

*REAL WORSHIP is an attitude of the heart. It is a heart-engaged response to God’s greatness.

“To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, and to devote the will to the purpose of God!” (William Temple).

- 2 Chronicles 7 is a worship, corporate gathering that reveals some **core essentials** (non-negotiables):
 1. Corporate & regular **Prayer** (v.1)
 2. **God’s presence** in power & glory (v.2)
 3. humble, contrite, heartfelt **worship** & praise according to Scripture! (v.3)
 4. centrality of the sacrifice of Christ, our **atonement** (v.4-7)
 5. assembling together to **remember** God (v.8-10)
 6. hearing God’s revelation -- both his **promises** & his **warnings** (v.11-22)
 7. reminders to be humble, to pray, to seek God, and to **turn** from wicked ways (v.14)

Background to 2 Chronicles 7

Remember: the Chronicler (Ezra) is writing very late in OT history: he’s giving hope, assurance, encouragement to Israel after exile. He’s reminding them that GOD is faithful and true, and though they may not see the promise fulfilled now before their eyes, it’s sure to come. A KING will come, from David’s line & he will SIT & RULE on David’s throne!

THESIS — From 2 Chronicles 7, we’ll glean 5 helpful axioms concerning worship!

I. THE GLORY OF GOD IS MAJESTIC! (1-2)

II. THE RESPONSE TO GOD IS WORSHIP! (3)

III. THE ACCESS TO GOD IS ATONEMENT! (4-7)

“It pleased the Lord to bruise him and God laid on Christ the iniquity of us all. HIS death was our life and he was made sin and a curse that we might inherit righteousness. That sacrifice was consumed that we might escape.” (Matthew Henry)

IV. THE ASSEMBLY OF WORSHIPERS IS JOYOUS! (8-10)

V. THE BLESSING OF GOD THROUGH REPENTANCE! (11-22)

- **v.12-16 — the heart & soul of the book of Chronicles.**
- It could actually be the final/summary message of the entire Old Testament (the Chronicler writes late).

v.13 - ***IF*** I shut up the heavens [*negative warning*]

v.14 - ***THEN*** I will forgive

v.17 - ***if*** you walk before me [*positive promise*]

v.18 - ***THEN*** I will establish your throne

v.19 - ***if*** you turn away and forsake my word [*negative warning*]

v.20 - ***THEN*** I will uproot you

V.14-17 -- **what does God want???** [the ingredients for revival]

❖ If my people - the covenant nation. There is application for us, but the meaning is about the nation of Israel of old. What did God want for covenant-Israel -- *and for us?*

1. **To HUMBLE** - to recognize sin and utter dependence on God; subdue pride; submit in self-denying loyalty to God!

2. **To PRAY** - a generic term that means calling on God for help in times of need; shameless acknowledgement of sin & desperation for God's deliverance.

3. **To SEEK** - in relation to worship and pursuing God's favor; to passionately, exclusively, resolutely, run after God with *focus, tenacity, endurance & joy*.

4. **To TURN** - a changed life, repentance // turning from sin; complete change U-turn in direction in life.

➔ I agree with many that v.14 is a “THEOLOGICAL DIGEST” (a short summary-verse) of the rest of the entire book of 2 Chronicles. The history of the kings to follow demonstrates how both kings and people do & don't do these 4 items. **God still requires this today of His people!**

➔ Be humble! Pray to Him! Seek Him! Turn from sin!

O Worship the King

O worship the King, all glorious above,
 O gratefully sing His power and His love;
 Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
 Pavilions in splendor, and girded with praise.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
 In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;
 Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
 Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
 Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space,
 His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
 And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

Arise My Soul Arise

Arise, my soul, arise; shake off thy guilty fears;
 The bleeding sacrifice in my behalf appears:
 Before the throne my surety stands,
 Before the throne my surety stands,
 My name is written on His hands.

He ever lives above, for me to intercede;
 His all redeeming love, His precious blood, to plead:
 His blood atoned for all our race,
 His blood atoned for all our race,
 And sprinkles now the throne of grace.

The Father hears Him pray, His dear anointed One;
 He cannot turn away, the presence of His Son;
 His Spirit answers to the blood,
 His Spirit answers to the blood,
 And tells me I am born of God.

My God is reconciled; His pardoning voice I hear;
 He owns me for His child; I can no longer fear:
 With confidence I now draw nigh,
 With confidence I now draw nigh,
 And “Father, Abba, Father,” cry.

Before the Throne of God Above

Before the throne of God above
 I have a strong and perfect plea
 A great High Priest whose name is love
 Who ever lives and pleads for me
 My name is graven on His hands
 My name is written on His heart
 I know that while in heav'n He stands
 No tongue can bid me thence depart
 No tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair
 And tells me of the guilt within
 Upward I look and see Him there
 Who made an end of all my sin
 Because the sinless Savior died

My sinful soul is counted free
 For God the Just is satisfied
 To look on Him and pardon me
 To look on Him and pardon me

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb
 My perfect, spotless Righteousness
 The great unchangeable I AM
 The King of glory and of grace
 One with Himself, I cannot die
 My soul is purchased by His blood
 My life is hid with Christ on high
 With Christ my Savior and my God
 With Christ my Savior and my God