

A Biblical Theology of Worship  
*The Worship of the Church, §4.0-4.1*

- I. Three goals in this section.  
Developed in a Biblical-theological perspective (rather than Systematic theological).
  - A. Where is there continuity between Old Covenant and New Covenant public worship?
  - B. What is the nature of public worship?
  - C. What is the form of public worship?
  
- II. The Importance of the covenant in Scripture.
  - A. Covenant: comment from RP Testimony, 1.1.
  - B. The theme of the Covenant of Grace.  
Genesis 12:1; 17:1-15. Galatians 3:7-9; Jeremiah 31-34 & Hebrews 8.
  - C. Reformers understood the covenantal nature of Christian worship.  
Example: Psalm 50:5, Commentary by Calvin.
  - D. An eternal covenant: Hebrews 13:20-21.
  
- III. There is both discontinuity and continuity between the Old and New Covenants in the life of God's people.
  - A. The NT church continues the OT church, Philippians 3:3
    1. The New Covenant that the Church receives was promised to Israel.  
Jeremiah 31:31-34; Luke 22:20; Hebrews 8:8-9.
    2. Under the New Covenant, Gentile believers are fellow citizens with the saints.  
Ephesians 2:14-15, 19.
    3. Christians can be addressed as "tribes" and "pilgrims of the dispersion."  
James 1:1; 1Peter 1:1.
    4. God's promise to Noah that Japheth would dwell in the tents of Shem is fulfilled.  
Genesis 9:27.
    5. God's promise to Abraham that in him all the nations of the earth would be blessed is fulfilled.  
Genesis 22:18; also Gen 18:18; repeated to Isaac, Gen 26:4.
    6. God's promise to David to build up his house, is fulfilled.  
Acts 15:14-17.
  
  - B. The Church is Israel renovated and enlarged under the New Covenant.
    1. All the Hebrew Scriptures belong to the Church, 2Timothy 3:16.
    2. They were written to instruct the Church of the New Covenant, 1Corinthians 10:11
    3. Their prophecies serve the Church, 1Peter 1:10-12.
    4. The Scriptures speak of Christ, the Mediator of the New Covenant, Luke 24:27, 44; Ephesians 2:20.

- C. Some parts of Israel's life, which were shadows of Christ to come, have ceased.
1. Prophets, priests, kings were mediators between God and Israel.  
Christ has permanently assumed those functions.
  2. In Christ the saints are prophets to proclaim the gospel, priests to serve God, and kings reigning with Christ.  
Rev 1:6; 1Peter 2:5, 9.
- D. Yet, continuities exist: example, the elder.
1. The office of elder, given to Israel, continues in the Church.  
Exodus 4:29; 24:1.
  2. Elders ruled alongside the apostles, Acts 15:4, 22, and were appointed by the apostles in every city, Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5
  3. Qualifications given in the NT, 1Tim 3.
  4. Described as gifts to the Church, Ephesians 4:11.
  5. Given instructions, 1Peter 5:1-4.
  6. Have true ruling authority:  
Hebrews 13:17; Titus 2:15.