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CHAPTER 2

Hebrew and Aramaic Words for Worship

The following table lists Hebrew and Aramaic words associated with worship and bowing in the Old Testament. It includes their Strong's reference number, translation found in the New American Standard Bible (NAS), grammar, transliteration, pronunciation, frequency of use, and meaning.

Unless otherwise referenced, Hebrew Lexicon information comes from Brown, Driver, and Briggs. The Gesenius Lexicon is keyed to the "Theological Word Book of the Old Testament" (abbreviated below as TWOT). These files are public domain and were obtained from the NAS Old Testament Hebrew Lexicon found at <http://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/hebrew/nas>. Additional information from various sources follows this table.

HEBREW and ARAMAIC Words for WORSHIP (NAS Old Testament)				
Strong's Number	Translation	Transliteration	Total Uses	Primary Meaning
07812	Worship (s) 49x Worshiped 31x Worshipping 3x Bowed in worship 1x Bow (s, ed, ing) 64x Prostrate (ed, ing) 16x Homage 6x	<i>Shachah</i> (shaw-khaw') Verb	171	Worship 83x Bow, lie down, or Prostrate 82x Homage 6x

HEBREW and ARAMAIC Words for WORSHIP (NAS Old Testament)				
Strong's Number	Translation	Transliteration	Total Uses	Primary Meaning
05647	Serve 200x Work, slave, perform, till, cultivate, etc. 77x Worship (ers) 13x (only 6 of 13 refer to God, i.e., 6 of 290 total uses)	`Abad (ä-väd') Verb	290	Serve
6915	Bow (ing) 15x	Qadad	15	Bow low
3721	Bow (ed, ing) 5x	Kaphaph	5	Bow down
3766	Bow (ed) 18x Kneel (s, ed, ing) 6x	Kara`	36	Bow, Bend, or Kneel
5307	Mostly fall or fell	Naphal	434	Fall or Fell
05456	Bow (fall) down 4x	Cagad (Aramaic)	4	Prostrate to worship graven images
05457	Worship (ed) 11x	Cegid (Aramaic)	12	Prostrate, worship, or homage
1288	Bless (es, ed, ing) 301x Kneel (or Knelt) 3x	Barak	319	Bless
04931	Worship 1x	Mishmereth	76	Ceremonial Obligation
06282	Worshippers 1x KJV	`athar	2x	Suppliant or thick

Additional Information

SHACHAH [Primary OT word for worship]	TWOT – 2360
shaw-khaw' Strong's # 07812	Verb

Translation Categories: Worship 83x's; Bow 65x; lie down 1x; Prostrate 16x; homage 6x

1. *Shachah* means to bow down or prostrate oneself in homage (before God in worship, before false gods, before an angel, or before a superior)
2. To depress (figurative)

NAS Word Usage - Total 171x's: bow 5, bow ourselves down 1, bow yourselves down 1, bow down 21, bowed 16, bowed in worship 1, bowed themselves down 2, bowed down 14, bowing 1, bowing down 1, bows down 1, did homage 1, down in homage 1, homage 1, lie down 1, paid homage 3, prostrate 2, prostrated 13, prostrating 1, weighs it down 1, worship 47, worshiped 31, worshipping 3, worships 2

Shachah is never translated "prostrate (-ed, -ing, -s)" in reference to God.

`ABAD [Mainly To Serve]	TWOT – 1553
(ä-văd') Strong's # 05647	Verb

Translation Categories: Serve 200x's; Worship 13x's (6x's refer to God)

1. *`Abad* means to work, serve, serve another by labor, serve as subjects, serve God, serve with Levitical service, labor, do work for another (Qal)
2. To be worked, tilled (of land), to make oneself a servant (Niphal)
3. To compel to labor or work, cause to labor, cause to serve, to cause to serve as subjects (Hiphil)
4. To be led or enticed to serve (Hophal)

NAS Word Usage - Total 290x's: become slaves 1, been slaves 1, bondage 2, burdened 2, cultivate 7, cultivated 2, cultivates 1, do 6, do the work 1, enslaved 3, given 1, holding in bondage 1, imposed 1, keep 2, labor 3, laborers 2, make servant 1, make slaves 2, manufacturers 1, observe 1, perform 9, performed 2, plowed 1, rendered 1, **serve 141, served 52, serves 2, serving 5**, slave 1, slaves 1, subject 1, till 1, tiller 1, tiller 1, tills 2, use as slaves 1, used 1, uses services 1, work 7, worked 2, workers 2, working 1, **worship 7, worshipers 6**

6 out of 290 times, the NAS translates `Abad as worship referring to God

Ex 3:12 And He said, "Certainly I will be with you [Moses], and this shall be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall **worship** [*`abad*, NKJ and ESV = serve] God at this mountain."

Ex 12:31 Then he called for Moses and Aaron at night and said, "Rise up, get out from among my people, both you and the sons of Israel; and go, **worship** [*`abad*, NKJ and ESV = serve] the LORD, as you have said.

De 6:13 "You shall fear only the LORD your God; and you shall **worship** [*`abad*, NKJ, NIV, and ESV = serve] Him and swear by His name.

Psa 2:11 **Worship** [*`abad*, NKJ, NIV, and ESV = serve] the LORD with **reverence** [*yir'ah* means fear (of God), respect, reverence, piety] And rejoice with trembling.

Isa 19:21 Thus the LORD will make Himself known to Egypt, and the Egyptians will know the LORD in that day. They will even **worship** [*`abad*, NKJ = make sacrifice] with sacrifice and offering, and will make a vow to the LORD and perform it.

Isa 19:23 In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrians will come into Egypt and the Egyptians into Assyria, and the Egyptians will **worship** [*`abad*, NKJ = serve] with the Assyrians.

QADAD [To bow down or bow low]	TWOT – 1985
kaw-dad' Strong's # 6915	Verb

1. *Qadad* means to bow down

NAS Word Usage - Total 15x's: bow low 1, bowed 7, bowed down 1, bowed low 6

NAPHAL [Mostly to fall]	TWOT – 1392
naw-fal' Strong's # 5307	Verb

1. *Naphal* means to fall, fall prostrate, prostrate oneself before, lie, lie prostrate, be cast down, fall (of violent death), to fall upon, attack, desert, fall away to, go away to, fall into the hand of, to fall short, fail, fall out, turn out, result, to settle, waste away, be offered, be inferior to (Qal)
2. To cause to fall, fell, throw down, knock out, lay prostrate, to overthrow, to make the lot fall, assign by lot, apportion by lot, to let drop, cause to fail (fig.), to cause to fall (Hiphil)
3. To throw or prostrate oneself, throw oneself upon, to lie prostrate, prostrate oneself (Hithpael)

NAS Word Usage - Total 434x's: abandon 1, allot 1, allotted 2, anyone falls 1, apportioned 2, attacked 2, born 1, bring down 1, burst 1, came down 1, cast 16, cast down 5, casts 1, collapse 1, come 3, dash down 1, defect 1, defected 3, deserted 3, deserters 3, did 1, dismounted 1, divide by lot 2, divide it by lot 1, down-fall 1, dropped 1, fail 1, fail 1, failed 4, **fall 130, fall down 4**, fallen 55, fallen away 1, fallen down 4, falling 3, **falling down 2**, falls 22, falls away 1, **fell 98, fell down 8**, felled 1, felling 1, give birth 1, go over 1, going over 2, gone over 3, inferior 2, killed 1, knocks 1, lay 1, lay down 1, lay flat 1, lie down 1, look 1, lost 2, ly-

ing 5, making 1, perish 1, present 1, presenting 3, **prostrating** 1, remains 1, settled 1, surely fall 1, throw 2, topple 1, turns 1, void 1, waste away 3

KARA` [bow down]	TWOT – 1044
kaw-rah' Strong's # 3766	Verb

1. *Kara`* means to bow, bow down, bend, kneel, sink down to one's knees, kneel in reverence, kneel down to rest (of animals), crouch, tilt, or lean

NAS Word Usage - Total 36x's: bow 3, bow down 2, bowed 4, bowed down 9, bring him low 1, brought me very low 1, couches 2, crouch 1, feeble 1, fell 1, kneel down 2, kneeled down 1, kneeled 1, kneeling 1, kneels 1, sank 1, subdued 3, very low 1

1 Ki 8:54 And it came about that when Solomon had finished **praying** this entire prayer and supplication to the Lord, he arose from before the altar of the Lord, from **kneeling** [kara`] on his knees with his hands spread toward heaven.

1 Ki 19:18 "Yet I will leave, in Israel, all the knees that have not **bowed** [kara`] to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him."

2 Ch 7:3 And all the sons of Israel, seeing the fire come down and the glory of the Lord upon the house, **bowed down** [kara`] on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped [shachah] and gave praise to the Lord, saying, "Truly He is good, truly His lovingkindness is everlasting."

2 Ch 29:29 Now at the completion of the burnt offerings, the king [Hezekiah] and all who were present with him **bowed down** [kara`] and worshiped [shachah].

Es 3:5 When Haman saw that Mordecai neither **bowed down** [kara`] nor paid homage [Shachah] to him, Haman was filled with rage.

Psa 95:6 Come, let us worship [shachah] and **bow down** [kara`], Let us kneel [barak] before the LORD our Maker.

Isa 45:23 ... every knee will **bow** [kara`], every tongue will swear allegiance.

Ezr 9:5 But at the evening offering I arose from my humiliation, even with my garment and my robe torn, and I **fell** [kara`] on my knees and stretched out my hands to the Lord my God;

KAPHAPH [bow]	TWOT – 1022
kaw-faf' Strong's # 3721	Verb

1. *Kaphaph* means to bend, bend down, bow down, be bent, be bowed (Qal)
2. To bow oneself down (Niphal)

NAS Word Usage - Total 5x's: bow 1, bowed down 3, bowing 1

Psa 57:6 ...My soul is **bowed down** [*kaphaph*]...

Psa 146:8 The Lord raises up those who are **bowed down** (also in Ps 145:14)

Isa 58:5 "Is it a fast like this which I choose, a day for a man to humble himself?
Is it for **bowing** one's head like a reed..."

Mic 6:6 With what shall I come to the Lord And **bow** myself before the God
on high? Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings, With yearling calves?

CAGAD [Fall or bow down in worship]	TWOT – 1459
saw-gad' Strong's # 05457	Verb

1. *Cagad* (Qal) means to prostrate oneself (in worship)

NAS Word Usage - Total 4x's: bow down 1, fall down 1, falls down 2

ALL BEFORE A GRAVEN IMAGE

Isa 44:15 ... He also makes a god and worships [*shachah*] it; he makes it a graven image, and **falls down** before it.

Isa 44:17 But the rest of it he makes into a god, his graven image. He **falls down** before it and worships [*shachah*]; he also prays to it and says, "Deliver me, for thou art my god."

Isa 44:19 ... I make the rest of it into an abomination, I **fall down** before a block of wood!"

Isa 46:6 "Those who lavish gold from the purse And weigh silver on the scale Hire a goldsmith, and he makes it into a god; They **bow down**, indeed they worship [*shachah*] it.

WORSHIP AND SERVE IN DANIEL

C^egid (Aramaic) [To prostrate in worship]	TWOT – 2884
seg-eed'	Verb

1. *C^egid* means to prostrate oneself, to do homage, to worship

NAS Word Usage - Total 12x's: did homage 1, worship 10, worshiped 1

P^elach (Aramaic) [To serve]	TWOT – 2940
pel-akh'	Verb

1. *P^elach* means to serve, revere, pay reverence to, worship, minister for

NAS Word Usage - Total 10x's: servants 1, serve 9

BARAK [Mostly to Bless also to Kneel]	TWOT – 285
baw-rak' Strong's # 1288	Verb

1. *Barak* means to bless, kneel, or to be adored [see adoration under *latrīea*]
2. To praise, salute, curse (TWOT) [never translated praise in NAS]

NAS Word Usage - Total 319x's: abundantly bless 1, actually blessed 1, bless 111, bless is blessed 1, bless me indeed 1, bless them at all 1, blessed 167, blessed be those who bless 1, blessed is everyone who blesses 1, blesses 10, blessing 1, boast 1, congratulates 1, curse 3, cursed 3, curses 1, greatly bless 1, greet 2, greeted 1, had to bless 1, kneel 1, kneel down 1, knelt 1, persisted in blessing 1, pronounce blessing 1, salute 1, salutes 1, surely bless 1, thanked 1

Psa 95:6 Come, let us worship [*shachah*] and bow down [*kara*'], Let us **kneel** [*barak*] before the LORD our Maker.

Mishmereth [Translated worship1x]	TWOT – 2414g
mish-meh'-reth Strong's # 04931	Noun Feminine

1. *Mishmereth* means charge, function, obligation, service, office, function (ceremonial), watch, guard, keeping, preserving, injunction, house of detention or confinement,

NAS Word Usage - Total 76x's: allegiance 1, charge 27, duties 15, duty 2, guard post 2, guard 1, guards 2, keep 1, keep 1, kept 5, obligation 4, obligations 4, offices 1, posts 1, safe 1, service 2, service divisions 1, watch 4, **worship 1**

Neh 12:45 "...performed the **worship** [*mishmereth*] of their God and the service of purification..."

`ATHAR [Translated worshipers 1x in NAS]	TWOT - 1722a,1724a
aw-thawr' Strong's # 06282	Noun Masculine

1. *`Athar* means suppliant or worshipper

2. Odor, incense (odoriferous smoke)

King James Word Usage - Total 2x's: thick 1, suppliant 1

Zep 3:10 NAS “...My **worshippers** [ʼathar], My dispersed ones, will bring My offerngs.” [...my **suppliants** [ʼathar]... (KJV)]

Eze 8:11 KJV “**thick** [ʼathar] cloud of incense”

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