24-28)

They were never really fully rooted in the Covenant, and they had strayed from the truth. Their faith was not the same as that taught by Moses and the Prophets.

This is similar to what we see in the Christian Church. It acknowledges the “Old Testament” as Scripture but fails to follow the Torah. In fact, it technically flows out of the pagan roots of Roman solar worship.

Of course, I believe that the House of Yisrael is “lost” in the Christian religion. That is why I spend a lot of time critiquing Christianity. It’s my absolute right because I was a product of the Christian religion.

Well, Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman were polar opposites in the spectrum of Yisrael. They represented the extremes of the House of Yisrael and the House of Yahudah.

The House of Yisrael was an adulterous bride. She had been scattered among foreigners. She was literally “not the people” of Elohim, and YHWH was “not their Elohim.” This was exactly as prophesied by Hosea. (see Hosea 1:9)

The House of Yahudah, on the other hand, was establishing a new religion that would later become known as Rabbinic Judaism.

They appeared religious on the outside, but Yahushua described them as *“²⁷ . . . whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people’s bones and all uncleanness. ²⁸ So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”* Matthew 23:27-28

Both houses had gone astray in different ways.

Yahushua taught the Pharisee that He had truth, but he needed the spirit. Nicodemus was in a religion of darkness, just like we see in Rabbinic Judaism.

Yahushua taught the woman that she needed the foundation of truth, along with the spirit.

“²¹ Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Yahudim. ²³ 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. ²⁴ Elohim is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” John 4:21-24

So, knowing the truth is not enough. You must worship YHWH according to His Truth and in the Spirit.

He is spirit, which is precisely why He forbids any likeness or image. And that is why we are made in His image. As living images of the Creator we worship Him. But our worship must be founded in truth and emanate from our spirits. It's not good enough to just look religious on the outside.

So, there are true worshippers, and there are false worshippers.

True worshippers worship in the spirit and they worship the right way.

I hope it is obvious that those two stories need to be read together as one because they are connected. The Set Apart Spirit did not put chapter and verse divisions in the text. That was done by man. These two events were definitely placed next to one another with purpose.

The woman in the light in Samaria completes the message that began with the man in the dark in Yudea. This was Yahushua fulfilling prophecy as a “light to the Nations/Peoples.” (see Isaiah 42:6, 49:6 and 51:4)

The Bride Yisrael failed to be a light to the Nations. That is why she was divided into two houses.

The Northern tribes, known as the House of Yisrael, decided to construct two golden calves and worship them. Their adulterous sin was a slap in the face to YHWH, Who had already forgiven Yisrael for the same sin as Sinai.

As a result of that defiant sin, YHWH removed the House of Yisrael from the Land and they were replaced by people from the Nations. (see 2 King 17:24)

These people became known as the Samaritans. The Samaritans developed a hybrid religion that focused exclusively on the Torah, with some modifications. They added to the Torah and actually changed the Ten Words to include a command to build an altar on Mount Gerizim.

It was a good location because of its history. They called it the Mount of Blessing, but it is not the location where YHWH chose to place His Name - which is the Hebrew way of describing where you live.

Indeed, the Samaritans forgot that Mount Gerizim had a sister named Mount Ebal. The Torah specifically provides for building an altar on Mount Ebal, not Mount Gerizim. That fact reminds us that it was not just about blessings; there were also curses.

One of them was: *“Cursed be anyone who does not confirm the words of this Torah by doing them.”* Deuteronomy 27:26 The Torah specifically prohibits adding to the word or taking away from it. (see Deuteronomy 4:2 and 12:32)

The House of Yahudah had also been exiled, but they were allowed to return and rebuild. Their return was flawed from the beginning

First of all, only a remnant returned. Most of the Yahudim stayed in Babylon. The building of the House of YHWH was not a priority and it was delayed. When finally completed it was not that nice to look at. It was eventually renovated and rebuilt by an Edomite.

There is no indication that YHWH ever moved back into that house. The address was correct, but He was forwarding His mail. There was no Ark of the Covenant, which represented His Throne.

Further, the Seat of David ended up being occupied by an Edomite. King Herod was an Idumean. That is highly significant.

So, by the time Yahushua arrived at the well in Samaria, the status of the covenant people was abysmal.

Their condition was represented by two mountains that each contained an empty house with divergent religious systems claiming to worship YHWH.

The woman wanted to know which one was correct, and Yahushua said neither. He told her that from that point forward, it would not be a matter of where you physically went to worship but how you worshipped.

You see, people were stuck in the mindset that if you just went to the Temple and performed your obligations, then you were all set.

I know Catholics who make the same mistake. They go to Mass and confession and “perform” the sacraments. Their physical actions fulfill their religious obligation to God and constitute their worship.

Of course, this is the case with the vast amount of adherents to all the religions of the world.

I'll never forget hearing a Christian Pastor tell his congregation, "If you're not in church on Sunday when those doors are open, then you are in sin."

The corollary of that statement is that if you are physically present in the church building on Sunday then you are performing a righteous act. It doesn't matter what you are thinking or doing in your pew as long as you are there.

Well, Yahushua debunked that sermon and every other form of religious guilt that places the emphasis on outward physical acts alone.

So what does it actually mean to worship in spirit and truth?

Since YHWH is spirit, we cannot create an idol and try to represent Him in the physical realm. Our worship flows from our spirit and results in our outward expression of reverence, submission and obedience.

That was always the goal.

Moses instructed the Yisraelites to "*Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn.*" Deuteronomy 10:16

He also provided the following promise:

"And YHWH your Elohim will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love YHWH your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live." Deuteronomy 30:6

You must have a circumcised heart in order to truly love YHWH with all of your being. (see Deuteronomy 6:4)

This would be done through a “new spirit.”

“And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.” Ezekiel 36:26 (see also Ezekiel 11:19 and 18:31)

What about truth?

Everyone reading this message should be very familiar with the fact that the Torah is truth.

“The sum of your Word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.” Psalm 119:160

So much for Yahushua abolishing the Torah. The Word endures forever.

Indeed, Yahushua is “the sum” of His word, also described as “the fulfillment” of His Word. He is the Word, and as such, He is the eternal embodiment of truth.

That is why He said: *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”* John 14:6

So, we really must have Yahushua in order to properly worship Elohim. We cannot enter into the presence YHWH without Yahushua.

We worship in spirit and in truth when the truth gets inside of our hearts, when we are born-again and filled with the Spirit.

When you have a hard heart, you cannot know Him and His ways. (See Psalm 95) The hardness does not allow His Word inside.

That is the purpose of circumcising the heart. We need to remove the covering around our hearts (ie. heart of stone) so that His truth can penetrate inside of us.

John said Yahushua would immerse with the Set Apart Spirit and with fire. (see Matthew 5:11) Things were changing, just like Yahushua told the Samaritan woman.

It was time to take the Covenant journey beyond just the physical realm. Moses oversaw the instructions being inscribed on stone. Yahushua was now going to provide the Spirit so that the Covenant could be renewed on the inside.

This was the essence of the Renewed Covenant described by Jeremiah.

“But this is the Covenant that I will make with the House of Yisrael after those days, says YHWH: I will put My Torah in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people.”
Jeremiah 31:33

Again, it is critical to point out that Yahushua revealed Himself to be the Messiah to the Samaritan woman - the foreigner. He did not reveal Himself specifically as the Messiah to the Yahudi man named Nicodemus.

While Nicodemus referred to Yahushua as a ‘Rabbi’ or a ‘Teacher,’ the Samaritan woman referred to Him as a ‘Prophet.’

This is symbolic of the spirit (prophet) and truth (teacher) that Yahushua was referring to. Nicodemus had the truth, but he couldn’t

see the Messiah. The Samaritan woman did not have the truth, but she recognized things of the spirit.

There is an interesting example involving a Samaritan leper that is worth mentioning in this discussion. Here is what happened according to the text of Luke.

“¹¹ On the way to Jerusalem He was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² And as He entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance ¹³ and lifted up their voices, saying, ‘Yahushua, Master, have mercy on us.’ ¹⁴ When He saw them He said to them, ‘Go and show yourselves to the priests.’ And as they went they were cleansed. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising Elohim with a loud voice; ¹⁶ and he fell on his face at Yahushua’s feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Yahushua answered, ‘Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸ Was no one found to return and give praise to Elohim except this foreigner?’ ¹⁹ And He said to him, ‘Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.’” Luke 17:11-19

Did you notice the ten unclean lepers? That was symbolic of the House of Yisrael, and it is significant to note that Yahushua was passing through Samaria again on his way to Jerusalem.

The ten called Him “Master” and asked Him for mercy. In response, He told them to go to the priests. That is because the Torah prescribes a very elaborate ceremony concerning the cleansing of the leper. (see Leviticus 14)

When ten cleansed lepers showed up before the priests it should have caused quite a stir. Especially with one of them being a Samaritan. I would like to read that account.

The procedure is thought to have been so elaborate because it was meant to get everyone's attention that the Messiah had arrived.

So, while Yahushua did not tell the Yahudim directly that He was the Messiah, He provided them with plenty of signs. Calling Himself the "Son of Adam" was another example.

If the ten lepers truly believed the truth of the Torah, then they would have recognized Yahushua as the Messiah and worshipped Elohim.

Instead, it was only the Samaritan man who returned and acknowledged what Yahushua had done.

And what was his response? He gave thanks and bowed down to the ground at the feet of Yahushua - he worshipped.

Again, the emphasis that Yahushua placed on the Samaritans, who He described as "foreigners," cannot be ignored. They essentially represented the lost sheep of the House of Yisrael. They were foreigners living in the Land of the Lost Sheep who were currently scattered among the foreigners.

This reinforces the fact that all of mankind, not just physical descendants of Jacob, need to learn to worship the Father in spirit and in truth. Yahushua specifically taught that to the foreign woman because of the failure of both houses of Yisrael.

I get so tired of hearing Orthodox Rabbis condescendingly tell the lowly Gentiles that only Jews are supposed to obey the Torah. They are teaching exactly the opposite of Yahushua because they don't have the spirit.

They need to heed the words that Yahushua spoke to their predecessor Nicodemus and step out of darkness into the light.

“¹⁶ For Elohim so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For Elohim did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of Elohim. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in Elohim.” John 3:16-21

For Elohim so loved the world . . . not for Elohim so loved the Jewish people. Yahushua, as the Son of Adam, came to restore all of mankind to their original state.

We have repeatedly focused on the fact that the woman created from Adam was focused on worship. Her name, Chawah (חַוָּה), is intimately connected with worship.

When she was taken from Adam I suspect that she received a greater portion of spirt than flesh. She was a worshipper and her role was to reproduce worshippers from a seed deposited inside her flesh.

How amazing. Another potential worshipper in the image of Elohim would grow inside of her and then be birthed as a separate living being. She could do this many times in her life.

The woman was responsible for the multiplication of mankind and the Kingdom. That is why the nachash deceived her first. Without the woman, the future of mankind was doomed.

I grew up with the teaching that the Christian Church was the Body of Christ. I later discovered that if you are in Covenant with YHWH then you are a part Yisrael, and Yisrael is the Bride

Yisrael is supposed to represent the congregation of worshippers that absorbs and reproduces more worshippers.

The reason why Yisrael was delivered from Egypt was so that they could serve YHWH, and of course that included worship. The same holds true for those gathered from the Nations in the future. They are called to be worshippers.

Many of us have been steeped in a self-centered religious paradigm.

Jesus saves, God blesses ... me, me, me. We have been taught to accept Christ for what we can get, not for what we can give.

That is something we all need to get straight if we want to be true worshippers. If you are in the Kingdom, the focus is on the King.

Now, we have an amazing King who loves us, cares for us, and provides all our needs. Nevertheless, regardless of what Babylonian religion tells us, we are not the center of attention.

Babylonian religion ultimately leads to a place where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth. We need to go to the place where YHWH is at the center. A spiritual place where we surround His throne and worship.

The text of Revelation describes that place as follows:

"⁶ And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of Elohim sent

out into all the earth. ⁷ And He went and took the scroll from the right hand of Him who was seated on the throne. ⁸ And when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for Elohim from every tribe and language and people and nation, ¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our Elohim, and they shall reign on the earth.”
Revelation 5:6-10

Did you notice that there is no distinction between Jewish Believers and Gentile Believers? That doesn't matter any longer.

Yahushua came to ransom people for YHWH from every tribe and language and people and Nation.

Mountains don't matter either. The only thing that matters is if they worship in spirit and in truth.

Here is a description of those ransomed worshippers.

“⁹ 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, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our Elohim Who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’ ¹¹ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped Elohim ¹² saying, ‘Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our Elohim forever and ever! Amen.’ ¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, ‘Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?’ ¹⁴ I said to him, ‘Sir, you know.’ And he

said to me, These are the ones coming out of great tribulation (distress). They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ Therefore they are before the throne of Elohim, and serve him day and night in His Temple; and He who sits on the throne will shelter them with His presence. ¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷ For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and He will guide them to springs of living water, and Elohim will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” Revelation 7:9-17

The multitude from the Nations represents the lost sheep of the House of Yisrael gathered from the Nations by their Shepherd King.

This future scene depicts the fulfillment of the promise of living water that Yahushua made to the Samaritan woman.

Those around the throne are falling down in worship. In fact, another the text of Revelation provides an interesting description of the elders.

“⁹ And whenever the living creatures give kabod and honor and thanks to Him Who is seated on the throne, Who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before Him Who is seated on the throne and worship Him Who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ¹¹ Worthy are you, O YHWH, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.” Revelation 4:9-11

They fall down, and they cast their crowns before the Throne. Those crowns represent the authority given to them by YHWH. They give back what they were given. That is an incredible picture of worship.

True worship is not the concerts and performances that have become popularized in modern churches.

It's not about being entertained, feeling good, or enjoying the songs. It's not about reading words from a hymnal or a screen for a half hour at a religious service once a week.

True worship is living the truth and walking in the light of truth. It's honoring YHWH by living according to His directions and offering yourself completely to Him as a living sacrifice.

Peter made it very clear - *"... you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a set apart priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to Elohim through Yahushua Messiah."* 1 Peter 2:5

Worship is why we were created.

Worship is why we have been given breath, and worship is why YHWH offers to deliver us, save us, and give us a new body, including a new heart and a new spirit.

We have been given a second chance, a chance to be born again, thanks to the Son. Only when we are born of the spirit and walk in truth can we truly worship the Father in spirit and in truth.

Berakhot

Todd

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PS: While we have been talking about worship, we have been talking a lot about falling down. Sometimes we fall down unintentionally and hurt ourselves. While I was sitting on an airplane yesterday in Washington, DC, waiting to take off, I received a call from my friend

and brother in Yahushua named Jamie. He was in the hospital because he had just fallen down and broken his hip. Please lift him up in prayer as we ask YHWH for healing and a speedy recovery.

Also, I received a great report from Sister June that her recovery from a recent fall was going well. Please pray that YHWH would restore her back to complete mobility, even better than before her fall.

Also, thank you all for your prayers. I am back in Texas and we were completely spared from the hurricane that, at one point, was headed straight toward us. Even though we were on the southern edge, we didn't get any wind or rain from that storm. While I am very thankful for YHWH's protection, please keep those in the Houston area in your prayers. It's been a long hot week for many without power.

Shema Yisrael (Hear O Yisrael) are the words that Yahushua spoke when asked what was the First Command.

*"The first of all the Commandments is: 'Hear, O Yisrael,
YHWH our Elohim, YHWH is one.'"*

Mark 12:29

"He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

Matthew 11:15