



**God's Music in
Worship**

simile

sempre poco a poco

The Purpose of Our Study

- To show that the N.T. practice of worship in song is proof that the final atonement for our sins has been paid.
- If final atonement for our sins has NOT been paid then mechanical instruments of music in worship is authorized.

Instrumental Music and Atonement

“Instrumental music and the atonement are not of the same status or consequence to the human soul and its eternal welfare.”

**Rubel Shelley, minister of the 2,200-member Woodmont Hills church, in Nashville TN
The Christian Chronicle, October, 2003**

Atonement

- **Old Testament**
 - **Sacrificial System**
Lev. 1:1-7:38 (1:2-4)
 - **Burnt offerings**
 - **Exodus 29:38-46**
 - **Sin (Lev. 4)**
 - **Trespass/Guilt (Lev. 5)**



Instruments from the Beginning

Numbers 10

- **God commanded Moses to make two silver trumpets (vs. 1)**
- **How they were to be used**
 - Calling the congregation to the tabernacle v. 2,3
 - Directing movements of camp v. 2
 - Go to war v. 9
 - Over the sacrifices v. 10



From Tabernacle to Temple

- **Constituted God's dwelling among his people**
 - Exodus 40:34-38
 - Deut. 12:5
 - 2 Chron. 5:1, 14; 6:1-6
- **It was here they came to worship God through proscribed sacrifices and the use of mechanical instruments of music**

From Apostasy to Restoration

- The pattern for temple worship given by God through King David I Chronicles 28:13-19
- The restoration under Jehoida priest 140 years after King David 2 Chronicles 23:18
- The restoration under Josiah 400 years after King David 2 Chronicles 35:15
- The return, the rebuilding and the restoration after captivity 550-600 years after King David Ezra 3:10; Neh. 12:44-47

Hezekiah's Reforms

2 Chronicles 29

- **Hezekiah's restoration of temple worship 200 years after King David**
 - **Basis vs. 25**
 - **Commandment of David**
 - **Commandment of Prophet**
 - **Commandment of God**
 - **Mechanical Instruments of Music were used in O.T. Worship**



Old Testament Worship

2 Chronicles 29

- **Hezekiah's restoration**
 - Levites stood with the instruments v. 26; Ezra 3:11
 - When the atonement sacrifices began instruments began v. 27
 - Instruments continued until the sacrifices were finished v. 28 (note vv. 20-24)
 - Then they sang thanksgiving v. 30



Old Testament Worship

2 Chronicles 29

- **The use of mechanical instruments of music was God's pattern for Old Testament worship**
 - From the tabernacle to the temple Nbrs. 10:10; Exo. 25:40; 2 Chron. 29:25-28; I Chron. 28:19





Historical Quotes

- According to the Talmud animal sacrifices “could not be offered in the absence of the instrumental music of Levites (Tractate *Erubin* 103a)
- “Levitical music” was “an integral part of the order of sacrifices” (Encyclopedia Judaica, 12:571)

Historical Quotes



- “The accompanying music and sacrifice was considered such an integral and indispensable part of the sacrifice that a lack of it invalidated the sacrificial action.” (Alfred Sendry, *Music in Ancient Israel*, p. 169)

Atonement

- **New Testament**

- **The OT sacrificial system imperfect Hebrews 10:1-4**
- **The sacrifice of Jesus ended the sacrificial system Hebrews 10:5-18; 9:11-15, 27-28**



New Testament Temple

- Christians comprise the kingdom of priests
God had desired OT Israel to be Revelation
1:5; Exo. 19:5
- We are spiritual temple and kingdom Eph.
2:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:4-5; Heb. 12:22

The Music of the NT Temple

- “...Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with his own blood...Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.” Heb. 13:12-15
- There is no command for using mechanical instruments of music in worship Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16-17



Historical Quotes

- *There is no doubt that the leaders of early Christianity condemned instrumental music while praising the singing of songs. This seems inconsistent with the practice of the psalmists and priests glorified in the Old Testament. The reasons for this reversal are subtle. Cause against instrumental music was seen in the Christian doctrine of spiritual sacrifice that disapproved every element of the sacrificial cult.*



Historical Quotes

- *Since in Judaism, at least, instrumental music was linked with the sacrifices of the temple the Christian reasoning quite consistently condemned all forms of worship that were accessories to sacrifice and especially rejected instrumental performance.” (Eric Werner, Music of the Temple, the Synagogue and the Church, Vol. 1, page 317)*

To Whom Shall We Go?

John 6:68

- **Old Testament?**

- **Moses? David? Prophets?**

- **Which one of these died for our atonement?**

- **Will you deny the sacrificial system ended with the atoning sacrifice of Jesus?**

- **Sacrificial system was connected to the tabernacle and temple**

- **If the sacrificial system is no longer authorized for atonement then neither is the use of mechanical instruments of music in worship to God**

New Testament Worship

John 4:23-24

- **Christians praise God through singing because Jesus is our atonement**
 - Through His atonement we have been made a temple of priests (Rev. 1:5-6)
 - We sing because God's Spirit has filled (inhabits) His temple (1 Cor. 3:16-17)
 - Temple singing is proof that our atonement has been paid (Heb. 13:15)