

**Lecture 4- Biblical Overview of Worship (II): Moses**

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

“I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted.

The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea.

The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

He is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him.

The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name.”

Exodus 15:1-3

**Key Concepts**

- Deliverance from Egypt
- Sacrificial worship
- Regulative principle
- Covenant renewal worship

**Lecture Objectives**

- Examine worship during the era of Moses
- Introduce the regulative principle
- Interact with Jeffrey Meyers, *The Lord’s Service*

**Preliminary Questions**

- What would your worship be like if you saw your deliverance as clearly as the Israelites saw their deliverance from Egypt?
- Do you approach worship as though God had provided everything necessary to draw near to Him?
- What role does the Old Testament play in forming our thoughts about what worship (or the sacraments) entails?
- What is required of us to come before the Lord, and what is provided for that?

**Biblical Overview of Worship (II): Moses****I. God Calls His People Out of Egypt to Worship in the Desert**

A. The foundation of the Exodus: God remembers His covenant with Abraham (Ex. 3:6-12)

B. Purpose for Israel’s deliverance: to Worship God! (Ex. 7:16; 8:1; 8:20; 9:1; 9:13)

C. Celebrate a festival to the Lord (Exodus 10:8-11; 24-26)

D. Passover (Exodus 12:1-31)

**II. God’s People Celebrate God’s Mighty Deliverance (Exodus 14:29-31; 15:1-21)**

A. Reason for the celebration: Response to God’s mighty salvation

14:31 “And when the Israelites saw the great power the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.”

B. Content of the celebration: Songs of praise and triumph

C. Tambourines and dancing

1. Corporate public worship service?

2. These were people who understood the magnitude of God’s work of salvation, and so responded accordingly!

**III. The Ten Commandments and Worship – Exodus 20**

A. Commandments 1-4 generally apply more to corporate public worship

B. Commandments 5-10 generally apply more to all of life as worship

## IV. The Covenant Ceremony – Exodus 24

- A. Blood sacrifice
- B. Fellowship meal

God provides what is necessary to draw near to Him, through the blood of the covenant

## V. The Sacrificial System – Exodus 25-31

- A. The priesthood of Aaron [Leviticus 8-9]
- B. The sacrifices [Leviticus 1-7]
- C. The Tabernacle
- D. The festivals [Leviticus 23:37-43]
- E. The regulative principle [Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 12:32]
  1. Basic definition (with caveats): add or subtract nothing to God's word.
  2. Specific example in Leviticus 10:1-3 (see also Ex. 30:9): Nadab and Abihu, and forbidden incense.

Old Testament zeal for detail in worship is matched in the New Testament with zeal for detail in the doctrine of the person and work of Christ.

3. Approach God as He prescribes
4. New Testament zeal for detail now transferred to person & work of Christ: Galatians 1:6-9; I John 2:22-23; 4:1-3

## VI. Worship as Covenant Renewal and Sacrifice

(Resource: *The Lord's Service* by Jeffrey J. Meyers, Canon Press, 2003)

- A. Three main sacrifices and relationship to new covenant worship
  1. Purification (sin) offering - cleansing in confession/pardon. Allows acceptance before God.
  2. Burnt (ascension) offering - consecration and transformation word. Presenting ourselves to God as those who are pierced by the word.
  3. Peace (communion) offering - communion in Lord's Supper. Worshipper partakes of the fellowship meal.
- B. Five-fold pattern of biblical covenants and relationship N.C. worship
  1. God's initiative taking hold of His people - Call to worship
  2. God separates His people from sin - Confession and forgiveness
  3. God speaks to His people – Scripture reading and sermon
  4. God gives tangible signs and seals - The Lord's Supper and baptism
  5. God arranges for succession - Benediction and commissioning
- C. Important & often neglected emphasis of covenant and sacrifice yet:
  1. Careful not to overextend this application of Leviticus as the only acceptable order – remember progressive biblical development
  2. Remember that in Christ we are already accepted by the Father as we come to worship based on once for all sacrifice (Heb. 10:1-10).
  3. It is as important to connect future worship to present worship as it is to connect past worship to present worship (Heb 9:1-15, 23-28; 12:22-29).