

Psalm 95:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

Analysis

This verse pivots from the external expression of worship (singing, music) to the internal posture of the body and spirit. 'O come, let us worship and bow down' introduces 'worship' (Hebrew 'shachah'), which etymologically relates to prostration or bowing before a superior. This is not casual acknowledgment but deliberate physical submission. 'Bow down' emphasizes the physicality of worship - the body becomes the vehicle of spiritual devotion. 'Let us kneel before the LORD our maker' shifts the stance further downward, from bowing to kneeling. The accumulating postures of humility (singing - bowing - kneeling) suggest worship moving from exuberant expression to humble submission. The identification of God as 'our maker' (Hebrew 'yotzeinu') establishes the fundamental relationship: God is the Creator, humans are the created. This creature-Creator distinction justifies the postures of submission. The verse implies that true worship must engage both emotion and body, both voice and physical humility. The repetition of the command structure ('O come, let us') unifies this verse with verses 1 and 2, creating a three-part movement: first joyful expression, then grateful entrance, now humble submission.

Historical Context

The practice of bowing and kneeling in worship was fundamental to ancient Near Eastern religious practice and to Israelite worship in particular. Archaeological evidence shows worshippers in prostrate positions before deities throughout the ancient world. The Old Testament frequently describes such postures: Abraham

bowed before the three visitors (Genesis 18:2), Jacob bowed before Esau (Genesis 33:3), and throughout the Psalms worshippers 'bow down' (Psalm 22:29, 72:11). The Temple would have provided a context for such physical worship. The identification of God as 'maker' echoes the creation account and establishes a fundamental theological truth: the object of worship is not a creation of human imagination but the actual Creator of all things. The kneeling posture was particularly associated with prayer (1 Kings 8:54) and with reverent petition. This verse would have resonated with Temple worshippers who physically enacted their theology through bodily postures. The combination of joyful expression (verses 1-2) with humble submission (verses 6-7) creates a balanced theology of worship.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Why does genuine worship require both external expression (singing, joyful noise) and internal humility (bowing, kneeling)?
2. How does the recognition that God is our 'maker' establish the proper basis for worship and submission?
3. What does it mean to bow and kneel before God, and how might this physical expression deepen spiritual reality?
4. In modern worship contexts that often minimize physical expression, what might we be missing or misunderstanding about authentic worship?
5. How does the progression from singing to kneeling suggest a complete submission of the whole person to God?

Interlinear Text

עֲשֵׂנוּ יְהִי הָבָב אֶל נְשַׁפְּחָתְנוּ הַבָּרָךְ עָה לְפָנֵינוּ נְבָרֵךְ הַבָּרָךְ עָה
O come let us worship and bow down let us kneel before the LORD our maker
H935 H7812 H3766 H1288 H6440 H3068 H6213

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 100:3 (References Lord): Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Philippians 2:10 (Parallel theme): That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

Daniel 6:10 (Parallel theme): Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

Psalms 95:1 (References Lord): O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Ephesians 3:14 (References Lord): For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Isaiah 54:5 (References Lord): For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.

1 Corinthians 6:20 (Parallel theme): For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

2 Chronicles 6:13 (Parallel theme): For Solomon had made a brasen scaffold, of five cubits long, and five cubits broad, and three cubits high, and had set it in the midst of the court: and upon it he stood, and kneeled down upon his knees before all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven,

Luke 22:41 (Parallel theme): And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,

John 1:3 (Parallel theme): All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.