

Worship

Matthew 2:1-12

The worship of the Old Testament was **prescriptive**.

Centered primarily around **The Temple** and the **Sacrificial System**.

¹⁵ He who has ears to hear, let him hear. ¹⁶ “But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market places, who call out to the other *children*, ¹⁷ and say, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’” Matthew 11:15-17

¹⁵ But Hannah replied, “No, my lord, I am a woman oppressed in spirit; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have poured out my soul before the LORD. 1 Samuel 1:15

¹ Then Hannah prayed and said, “My heart exults in the LORD; My horn is exalted in the LORD, my mouth speaks boldly against my enemies, because I rejoice in Your salvation. ² “There is no one holy like the LORD, indeed, there is no one besides You, nor is there any rock like our God. 1 Samuel 2:1-2

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me away from Your presence and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit. Psalm 51:10-12

Two dimensions of worship emerged.

- 1) Worship that was directed **at God**.
- 2) Worship that was directed **by God**.

¹³ Then the Lord said, “Because this people draw near with their words and honor Me with their lip service, but they remove their hearts far from Me, and their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned *by rote*, ¹⁴ Therefore behold, I will once again deal marvelously with this people, wondrously marvelous; and the wisdom of their wise men will perish, and the discernment of their discerning men will be concealed.” ¹⁵ Woe to those who deeply hide their plans from the LORD, and whose deeds are *done* in a dark place, and they say, “Who sees us?” or “Who knows us?” ¹⁶ You turn *things* around! Shall the potter be considered as equal with the clay, that what is made would say to its maker, “He did not make me”; or what is formed say to him who formed it, “He has no understanding”? Isaiah 29:13-16

Tozer – *All things being equal, the destiny of a man or nation may safely be predicted from **the idea of God** which that man or nation holds. No nation can **rise higher** than its conception of God.*

¹ “Woe to the rebellious children,” declares the LORD, “Who execute a plan, but not Mine, and make an alliance, but not of My Spirit, in order to add sin to sin; ² Who proceed down to Egypt without consulting Me, to take refuge in the safety of Pharaoh and to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt! ³ “Therefore the safety of Pharaoh will be your shame and the shelter in the shadow of Egypt, your humiliation. Isaiah 30:1-3

¹¹ There is a man in your kingdom in whom is a spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of your father, illumination, insight and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him. And King Nebuchadnezzar, your father, your father the king, appointed him chief of the magicians, conjurers, Chaldeans *and* diviners. Daniel 5:11

Observations of the Magi’s worship:

- A. They came to **worship**, not **evaluate**. (vs. 2)
- B. Worship was a **joy**, not a **drudgery**. (vs. 9-11)
- C. They came **offering**, not **demanding**. (vs.11)

¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation; *Then* my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness. ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, that my mouth may declare Your praise. ¹⁶ For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. Psalm 51:14-17

R.C. Sproul – *Worship is less about winning the lost, or even informing the found, and more about **renewing covenant** with a great God of grace in Christ.*