

Psalm 95:6

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

The word worship doesn't exist in the Hebrew language. The Hebrew word is shachah. Shachah means to depress or prostrate in homage to royalty or God. The phrase “bow down” is the Hebrew word kara which means to bend the knee; to sink, to prostrate. Barak is the Hebrew word used for kneel. It means to kneel; to bless God as an act of adoration.

Prostrate means to bow or kneel down in humility or adoration; to throw down flat; to lay low; lying face down as in submission or adoration. This was a common practice in eastern culture. Not only did man bow to God in adoration but also to dignitaries and other important people. The Hebrew word for maker not only suggest that God originally formed us, but that he is also the source that sustains us. This establishes the criteria which makes it imperative that we bow and humble ourselves before him.

The most common Greek word used for worship is proskuneo. Proskuneo also carries with it the idea of prostrating oneself in adoration. This is seen several times in the Revelation of Jesus Christ. The twenty-four elders repeatedly “fell down” on their faces to worship the Lamb and the One on the throne. Falling down to worship Jesus was also a common response of those who encountered him during his earthly ministry as well. (Matthew 2:11; 8:2; 28:9; Mark 5:6)

Scripture references:

Proverbs 14:31

He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, but he who honors him has mercy on the needy.

Proverbs 17:5

He who mocks the poor reproaches his Maker; He who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished.

Proverbs 22:2

The rich and the poor have this in common, the Lord is the maker of them all.

Psalm 22:29

All the prosperous of the earth shall eat and worship; all those who go down to the dust shall bow before him, even he who cannot keep himself alive.

Psalm 72:9

Those who dwell in the wilderness will bow before him, and his enemies will lick the dust.

Psalm 149:2

Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; Let the children of Zion be joyful in their king.

Isaiah 45:11

Thus says the Lord, The Holy One of Israel, and his Maker: "Ask me of things to come concerning my sons; and concerning the work of my hands, you command me.

Isaiah 45:23

I have sworn by myself; the word has gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that to me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall take an oath.

Isaiah 54:5

For your Maker is your husband, The Lord of hosts is his name; and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; he is called the God of the whole earth.

Ephesians 3:14

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...

Hebrews 11:10

...for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Revelation 5:14

Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped him who lives forever and ever.

Revelation 7:11

All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God...

Revelation 11:16

And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God...

Revelation 19:4

And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!"

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