

## WEEK SEVENTEEN INTRODUCTION

Worship in holiness is the highest expression of the Christian life. Yet, as this week's readings demonstrate, worship is not performed according to the will of the creature but according to the word of God. *Enthusiasm* cannot be the highest value in worship. Rather, the *exaltation* of God must hold first place for the follower of Christ. The worship of the people of Israel centers around the ark of the covenant. The ark represents the Lord's presence among His covenant people. Because God initiates this relationship with His people, He sets the standards for how He would dwell with them, as we saw in the book of Leviticus. Of particular importance this week is God's instruction for how the ark ought to be transported. A general principle stands, how we treat the things of God reflects our reverence for God. Dealing flippantly with the matters of the Lord showcases a flippant attitude toward the Lord Himself. Yet, God's presence is altogether satisfying. Living in the presence of the Holy God is the highest expression of human life. Thus, worship in holiness typifies what it means to be *human*.

## KEY SCRIPTURE

*Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; bring an offering and come before him. Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.*

– 1 Chronicles 16:29

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Psalm 81:1-3 contains 5 imperative commands (In the CSB, *Sing...shout...lift...play...blow*). Each of these commands is a component of worship. Verse 4 begins with *for* alerting us to a cause. What is the "because" given in verse 4 behind the worship command in verses 1-3? Look to the rest of the Psalm. Why does God command worship?

In Psalm 88:13, the Psalmist declares, *But I call to you for help, LORD; in the morning my prayer meets you*. Why does the Psalmist call out to God? What are the circumstances in Psalm 88 that lead him to prayer? Have you ever experienced the same emotions? How did you respond? What were your prayers like?

What causes the Psalmist to rejoice in Psalm 92:4? What differences can you see in this Psalm between the wicked and the righteous?

Psalm 93 begins, *The LORD reigns!* How does the sovereign rule of God fuel and shape our worship? What are some practical encouragements that flow from His kingship?

Why does Uzzah die in 2 Samuel 6? Why is enthusiasm insufficient to guide our worship of God? Describe how Christians worship in the tension between the fear of the Lord and being a friend of God in Christ. Can you think of the ditches that exist in either direction? What happens when our worship is too “fearful”? What happens when our worship is too “friendly”? Which was the problem in 2 Samuel 6?

How does David change his ways in 1 Chronicles 15 regarding the treatment of the ark of the covenant? How did following the word of the Lord free them to worship?

How did David and the Israelites celebrate the arrival of the ark into Jerusalem in 1 Chron. 15:27-16:6?

1 Chronicles 16:8-36 makes us Psalm 105:1-15 (8-22) and Psalm 96 (23-36). How are Christians to *boast* (v. 10)? How is that type of boasting a component of biblical worship? How does God govern the world (v.14)? What reasons for worship do you see in verses 25-26?

### BE A DOER OF THE WORD

“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his faithful love endures forever.” -**1 Chronicles 16:34**

**Commit to grow in gratitude this week. Gratitude is the most basic building block of Christian worship. Take a few minutes to “count your blessings name them one by one.” Start with the seemingly small and work your way up to the great truths of the gospel. How will you grow in gratitude? How can you show that gratitude to others? Who needs to hear your testimony of God’s goodness?**