

Psalm 29:2

Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name. Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Let's take a look at some key words in this verse. The Hebrew word used in this verse for glory is kabowd. Kabowb means weight, splendor or copiousness: -glorious (-ly), glory, honor (-able). King David used the Hebrew word shachah for worship. It means to depress, i.e. prostrate in homage to royalty or God. Beauty is the Hebrew word hadarah which means decoration. Qodesh (ko'-desh) is the Hebrew word used for holiness. It means a sacred place or thing; rarely abstract, sanctity.

Keeping those words in mind you might read this verse like this; Bestow unto the Lord the weight, splendor and honor that his name is worthy of. Prostrate in homage before a God that is decorated in holiness having been decorated with sanctity as a sacred vessel.

We are admonished here to reverence the Lord for the weight and splendor of his name. It is often said of business men or dignitaries that they carry a lot of weight. When they speak or their name is spoken people listen. Respect is shown these people because of the position they hold. God has revealed himself to us through the scriptures. His name exemplifies his character. Of how much more reverence and respect should be given to the God of the universe?

Since he is God of the universe we are to worship him; prostrate in homage. To pay homage is to give respect and honor publicly. David is expressing that our worship should not be hidden in a closet but displayed for others to see. I believe the exhortation "Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" has at least two meanings. One is that the God to whom we worship is decorated with holiness. The second is that those who pay homage to him should also be decorated with holiness.

Scripture references:

1 Chronicles 16:29

Give to the Lord the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!

2 Chronicles 20:21

And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the Lord, for His mercy endures forever.

Psalms 96:8-9

Give to the Lord the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts. Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him all the earth.

Psalms 95:6

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

Psalms 93:5

Your testimonies are very sure; Holiness adorns your house, O Lord, forever.

Exodus 28:36-38

You shall also make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it, like the engraving of a signet: HOLINESS TO THE LORD. And you shall put it on a blue cord that it may be on the turban; it shall be on the front of the turban. So it shall be on Aaron's forehead that

Aaron may bear the iniquity of the holy things which the children of Israel hallow in all their holy gifts; and it shall always be on his forehead, that they may be accepted before the Lord.

Exodus 39:41

...and the garments of ministry, to minister in the holy place: the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and his sons' garments, to minister as priests.

Hebrews 12:10

For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.

Romans 6:19

I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

2 Corinthians 7:1

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Hebrews 12:14

Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.