

1. Last week I gave you several principles found in Dan 3:4-8 and then I began a study of what the Scriptures teach us about music.
2. When time ran out I was about to teach how significant music was as a part of David's life.
3. Before continuing our study I want to give you an expanded translation of Daniel chapter three verses one through eight.

Dan 3:1 Nebuchadnezzar, king of the Chaldean Empire, constructed an image of solid gold. The tall and skinny statue was ninety feet high and nine feet wide; this image was erected in a large open area located just outside the city of Babylon in the plain of Dura, an area normally used for military and equestrian games.

Dan 3:2 Nebuchadnezzar sent couriers to every province commanding that all princes (political rulers), governors (the provincial military commanders), captains (division commanders), judges (equivalent to provincial Chief Justices), treasurers (the CFOs of each province), counsellors (prosecuting attorneys), sheriffs (district court judges), and all the rulers of the provinces (the subordinate administrators), come to a dedication ceremony.

Dan 3:3 The ostentatious entourages arrived from both near and far; in a display of great splendor; on a day ordered by the King they all assembled in the plain for the dedication ceremony, each man with his subordinates was required to stand before the image.

Dan 3:4 Then to attract the attention of the racial, geographical and linguistic entities assembled, a herald cried out the following command which was interpreted and imparted to all of those assembled:

Dan 3:5 "When you hear the sound of the cornet (brass sections), flute (woodwinds or reed instruments), harp (the ancient Kithara), sackbut (a high pitched stringed instrument), psaltery (the great grandfather of the piano), dulcimer (bagpipe) and all kinds of music (percussion instruments), you are to fall down and worship the golden image!

Dan 3:6 Those who do not worship the image will be thrown into a fiery furnace and burned alive.

Dan 3:7 The band began to play and all the people fell down and worshipped the image as commanded except for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

Dan 3:8 Several members of a priestly caste peeked and noticed that there were three very conspicuous Jews who did not bow so they asked and received an audience with Nebuchadnezzar. One of the jealous priest reported that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego did not bow.

4. I want to review some of that learned and then pick up where we left off in our study of music.

1. Singing is one of several acts of worship to be done in the local church, the others being: prayer, giving, the communion table and teaching. Singing is authorized in every dispensation, including our own church age.
2. Singing will even be done in heaven and enjoyed by all. "Singing" therefore is one of many heavenly metaphors used to describe praise for the Trinity in a state of ecstatic joy.
3. There is symbolic singing mentioned in Revelation Chapter five. Rev 5:9
4. Singing when done correctly is an emotional response to God, as we respond from the doctrine which is in our souls. Jam 5:13; Col 3:16
5. The first musician was Jubal, from the family of Cain. Gen 4:21
6. The Levitical system of worship used singing to teach doctrine. Moses, as the supreme priest of God, sang praises to God as the God of war and victory. Exo 15:1
7. There were certain Levites who played musical instruments as part of the Levitical worship services. 1Ch 23:1-5
8. Music was part of Solomon's dedication of the Temple. 2Ch 7:5-6
9. When Hezekiah rededicated the Temple he also used music in his dedication ceremony. 2Ch 29:25
10. Singing is very often a substitute for true worship. An outward show can never be a substitute for worship inside the soul.
11. There were certain priests designated as singers by Nehemiah after the return to the land. They were led by Ezra in the singing of songs and the playing of musical instruments. Neh 12:27
12. Isaiah as a prophet to both the northern and southern kingdoms lamented the misuse of God's ritual. Remember ritual without reality is evil and useless. Isa 5:12, 14:11
13. The Chaldeans' response to music was the worship of idols. Dan 3:5
14. Many of the Psalms were sung in praise of God. All the Psalms were at one time sung and they all have a doctrinal message.
15. Angels, or the stars say some, sang when the heavens and the earth were created. Job 38:7
16. Now for new material and information about music and David.

17. David was a great musician and songwriter.

1Sa 16:18 One of the servants answered, "I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the harp. He is a brave man and a warrior. He speaks well and is a fine-looking man. And the LORD is with him."

17.1 David celebrated the recovery of the ark from the Philistine with song.

2Sa 6:1 Again, David gathered together all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand.

2Sa 6:2 And David arose, and went with all the people that were with him from the Lord of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth between the cherubims.

2Sa 6:3 And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drave the new cart.

2Sa 6:4 And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which was at Gibeah, accompanying the ark of God: and Ahio went before the ark.

2Sa 6:5 And David and all the house of Israel played before the LORD on all manner of instruments made of fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals.

17.2 Dancing to music David celebrated the return of the ark to Jerusalem. His dancing got him into trouble with his wife.

2Sa 6:12... So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obededom into the city of David with gladness.

2Sa 6:13 And it was so, that when they that bare the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed oxen and fatlings.

2Sa 6:14 And David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod.

2Sa 6:15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

18. Music can have a soothing effect on some.

1Sa 16:16 Let our lord command his servants here to search for someone who can play the harp. He will play when the evil spirit from God comes upon you, and you will feel better."

19. David, as a type of Christ, often sang to his soldiers and praised God in their presence.

Psa 18:49 Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name.

Rom 15:9 so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy, as it is written: "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to your name."

20. Music and singing is used to also convey doctrine as well as to respond to God's greatness and what we know about Him. This is still true today in the Church Age.

20.1 When the church gathers for worship there is to be singing and it should be consistent with God's Word.

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

20.2 It is to be orderly and only done for the purpose of building up the souls of those assembled.

1Co 14:26 What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.

20.3 There must be a message or it is worthless.

1Co 14:7 Even in the case of lifeless things that make sounds, such as the flute or harp, how will anyone know what tune is being played unless there is a distinction in the notes?

1Co 14:8 Again, if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle?

21. In summary then music is a valid worship tool but like all worship must be done in accordance with the protocol plan of God.

22. Now back to our context and Daniel chapter three:

Dan. 3:6 Those who do not worship the image will be thrown into a fiery furnace and burned alive.

1. We know now that the Plain of Dura was used for still another purpose: this was the "arena" where criminals and political offenders were put to death.

2. Jeremiah 29:22 documents the fact that the "fiery furnace" was typical Babylonian punishment.

Jer 29:22 Because of them, all the exiles from Judah who are in Babylon will use this curse: 'The LORD treat you like Zedekiah and Ahab, whom the king of Babylon burned in the fire.'

Jer 29:23 For they have done outrageous things in Israel; they have committed adultery with their neighbors' wives and in my name have spoken lies, which I did not tell them to do. I know it and am a witness to it," declares the LORD.

3. Usually a certain amount of festivity accompanied these executions, and large crowds came to witness the spectacle.

4. Therefore, when the command was given to worship the image, the horrors of the alternative were vivid in the memories of almost everyone.

4.1 Probably the flames belching from the furnace were visible to all the people assembled there, and even believers were prone to rationalize that the Lord would understand if they fell down before the image.

5. Perhaps they thought: "Surely God doesn't want me to die, and it won't hurt anything for me to kneel. If I obey the king, I can retain my place in the community and continue to witness to others.

6. "I can still have a good testimony: but if I die" This is the same type of sloppy thinking prevalent among many Christians today.

7. If you are in a position where Biblical principles are compromised on any level, your only course of action is to separate yourself and this certainly includes apostate churches.

8. Sooner or later every believer faces a situation where he or she must choose between doctrine and mammon.

9. This can be in any area of life, but it always involves a choice between God's direct will versus that which is non-Biblical.

10. God never honors compromise; a point which cannot be overemphasized. Now for verse seven:

Dan 3:7 The band began to play and all the people fell down and worshipped the image as commanded except for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

Principles:

1. "Worship" is the peal (active/plurative) participle of Sagadh, meaning "to fall down in adoration."

2. Here is an example of physical prostration without mental assent.
 3. Religion stresses the outer superficialities of ritual and conformity, while Christianity emphasizes the inner mental attitude.
 4. God has given to every member of the human race a freewill, and one should always be able to make a choice, even the wrong one! Nebuchadnezzar violated that principle.
 5. He demanded that the people obey his volition.
 6. This was the Chaldean Empire at its worst.
 7. Remember that even God does not tamper with our personal freedom when it comes to spiritual matters!
 8. There are four divine institutions. They are volition, marriage, family and nationalism- governments must protect these if the nation is to prosper.
 9. In the case of volition a client nation, must support freedom.
 - 9.1 Freedom to succeed and freedom to fail and thus a minimum amount of government will maximize freedom and promote volition.
 - 9.2 Volition was instituted in the garden as the mechanism for resolving the Angelic Conflict. God could have made us all believers but He didn't. He demands we choose.
- Joh 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
- Joh 3:17 God sent His son into the world not to condemn the world but that the world through Him might be saved.
- Joh 3:18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.
- Joh 1:12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God--
- Act 16:31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved--you and your household."
- Eph 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--
- Eph 2:9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

9.3 Nebuchadnezzar has obviously chosen to prohibit the exercise of God's first divine institution.

10. Now for the dedication crisis and verses eight through twelve:

Dan 3:8 Several members of a priestly caste however peeked and noticed that there were three very conspicuous Jews who did not bow so they asked and received an audience with Nebuchadnezzar. One of the jealous priests reported that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego did not bow.

Dan 3:9 They greeted the King and said "O King live forever.

Dan 3:10 You have made a decree that at the sound of the band every man shall fall down and worship the golden image.

Dan 3:11 And anyone who fails to fall down and worship shall be thrown into the burning fiery furnace.

Dan 3:12 There are certain Jews whom you appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon that have not shown respect to the king".

Principles:

1. The accusers were of the priestly caste who served as advisers to the king.
 2. These men resented the fact that four of the highest offices in the land had been given to Jews who were, in their eyes, mere hostages.
 3. They demonstrated their pettiness and jealousy by seeking to rid the empire of these brilliant men.
 4. Jealousy is one of the most vicious facets of the old sin nature.
 5. When someone is successful, there are always people who are jealous.
 6. If the Lord is using and blessing you, you can expect to be the object of sour grapes.
 7. Jealousy is a mental attitude sin that can lead to bitterness, envy, sins of the tongue, murder, etc.
 - 7.1 Jealousy can destroy the enjoyment of Category II love, i.e., love between the right man and right woman.
- Son 8:6 Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death ... jealousy is unyielding as the grave ...
- 7.2 Jealousy can destroy anyone and can even lead to psychosis.

Job 5:2 Resentment kills a fool, and envy slays the simple.

Pro 14:30 A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.

8. It is a common reaction. Col. R. B. Thieme once said: "If you have never been jealous then it is possible you have never been in love or never had a strong emotional attachment to anything".

8.1 Many people have no problem with jealousy and then suddenly they fall in love and find themselves jealous.

8.1.1. If you feel strongly about something or someone it is then that jealousy, a horrific mental attitude sin, raises its ugly head.

8.1.2 We must not confine our coverage of jealousy however to just category two love. Jealousy occurs wherever there are strong feelings.

8.1.3 Often siblings are jealous of brother and/or sister, athletes are jealous of their teammates, pastors are jealous of each other, professional people are jealous of one another, church members are jealous of their fellow congregates, businessmen are jealous of their peers and even criminals are jealous of their cohorts in crime.

8.2 The sin of jealousy includes the concepts of covetousness, envy, the inability to accept rivalry and the inability to positively accept the prosperity of others.

8.3 The mental attitude sin of jealousy is therefore related to the sins of judgment, pride, refusing to forgive others, wanting to be first, not wanting others to have things unless you too can have the same etc.

8.4 Jealousy, as a mental attitude sin is closely related to the heinous sin of pride.

8.5 The sin of pride is the first of the seven major sins listed in Pro 6:16-19

8.6 Rivalry is not part of God's plan because it is He who establishes authorities; He promotes and demotes.

1Ti 2:1 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone--

1Ti 2:2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

1Ti 2:3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior,

Rom 13:1 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

Psa 75:6 For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south.

Psa 75:7 But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.

8.7 Matthew in chapter seven warns of judging; it is a terrible mental attitude sin with serious traumatic consequences and more often than not it has its dark roots in the mental attitude sin of jealousy and/or bitterness.

Mat 7:1 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged.

Mat 7:2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Mat 7:3 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?

Mat 7:4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?

Mat 7:5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

8.8 God is the mentor of every born again Christian and as such He, from His omniscience and sovereignty, has provided for us our very own spiritual life. It is perfect and includes a host of others who are none of our business.

8.8.1 Authority realms are there to protect us from one another. This is especially necessary given our terrible propensity to judge and be jealous, bitter etc.

8.8.2 Jealousy often motivates revenge and revenge puts us nose to nose with God just asking for "His knockout punch."

Deu 32:35 To me belongeth vengeance and recompense; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.

Rom 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give proper place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

8.8.3 Revenge is a product of trifling with another man's wife.

Pro 6:32 But a man who commits adultery lacks judgment; whoever does so destroys himself.

Pro 6:33 Blows and disgrace are his lot, and his shame will never be wiped away;
Pro 6:34 for jealousy arouses a husband's fury, and he will show no mercy when he takes revenge.

8.9 As the scripture says it is God who causes it to rain on the just and the unjust, therefore, there is no place in the realm of proper Christian thinking for jealousy.

Mat 5:45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

8.9.1 If it didn't rain on the just and the unjust then there would be secular and not supernatural motivation to "believe and be saved".

9. The source of jealousy like all mental attitude sins is the old sin nature where mental attitude sins insidiously poison our souls.

9.1 This is understandable when one considers that the "heart" is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked.

Jer 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; who can know it?"

9.2 The Bible says even the Lord Jesus Christ is sometime preached because of jealousy and contentions as opposed to proper motivation.

Phi 1:14-18 "And the great majority of the brethren having come to a state of settled confidence in the Lord, having been influenced by the gentle persuasion of my shackles to take that step of confidence, are more abundantly bold, fearlessly breaking their silence and speaking the Word of God. In fact, certain ones are preaching Christ out of envy and rivalry, but also certain others who because of good will are proclaiming Christ. Some indeed out of a spirit of love knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the good news, but others out of a partisan self-seeking spirit are proclaiming Christ, not with pure unadulterated motives, but insincerely, thinking to raise up additional afflictions to my already existing chains. What is my feeling in view of these things? The only thing that matters is that in every manner whether in pretense or in truth, whether insincerely or sincerely, Christ is being proclaimed. And in this I am rejoicing, and I will certainly continue to rejoice."

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