

Singing in the Church

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I. The Golden Age of Music in the OT

A. David's Leadership

1. He appointed Levites as musicians to lead in musical praise before the Lord with instruments of psalteries, harps and cymbals (I Chr. 16:4 ff).
2. He organized the 288 Levites into 24 courses of singers for public worship around the Ark of the Covenant (I Chr. 25:1-31).
3. David wrote inspired psalms to the chief musician to be played with skill (*Maschil*) on various instruments (Pss. 4:1; 32:1).
4. His music was spiritual, not devilish or worldly (I Sam. 16:23).

B. Solomon's Continuation

1. Solomon continued the Davidic musical worship in the 1st Temple with the musicians ministering "*before*" the congregation (II Chr. 7:6; I Chr. 6:31).¹
2. Solomon spoke of getting "*men singers and women singers*" with "*musical instruments*" (Eccl. 2:8).

C. The Continuation in the Millennium

1. Worship of the Lord Jesus Christ will continue in Jerusalem in the new Millennial Temple (Ezk. 43:7 ff.).
2. The Temple will have quarters for the singers (Ezk. 40:44).

D. Heaven's Continuation

1. John recorded five hymns of praise in his vision of the Throne Room (Rev. 4-5).
- 2) Saints will sing *Alleluia* to the Lord in eternity (Rev. 19:1).

II. Biblical Warnings

A. David's Attitude

1. David brought the Ark from Kirjath-jearim and along the way Jehovah smote Uzzah. When the Ark came into the city of David, he rejoiced by dancing and sacrificing to the Lord (II Sam. 6:14-23).
 - a. He removed his royal garb and was girded with the linen ephod to offer sacrifices (cf. v. 14 with I Sam. 2:18).

¹Even the preachers and teachers such as Ezra and 13 others stood on a wooden platform up above and before the entire congregation to minister with the word of God (Neh. 8:1-8).

b. As king, he was entitled to offer sacrifices (I Ki. 8:62-65).

2. David's motivation and behavior was to worship "*before the LORD*" (v. 21; cf. v. 5).

B. Michal's Attitude

1. She, being Saul's daughter and David's wife, misunderstood David's motivation and behavior, and judged him with bitter sarcasm (II Sam. 6:20).

2. Because Michal misjudged David's motivation and rebuked the Lord's leader, the Bible condemned her behavior and the Lord chastened her with childlessness (v. 23).

C. The Scripture is clear on two salient points:

1. Don't judge the heart of one another (Mt. 7:1).

2. Everything needs to be done to the glory of the Lord (I Cor. 10:31).

III. Church Music in the NT

A. Nothing about music in the OT has been rescinded (cf. I Cor. 10:11)

B. The NT encourages the singing of men and women in the congregation (cf. Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). Melody must drive the music, not beat.

C. Paul condemned the misuse of musical instruments, but not the instruments themselves (I Cor. 14:7-8).

IV. Applications for Bible Baptist Church

A. BBC will continue to have a "song leader."

B. BBC will continue to use musical instruments in public worship.

C. BBC will continue to have male and female singers.

D. BBC will continue to have her "choir" minister with singing "*before*" the congregation.

E. BBC singers will dress appropriately, not drawing attention to themselves.

F. BBC church members will continuously guard their respective hearts, not judging others but purposefully praising the Lord Jesus Christ. "*Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand*" (Rom. 14:4).