

A Worship Minute...

-from "The Worship Architect" by Constance Cherry

Worship is centred in God's Acts of Salvation: God initiates worship. This is in full keeping with God's character, for God is a person Who acts first. There is no better depiction of this than the occasions when God intervened in the lives of His people in order to save them from self-destruction. Worship is fundamentally the result of, and response to, great saving events performed by God. For the Hebrews, the central saving event was the exodus; for Christians, it is the resurrection.

The Old Testament tells the story of God's people in need, crying out for deliverance from oppression at the hands of the Egyptians. At just the right time from God's point of view, He intervened with a mighty saving act that defined Israel's history.

*I will sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously;
Horse and rider He has thrown into the sea.
The Lord is my strength and my might;
And He has become my salvation;
This is my God, and I will praise Him,
My father's God, and I will exalt Him.
(Exodus 15: 1-2)*

All the worship of Israel flowed from the singular event (and continues to do so), because the story of God's saving action is its centerpiece. Worship always begins with and focuses on what God has done to save His people.