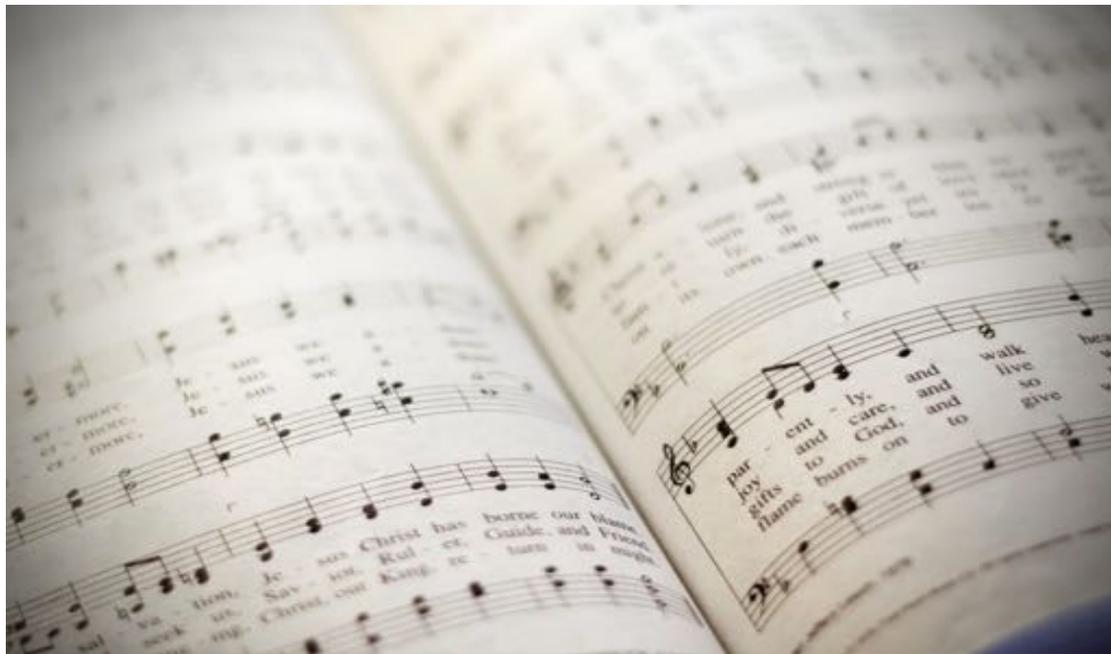


An aerial photograph of a large, circular, turquoise-colored crater or depression in a dark, rugged landscape. The crater is filled with water, and the surrounding terrain is dark and rocky. The text "WHY WORSHIP?" is overlaid in large, white, bold letters across the center of the image.

**WHY WORSHIP?**



# “WORTH-SHIP”

- The word worship means to honor something that is worthy (“worth-ship”). In tabernacle worship, for example, God demanded the very best. He was worthy of the effort and materials involved in the tabernacle (the best fabrics, elegantly woven, spotless sacrifices, gold implements and accessories, the best craftsmen to construct and maintain it all). See Exodus 35.
- God’s people must acknowledge His worthiness – it must be at the heart of our worship (Psalm 18:3, Rev. 4:11, Phil. 2:9–11, Daniel 2:34ff).
- But relying on an etymological definition of worship only gives us part of the picture...

**“Yes, “worth-ship” can lead us toward the glimmer of a biblical understanding. It does so, however, without reference to any biblical text, and therefore cannot answer any of the questions the definition raises: how do we know that God is worthy; assuming that he is, what is his worth; and what is the appropriate way to give it back to him? Old English, beautiful as it may be, can only stare at these questions blankly . . . When we apply the word “worship” to God, we simply affirm that he is of worth. There is no sense of movement, of interaction, of relationship with God. There is no sense of the narrative that underlies scripture; of the call and answer that enriches our lives before God; of the patterns and forms of approach that God has set in place. It’s a definition that would easily lend itself to a deist stance: my worship of God admits to his existence and his worth, but does not really infer any interaction between us. God might have set things in motion, but he has now stepped away, and I can admire him from a distance.”**

**“Worship Theology 101: What’s In A Word?”, [www.thinkingworship.com](http://www.thinkingworship.com)**

# PSALM 145

- God's worthiness is established in our text on five basic truths, each of which is an essential part of His character:
- God is great (verses 3–7)
- God is gracious/merciful (verses 8–10)
- God rules a kingdom above all others (verses 11–13)
- God sustains (verses 14–16)
- God is righteous (verses 17–20)
- Verse 21 concludes the psalm, aptly pointing out that praise is the natural response to the above truths.