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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Worshipping in God's Temple 2 Chronicles 7:1-9

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson reviews the significance of God's response to Solomon's prayer at the dedication and **Worshipping in God's Temple**. The **study's aim** is to see that God may also respond to our worship, although in a smaller and less dramatic manner when we obey Him in worship. The **study's application** is to worship God, expecting Him to respond in a way that honors Him and blesses His people.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

Last week, we looked at part of Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the temple. We read in 2 Chronicles 7:1 that when he finished praying, fire came down from heaven, consuming the sacrifices on the altar, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. Verse 2 tells us that the priests could not even enter the structure because of the glory of God. Imagine that happening in your church! The glory of God that was manifested here probably involved a supernatural light of intense brilliance and power. It would have been nearly (if not totally) impossible to look at. The New Testament reminds us that God dwells in light that "no man can approach unto" (1 Tim. 6:16). The Hebrew word for "glory" in our text, however, relates to weight or heaviness. So there may have been a sense of incredible weight or presence that the priests simply could not stand up under. When we truly experience God's glory, we will be flattened with awe (yet made whole rather than harmed). The multitude of ordinary Israelites who were assembled outside reacted to this event with completely appropriate behavior. They bowed down and "worshipped, and praised the Lord." The full verse says that they actually put their faces to the ground as they bowed down. They were not following a prescribed ritual in doing this. It was a spontaneous response to the manifestation of God's glory before them. Worship does not require a specific posture, but bowing down or falling flat on one's face is a natural expression of what needs to be in the worshipper's heart. Worship is essentially a recognition of and response to who God is, especially regarding His incomparable greatness, holiness, and power. Worship acknowledges that God matters more than anything else; it is all (rightly) about Him. The opposite of worship, perhaps, is not so much atheism or blasphemy as an attitude that treats God as inconsequential. It is seen in busy lives that try to fit God into a small slot in their schedules. God, however, cannot be contained. It is we who must fit into His schedule and His agenda. Closely tied to worship is praise. In fact, they are like twins. The assembled Israelites praised God, focusing on two of His important attributes: "He is good" and "his mercy endureth forever." For modern readers, it seems almost axiomatic that God should be called good. But this was by no means a given among the peoples of ancient times. Pagan gods were often conceived of as anything but good; they were feared for their arbitrary cruelty and ill will toward humans. Israel learned early on, however, that goodness is one of the Lord's defining characteristics. They also learned of His enduring mercy, both by precept and through experiencing it over and over again. The word the Israelites used is a rich one. It is often translated "lovingkindness" and points to the intimate, loving, and faithful relationship the Lord sought with His people. They often strayed from that relationship, but He never did.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

You can quickly lose interest in worship if you have nothing invested

POEM FOR THE WEEK:

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with fear, His praise forth-tell,
Come ye before Him and rejoice.
—Kethe

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

(1 Cor 3:16 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Dec 11, 1999)

Series: Acknowledging God

UNIT: Follow in My Ways

NEXT WEEK

Seeking His Face
(2 Chron 7:12-22)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Worshipping By Praising God (2 Chron 7:1-3)

Praising God for His glory (1-2)

Praising God's glory because God is exalted over all (Ps 99:2)

Praising God's glory because God rules over all (Isa 40:22-23)

Praising God's glory because it cannot be contained (1 King 8:27)

Praising God's glory because God is majestic (Ps 8:1)

Praising God's glory because it should be revered (Ps 102:15)

Praising God's glory that was there before the world began (John 17:5)

Praising God for His goodness (3)

Praising God's goodness because He is upright (Psalms 25:8)

Praising God's goodness because He is a refuge (Nahum 1:7)

Praising God's goodness because only God is good (Matthew 19:17)

Praising God's goodness because of His compassion (Ps 145:9)

Praising God's goodness because our hope is in Him (Lam 3:25)

Praising God's goodness because He stores up goodness (Ps 31:19)

Praising God for His mercy (3)

Praising God's mercy because He doesn't always put an end to the wicked (Neh 9:29-31)

Praising God's mercy because it sometimes causes Him to relent (Ps 106:45)

Praising God's mercy because it empowers perseverance (James 5:11)

Praising God's mercy because it makes Christians a people of God (1 Peter 2:10)

Praising God's mercy because He hears our prayers (Ps 28:6)

Praising God's mercy because it provides rest (1 Peter 2:10)

Worshipping With Offerings and Music (2 Chron 7:4-7)

Worship with sacrificial offerings (4-5)

An offering beyond ability (2 Cor 8:3)

An offering that is all one has (Mark 12:43-44)

An offering that is given, even though it is the last (1 Kings 17:8-13)

An offering of a life of service that is almost to death (Phil 2:29-30)

An offering of whole self to God (Rom 12:1)

An offering of praise (Heb 13:15)

Worship with music (6)

Worship with musical thanksgiving (Ps 95:2)

Worship with singing (1 Chron 16:9-10)

Worship with instruments (2 Chron 5:13)

Worship abundantly (7)

Abundant work of the Lord (1 Cor 15:58)

Abundant love (Phil 1:9)

Abundant thanksgiving (Col 2:7)

Abundant pleasing to God (1 Thess 4:1)

Abundant faith (2 Thess 1:3)

Worshipping By Assembling (2 Chron 7:8-9)

Assembling at a set time (8)

Realize that there is a time for everything (Eccl 3:1)

Realize God only does things at the proper time (Eccl 8:6)

Realize that God acts when it is His time of favor (Isa 49:8)

Realize that at the right time God will provide (Rom 5:6)

Realize that we are to do all things at the appointed time (1 Cor 4:5)

Realize that our timing is not like God's (2 Peter 3:8)

Assembly that is sacred (9)

Assemblies should be sacred if they are done as to God (Rom 14:6)

Assemblies should be sacred because they are to the glory of God (1 Cor 10:31)

Assemblies that are done with a pure heart should be sacred (Titus 1:15)

Assemblies should be sacred because the Holy Spirit is indwelling believers attending (1 Cor 3:16-17)