

## GOD'S MAGNIFICENT IDEA

Part XXXV

*Revelation 7:9-12*

Introduction: The Bible seems to show a remarkable proximity between music and the prophetic. When Elisha needed a word from the Lord for King Jehoshaphat, he called for a minstrel, a player of a stringed instrument, and asked him to play. It appears that Elisha could not prophecy until there was music. After the minstrel played, the hand of the Lord came upon Elisha and gave him a prophetic utterance. *2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 3:11-15*. There is a unique connection between music and the prophet. That is why music has always been a major factor in our services. The music leaders of the church need to be as anointed as the preachers. Music leaders are responsible for leading the singing of the Word like preachers are responsible for preaching the Word of God. God has a purpose and desire for every worship service. We gather to worship the "King of kings and the Lord of lords!" The fact is that the longest book in the Bible is a book of music. David urges us to sing! *Psalm 98:1*; *2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 7:6*.

### I. God's magnificent idea

- A. There are three kinds of music that believers should understand that are listed in *Ephesians 5:17-20*.
  - a) The psalms. The Psalms were the hymn book of ancient Israel. The Psalms are the Word of God, written by David and others under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This may be the reason why God considered David to be a man after His own heart. *Acts 13:22*. *Psalm 66:1-8*.
  - b) Hymns. God inspired Moses to write a song intended not only for their immediate blessing, but one that could be taught by one generation to another. *Deuteronomy 31:30 - 32:43*. Hymns convey the official message of the church. Psalms are more of a celebration of God with enduring themes.
  - c) Spiritual songs. Spiritual songs relate more to a subjective kind of singing. *Psalm 42:8*: "... in the night His song shall be with me." Or *Psalm 32:7*: "... You shall surround me with songs of deliverance..." These songs come from the influence of the Holy Spirit.
  - d) *1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:15*. In this portion of Scripture, Paul encourages us to first sing spiritual songs. When we pray in other tongues, we pray in the Spirit. Secondly, Paul also promotes singing with the understanding, hymns, or psalms.
  - e) It is impossible to overemphasize the importance of sensitivity to the Holy Spirit in the area of music. Music is a vehicle through which God will express Himself to the church and for the church to express herself to God and His people. When we obey God in our praise, a great placidity comes over us.
  - f) It is of great consequence to enjoy the fruit of anointed music. When the musicians and the singers flow together making music unto the Lord, God moves mightily. The church is heterogeneous in its makeup, and together we present God with what pleases Him.
  - g) The armies of the world march into battle with music, and the Lord's army is no different. Notice how often music and instruments are associated with the great battles waged on God's behalf in the Old Testament. Remember Joshua and the children of Israel marching around the walls of Jericho – they blew their trumpets as all the people gave a great shout, and then the walls collapsed. Events like this one teach us spiritual principles. Joshua was operating on the principle of spiritual warfare. There was a physical miracle with the collapse of the walls because the children were operating on the basis of a spiritual principle.
  - h) The above principle was also in operation when Jehoshaphat won the battle over the three kings. *2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 3:15* records that Elisha called for a musician. When the musician played, God spoke to Elisha on behalf of Jehoshaphat, and the army of Jehoshaphat prevailed.

Conclusion: Seeing the emphasis the Scriptures put on praise and music, the church ought to major in obeying the Bible's advice. There isn't any doubt that God loves praise and music. Lucifer, the Star of the Morning, was created exclusively for the purpose of satisfying God's love for music. Since his fall, the church is responsible to supply God with the praise He deserves.