



Examples of Liturgy in Scripture

The Christian's goal is to be a vibrant Spirit-Filled part of God's Church—committed to and directed by the Word of God. In observing some of the key passages on worship in Scripture, one can see that some distinct patterns, rhythms, and call and response conversations emerge in Christian worship. The rhythm of Scripture is *proclamation and response*. God initiates worship in conversation and we respond.

We are to make it our aim and effort in life and practice to incorporate these things into our worship, while remaining flexible and creative as to how we carry each of these elements through.

You will notice in major sections of Scripture that the way in which God deals with His people, and His creation has a *pattern and form*. His actions are not science, nor prescriptive, but rather His rhythms of grace give us good descriptive wisdom about how we are to be formed in our response toward Him. You'll notice that some definite key patterns arise in Scripture in how people are approached by God and in how they respond to Him:

- God's Character is Recognized (We adore and Praise God)
- Human Character is Recognized (Our sin is exposed and we confess)
- God Initiates Grace (God assures us of our forgiveness)
- Human's Respond to Grace (We respond to His gift in thankfulness)
- God's Initiates Instruction (God teaches us through His Word)
- We respond in Obedience (We obey Him, living out His mission)
- God's Promise (We're dismissed in the promise of God's presence)
- Our Blessing (We are blessed to go and be a blessing)

We are to incorporate this "Rhythm" into our gathered services, but also to train it into our lives as we scatter in all realms of society. The pattern of God's initiation and our response to His pursuit is clearly seen in Scripture (see below). Each moment we encounter is a moment to engage God. When God is revealed, we see our sin. When He forgives, we rejoice. When He teaches us how to live, we obey. When He promises to be with us, we are blessed. Worship is about all of life, and we strive to maintain this conversation and storyline in our worship.

We are to strive to be a people that live out worship in all of life!!!¹

¹ Most of the following outline was taken from the thoughts of Bryan Chappell in *Christ-Centered Worship: Letting the Gospel Shape our Practice* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing), 2009.

Genesis 1

God's pursues Creation	(v. 1)
Creation's character revealed	(v. 2)
God's grace given in His presence over the waters	(v. 2)
God's Instruction for the Creation to obey	(v. 3)
God's assurance that it is good	(v. 4)
God commands the light to separate	(v. 4)
Promise of Blessing and the Assignment to Roles (sending)	(vv. 4-5)

Genesis 3

God's character recognized in initiating grace	(v. 9)
Human character recognized	(v. 10)
God's pronouncement of judgment	(vv. 14-20)
God's grace exhibited	(v. 21)
Promise of Covenant Blessing, Sending and Assurance	(v. 15)

Burning Bush Exodus 3

God's character recognized through pursuit	(vv. 2-4)
Frailty of man and creation recognized	(v. 3)

God's grace exhibited	(v. 7)
God's grace assured	(v. 8)
Instruction for obedience	(vv. 7-9)
Response of doubt	(v. 11-12)
Promise of Covenant Blessing and Sending	(v. 10)

Sinai Worship Duet. 5

God's character recognized	(vv. 4, 22-24)
Human character confessed	(v. 5, 22-27)
God's grace exhibited	(vv. 2-3, 6)
God's grace assured	(v. 2-3)
Instruction for obedience	(v. 6-21, 32-33a)
Response of thankful devotion	(v. 27)
Promise of Covenant Blessing	(v. 33b)

Isaiah 6

God's character recognized	(vv.1-4)
Human character recognized	(v. 5)
God's grace exhibited	(vv. 6-7)

God's grace assured	(v. 7)
Response of thankful devotion	(v. 8)
Instruction for obedience	(vv. 9-12)
Promise of Covenant Blessing	(v. 13)

Solomon's Worship 2 Chron. 5-7

God's character recognized	(Adoration)	(vv. 5:1-5)
Human character confessed	(Confession)	(vv. 5:6-10)
God's grace assured	(Assurance)	(vv. 5:13-14)
Petition	(Petition)	(vv. 6:12-21)
Instruction for obedience	(Instruction)	(vv. 6:22-42)
Response of thankful devotion	(Communion)	(vv. 7:4-9)
Promise of Covenant Blessing	(Dismissal)	(vv. 7:10)

Great Commission

Jesus appoints and appears to the disciples and they worship...	(Adoration)	(v.17)
Human Character Recognized ... some doubted	(Confession)	(v. 17)
Instruction, Assurance, and Command	(Assurance)	(v. 18)

Promise of Blessing, Covenant, Sending	(Instruction/Mission)	(vv. 19-20)
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Romans Part 1

Instruction	(Instruction)	(vv. 1-11)
Explanation of Grace through Faith	(Assurance)	(vv. 2-11)
God's character recognized	(Adoration)	(vv. 11:25-32)
Human character confessed	(Confession)	(v. 12:1)
Response of thankful devotion	(Corporate/Individual/ Moral)	(vv. 12:3-8, 9-12)
Promise of Covenant Blessing	(Mission to Others)	(vv. 14:1-15:13)

Romans Part 2

God's character recognized	(Adoration)	(vv. 11:33-36)
Human need for mercy	(Confession)	(v. 12:1)
God's mercy assured	(Assurance)	(v. 12:1)
Thankful Response	(Thankfulness)	(v. 12:2)
Instruction for obedience	(Instruction)	(vv. 12:3-13:14)
Communal Care for One another	(Mission)	(vv. 14:1-15:12)
Charge and Blessing	(Dismissal)	(v. 15:13)

Ephesians

God's character recognized	(Adoration)	(1)
Human need	(Confession)	(vv. 2:1-3)
God's provision	(Assurance)	(vv. 2:4-10)
Instruction in godliness	(Instruction)	(vv. 2:11-6:18)
Communal Care for One another	(Mission)	(vv. 6:19-22)
Benediction	(Dismissal)	(vv. 6:23-24)

Eschatological Worship Rev. 4-21

God's character recognized	(Adoration)	(vv. 4:1-11)
Human need and sin	(Confession)	(vv. 5:1-7)
Prayer for assurance of Provision	(Assurance)	(vv. 5:8-10)
Thankful Response	(Thanksgiving)	(vv. 5:11-14)
Cycles of God's Word Opened with Heavenly and Earthly reactions (Rev. 6:1-19:5)		* The Seven Seals (vv. 6:1-8:5)
		* The Seven Trumpets (vv. 8:6-11:19)
		* The Seven Signs (vv. 12:1-15:8)

		* Babylon Announcements (vv. 17:1-19:5)
Communion in Wedding and Royal Supper	(Consummation)	(vv. Rev. 19:6-10 and 11-21)
Charge of Judgment and New Creation	(Dismissal-Doxological Entry)	(vv. Rev. 20-22)