

Psalms 96:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts.

Analysis

This verse focuses on the Temple worship context and the right ordering of honor and offerings. 'Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name' commands the giving of honor that corresponds to God's character and achievements. 'Glory due unto his name' suggests that God deserves honor commensurate with who He is - complete and full. This is not excessive flattery but accurate acknowledgment. 'Bring an offering, and come into his courts' specifies the concrete expression of this honor through Temple sacrifice and worship. The 'courts' refer to the Temple precincts, the outer courts where people gathered for worship. Bringing an offering demonstrates obedience and devotion - the sacrifice represents the worshipper, offered in acknowledgment of God's lordship. This verse acknowledges the integral connection between internal homage and external ritual action. One cannot truly acknowledge God's glory without expressing it through concrete offerings and corporate worship. The verse moves from theological principle ('glory due') to practical action ('bring an offering') to corporate participation ('come into his courts'). This integration of belief and practice, private acknowledgment and public worship, characterizes authentic faith.

Historical Context

The Temple system involved specific offerings - burnt offerings, sin offerings, peace offerings, and thanksgiving offerings - each expressing different dimensions of the worshipper's relationship with God. The 'courts' specifically refer to the outer court where non-priests gathered, suggesting this verse addresses all worshippers

regardless of priestly status. The command to 'bring an offering' reflects the Levitical system described in Leviticus 1-7 and regularly practiced throughout Israelite and post-exilic Jewish history. The Temple itself, rebuilt after the exile, became the central focus of Jewish religious life, with daily sacrifices and periodic festivals. The instruction to 'come into his courts' would have been particularly meaningful for diaspora Jews who could not always physically approach the Temple, yet the verse asserts the importance of doing so when possible. The combination of giving 'glory' and bringing 'offering' reflects the ancient understanding that honor to a superior should be expressed through gift-giving and service. In the New Testament, this verse is quoted (Hebrews 13:15) as Jesus reinterprets offerings as spiritual rather than merely physical.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does it mean practically to give God 'the glory due unto his name,' and how should this shape worship priorities?
2. How do offerings and physical worship practices express and strengthen our internal acknowledgment of God's supremacy?
3. Why is it significant that the worship involves entering 'his courts' - a shared, corporate, physical space?
4. What is the relationship between acknowledging God's glory and bringing an offering in response?
5. How do we understand the principle of this verse in contexts where Temple sacrifices are no longer practiced?

Interlinear Text

וְהָבֵה	לַיהוָה	כְּבוֹד	שְׁמוֹ	שְׂאֵו	מִנְחָה	וּבֹאוּ
Give	unto the LORD	the glory	due unto his name	bring	an offering	and come
H3051	H3068	H3519	H8034	H5375	H4503	H935
לְחִצְרוֹתָיו:						
into his courts						
H2691						

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 100:4 (Parallel theme): Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

Romans 12:1 (Sacrifice): I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Psalms 72:10 (Parallel theme): The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.

Psalms 45:12 (Parallel theme): And the daughter of Tyre shall be there with a gift; even the rich among the people shall intreat thy favour.

Malachi 1:11 (Sacrifice): For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts.