

Principles Related to the Worship Order Established by David

I. THE END-TIME WORSHIP MOVEMENT

- A. The Lord desires to be worshiped on earth as He is in heaven. In Revelation 4-5, John described aspects of the worship order that were established after God’s own heart—how He wants to be worshiped. The heavenly worship order is *continual, musical, relational, and God-centered* (Rev. 4:8; 5:8-9; 15:2). God-centered worship focuses on His beauty, personality, and actions.
- ²³ *...true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. (Jn. 4:23)*
- ⁸ *The four living creatures...do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy...” (Rev. 4:8)*
- B. The Holy Spirit is raising up the most powerful prayer and worship movement in history (Lk. 18:7-8; Rev. 5:8; 8:4; 22:17; Isa. 24:14-16; 25:9; 26:8-9; 27:2-5, 13; 30:18-19; 42:10-13; 43:26; 51:11; 52:8; 62:6-7; Jer. 31:7). It is one of the major themes seen in end-time prophetic passages.
- C. We ask the Lord to draw many to work together until 24/7 prayer with worship is established in *every tribe and tongue* on the earth. He revealed many things to David about how He desires to be worshiped, giving David insight into a worship order that He wanted established on earth.
- ¹¹ *David gave his son Solomon the plans...¹²for all that he had by the Spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD...¹³also for the division of the priests and the Levites, for all the work of the service of the house of the LORD ...¹⁹“All this,” said David, “the LORD made me understand in writing, by His hand upon me, all the works of these plans.” (1 Chr. 28:11-19)*
- ¹⁴ *“...The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart...” (1 Sam. 13:14)*
- D. David set Levites to worship God before the ark, which represented God’s throne and presence.
- ⁴ *He appointed Levites [singers and musicians] to minister before the ark...to praise the Lord...³⁷to minister before the ark regularly, as every day’s work required... (1 Chr. 16:4, 37)*
- E. David established 4,000 full-time, paid musicians and singers along with 4,000 gatekeepers (1 Chr. 23:5; 25:7). Thus, he financed over 8,000 “staff” to facilitate worship. Israel was commanded to support the singers/musicians in the temple as their full-time occupation (1 Chr. 9:33; 16:37; 23:5; 25:7; 2 Chr. 8:12-14; 31:4-6, 16; 2 Chr. 34:9, 12; Neh. 10:37-39; 11:22-23; 12:44-47; 13:5-12).
- ³³ *The singers...were free from other duties; they were employed in that work day and night. (1 Chr. 9:33)*
- F. David commanded God’s people to honor the heavenly order of worship that he received by revelation because it was God’s command (2 Chr. 29:25; 35:4, 15; Ezra 3:10; Neh. 12:45).
- ²⁵ *[Hezekiah]...stationed Levites in the house of the Lord with stringed instruments... according to the commandment of David...for thus was the commandment of the Lord. (2 Chr. 29:25)*
- ¹⁴ *According to the order of David his father, he [Solomon] appointed...Levites for their duties to praise...as the duty of each day required...for so David...commanded. (2 Chr. 8:14)*

II. IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES IN DAVID'S WORSHIP ORDER (1 CHR. 25:1-8)

¹*David and the captains of the army separated for the service some of the sons of Asaph, of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, stringed instruments, and cymbals. And the number of the skilled men performing their service...*²*the sons of Asaph were under the direction of Asaph...*³*the sons of Jeduthun...six, under the direction of their father Jeduthun, who prophesied with a harp to give thanks and to praise the LORD...*⁵*God gave Heman fourteen sons and three daughters.*⁶*All these were under the direction of their father for the music in the house of the LORD, with cymbals, stringed instruments, and harps, for the service of the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman were under the authority of the king.*⁷*So the number of them, with their brethren who were instructed in the songs of the LORD, all who were skillful, was two hundred and eighty-eight.*⁸*And they cast lots for their duty, the small as well as the great, the teacher with the student. (1 Chr. 25:1-8)*

- A. **Separated for the service:** David set apart singers and musicians to a full-time occupation.
- B. **Who should prophesy:** We seek to operate in the prophetic by giving expression to impressions given by the Spirit. Growing in prophetic worship requires a regular setting in which to grow. In David's youth, he played music that brought relief to King Saul when he was being tormented.
¹⁶*...command your servants...to seek out a man who is a skillful player on the harp...he will play it...when the distressing spirit from God is on you, and you shall be well.*...¹⁸*The servant ...said, "I have seen a son of Jesse [David]...who is skillful in playing..." (1 Sam. 16:16-18)*
- C. **Music:** There is a remarkable connection between the Holy Spirit, the human heart, and music. Music deeply moves the heart, and thus it has a unique ability to impact and unify people.
- D. **Praise:** To give thanks and *praise to God* (v. 3) includes magnifying Jesus and drawing attention to Him by what we do on the platform. We encourage expressing personal liberty in a way that enhances corporate blessing. We recognize the tension between creative liberty in leading others in worship *and* showmanship that draws undue attention to the individuals on the worship team. We value ministering to Jesus as our "audience of One" regardless of how many are in the room.
- E. **Service:** "for the service of the house of God." This implies working with a servant's heart.
- F. **Under the direction of:** This speaks of mentoring and developing family relationships as well as honoring the spiritual authority of spiritual fathers and mothers. The singers came from the families of Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun who were *over* them yet *under* the authority of the king (v. 6). The Lord wants His people to walk in relationship with others and to function as a spiritual family.
- G. **Instructed:** Each was taught the *songs of the Lord* (v. 6), which includes skill, team dynamics, and biblical studies. The "teacher with the student" (v. 8) speaks of a *training program*. Being a *student* involves having a teachable spirit. This speaks of training that includes music, singing, how to flow prophetically, and what the Bible says about the full-time occupation of singers and musicians. It includes themes like the knowledge of God, the grace of God, etc.
- H. **Skillful:** Skill is necessary for creativity to flow. Artists will not thrive without being *creative*, as this is where the fun and energy are. The creativity of music with Holy Spirit interaction is powerful. Without relational flow in a worship team, creativity will not reach its highest potential.