

# Exodus 34:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped.

## Analysis

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Moses' physical response demonstrates the only appropriate reaction to divine self-revelation: immediate prostration and worship. He 'made haste' (וַיַּעֲמֹהֶר, vayemaher), showing urgency and holy reverence. This contrasts with Israel's hasty turn to idolatry (32:8, same Hebrew root). True worship flows from beholding God's character, not from ritual obligation.

## Historical Context

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Prostration (bowing with face to the ground) was the standard ancient Near Eastern response to encountering deity or royalty, expressing total submission and humility.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does your understanding of God's character affect your worship?
2. What does Moses' 'haste' to worship teach about proper priorities?

## Interlinear Text

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רֵאֵם מִשְׁתַּחַת אֶלְאָמֵן וְיִתְּחַזֵּק וְיִתְּחַדֵּשׁ  
made haste And Moses and bowed his head toward the earth and worshipped  
H4116 H4872 H6915 H776 H7812

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 4:31** (Worship): And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.

**Genesis 17:3** (Parallel theme): And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying,

**2 Chronicles 20:18** (Worship): And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, worshipping the LORD.

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