

# The Worship of God

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study

Selected Scripture

Today, we wrap up our study on God's nature and attributes. However, this subject is by no means exhausted. Much like a person in a life raft who traverses an ocean, seeing only a glimpse of the expanse, depth, and beauty of open water, we have just scratched the surface of God's nature and attributes.

We began in Exodus 33:18, when Moses cried out to God, "*Show me Your glory!*" God then responded to Moses by manifesting Himself as a bright, shining light, so blinding that Moses took refuge behind a rock to shield his eyes. We now see the "rest of the story" in chapter 34. God's next action was to descend in a shekinah glory cloud and proclaim His name and nature to Moses (**Exodus 34:1-9**).

## I. God Proclaims His Name and Nature to Moses (Exodus 34:1-9)

### A. Preparing to Know God (**Exodus 34:1-4**)

1. Sinful men cannot approach God uninvited and unannounced without facing certain death.
2. Moses alone was allowed to approach God as the mediator between God and Israel.
  - a) **Exodus 32:19**, *And as soon as he came near the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, Moses' anger burned hot, and he threw the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain.*
  - b) **Exodus 34:1**, *The Lord said to Moses, "Cut for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke.*
3. The commands, written by God, carry the full weight of divine authority.
  - a) The law (specifically, the Ten Commandments) are a ever present reminder that we are sinful and God is righteous.
    - (1) **Proverbs 6:23**, *For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life,*
    - (2) **Psalms 119:105**, *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

### B. Listening to Know God (**Exodus 34:5-9**)

1. God came down. God must always stoop to meet man, regardless of the man's height (it is infinite condescension)
  - a) He is the Creator; we are only creatures.
  - b) He is enthroned in Heaven; we dwell on earth below.
  - c) He is God; we are not.
2. God proclaimed His name!
  - a) Knowing God is about knowing Him; not seeing Him.
  - b) God proclaimed His name in His self-existence I AM WHO I AM. (**Exodus 34:6**) **One of the most quoted verses of the Old Testament (Psalm 86:15; 103:8; 145:8; Joel 2:13; Jonah 4:2)**
    - (1) Compassionate – sympathy; God cares about our situation. (**Psalms 103:13**)
    - (2) Gracious – mercy and undeserved favor.
    - (3) Slow to Anger – God is patient, long-suffering (**2 Peter 3:9**).
    - (4) Abounding in Love and faithfulness – covenant love; a 'follow-thru' kind of love.
    - (5) Love (**34:7a**) – He maintains His love. (Lasting; protects and preserves His love)
    - (6) Forgiving (to lift and carry away)
      - (a) Iniquity – turning aside from what is right.
      - (b) Transgression – defiant; willful violations of the law.
      - (c) Sin – any kind of moral failure.
    - (7) Justice (**34:7b**)

### C. Obeying to Know God (**Exodus 34:10-28**)

### D. The Evidence of Knowing God (**Exodus 34:29-35**)

## II. God is Worthy of Worship

### A. God is Approachable

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1. Though God “dwells in unapproachable light” He has provided the only way of approach to Him through the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - a) **Hebrews 10:19–20**, *Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,*
    - b) **John 14:6**, *Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*
  2. The previously unapproachable God is now approachable through Christ!
- B. God is Knowable**
1. Christianity is not outward ceremony; it is rooted in a living relationship with God in the heart.
    - a) **John 17:3**, *And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.*
  2. The priority of knowing God according to Jeremiah the Prophet
    - a) **Jeremiah 9:23–24**, *Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, 24 but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.”*
  3. The Apostle Paul declares the value of knowing God.
    - a) **Philippians 3:8**, *Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ*
    - b) **Philippians 3:10**, *That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,*
  4. The Apostle Peter
    - a) **2 Peter 3:18** *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*
- C. God is Worthy**
1. Worship comes from the word that means “worthiness.” He alone is worthy!
  2. **Revelation 5**, *Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” 3 And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, 4 and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. 5 And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.” 6 And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. 8 And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, 10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.” 11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” 13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” 14 And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.*
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