

SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16.

INTRODUCTION:

1. SINGING HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE WORSHIP OF THE CHILDREN OF GOD.

- A. Moses, Miriam, and the children of Israel sang to the Lord after they safely passed through the Red Sea. Exodus 15:1-2 ff.; 20-21.
- B. The children of Israel sang when they went to Beer. Numbers 21:16-17.
- C. Moses taught the children of Israel a song from God when he turned the mantle of leadership over to Joshua. Deuteronomy 31:19-22, 30-32:44.
- D. Deborah and Barak sang as they led the children of Israel to battle against Sisera. Judges 5:12.
- E. Deborah and Barak sang praise to the Lord after they defeated the Canaanites. Judges 5:1-31.
- F. The women of Israel sang as Saul and David were returning home from the slaughter of the Philistines. 1 Samuel 18:6-7.
- G. David taught the children of Israel the Song of the Bow as he lamented the death of Saul and Jonathan. 2 Samuel 1:17-27.
- H. David sang as he lamented over the grave of Abner. 2 Samuel 3:31-34.
- I. David sang to the Lord on the day he was delivered from the hand of all his enemies and Saul. 2 Samuel 22:1-51.
- J. David added singing to worship before the tabernacle and in the temple. 1 Chronicles 6:31-32; 2 Chronicles. 23:18. Certain Levites were assigned exclusively to this aspect of worship. 1 Chronicles 9:33.
- K. David and all Israel sang as they moved the ark from the house of Abinadab to Jerusalem. 1 Chronicles 13:7-8; 15:16.
- L. The Levites who were assigned to be singers sang after the ark was brought into the temple. 2 Chronicles 5:11-14.
- M. The Psalms and the Song of Solomon are song lyrics. Psalm 95:1-2; 1 Kings 4:32.
- N. Singers went out before the army as Jehoshaphat led the children of Israel into battle against Moab, Ammon, and others. 2 Chronicles 20:21-22.
- O. There was singing when Joash was crowned king. 2 Chronicles 23:11-13.
- P. Jehoiada and Hezekiah included singing when restoring temple worship. 2 Chronicles 23:18; 29:27-30.
- Q. Hezekiah and Josiah included singing when restoring the Passover. 2 Chronicles 30:21; 35:15.
- R. All the men and women singers spoke of Josiah in their lamentations. 2 Chronicles 35:25.
- S. There was singing when the foundation of the second temple was laid. Ezra 3:11.
- T. There was singing at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem. Nehemiah 12:27.
- U. Isaiah prophesied of singing. Isaiah 35:10; 51:11.
- V. Jesus and the eleven sang a hymn after Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper. Matthew 26:30.
- W. Paul and Silas sang to God while they were in jail. Acts 16:25.



2. SINGING IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE WORSHIP OF THE CHILDREN OF GOD.

- A. Ephesians 5:18-20; Colossians 3:16.
 - B. Caveat: Since the New Testament authorizes singing as an act of worship, in this lesson we are going to look at everything the Bible has to say about singing. However, it is very important for us to remember that the New Testament does not authorize playing instrumental music as an act of worship. Since playing instrumental music was an authorized act of worship under the Old Testament, many Old Testament passages speaking about singing also speak about playing instrumental music. As we study such passages, we must remember that New Testament authorizes the former, not the latter.
- 3. SINGING WILL BE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE WORSHIP OF THE CHILDREN OF GOD.** Revelation 5:9-10; 14:3; 15:3-4.

DISCUSSION:

1. WHEN SHOULD THE CHILDREN OF GOD SING IN WORSHIP TO GOD?

- A. **From day to day.** Psalm 96:1-2.

- B. **In the morning** (Psalm 59:16) **and at night** (Psalm 42:8; 77:6).
- C. **In good times** (James 5:13B) **and bad** (Acts 16:16-25).
- D. **At home.** Psalm 149:5-6A.
- E. **In the assembly of the saints.** Psalm 149:1; Hebrews 2:11-12; 1 Corinthians 14:15.
- F. **In the presence of the lost.** Psalm 96:1-3; Romans 15:8-9; Acts 16:25.
- G. **Always!** Psalm 104:33. As we should pray without ceasing, so we should sing without ceasing.

2. WHY SHOULD THE CHILDREN OF GOD SING IN WORSHIP TO GOD?

- A. **God says.** Ephesians 5:18-20; Colossians 3:16.
- B. **God says because singing is good, pleasant, and becoming (beautiful).** Psalm 147:1.
- C. **Because we are glad, i.e. happy and grateful.** Psalm 67:4A. We should sing because:
 1. God is with us. Zechariah 2:10-11A.
 2. God is so good to us. Psalm 13:6; 98:1A; Isaiah 12:1-6. For example, He forgives us. Psalm 51:14. He answers our prayers. Psalm 28:6-7. Etc.
- D. **Singing can impart spiritual strength to those who sing.** Psalm 61:8.
- E. **Singing can impart spiritual strength to other people through those who sing.** Psalm 40:3; Psalm 89:1; Colossians 3:16.

3. WHAT SHOULD THE CHILDREN OF GOD SING IN WORSHIP TO GOD?

- A. **Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.** Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16. It is difficult if not impossible to clearly differentiate between psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. It may be that the Holy Spirit used these three synonyms not because they were in any way truly distinct, but rather as a rhetorical tool to emphasize the *type* of songs we should sing. We should not be singing “songs of the drunkard” (Psalm 69:12). Example: “I Got Friends In Low Places” by Garth Brooks.
- B. **Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs include:**
 - 1) **Songs of praise.** Psalm 7:17. For example, songs praising God’s power (Psalm 21:13); righteousness (Psalm 51:14); lovingkindness or mercy (Psalm 59:16); goodness (Psalm 135:3); justice (Psalm 101:1); authority (Psalm 47:5-8); truth (Psalm 57:9-10); works (Psalm 66:2-3A); judgment and guidance (Psalm 67:4); faithfulness (Psalm 89:1); etc.
 - 2) **Songs of thanks.** 2 Chronicles 5:13. “Glorify” is “thanking” in the NKJV. Praise and thanksgiving are similar, yet distinct.
 - 3) **Songs of the ways of the Lord.** Psalm 138:5.
 - 4) **Songs of deliverance.** Psalm 32:7.
 - 5) **Songs that make known His deeds among the peoples.** Psalm 105:1-2. We should especially sing songs that proclaim the good news of His salvation. Psalm 96:1-3.
 - 6) **Songs that put scriptures to music.** Psalm 119:54.
 - 7) **Etc.**
- C. **Scriptural songs.** Just because a song is in a songbook compiled by brethren does not mean that its lyrics are necessarily scriptural. We must test all things, even the songs in our songbooks.

4. HOW SHOULD THE CHILDREN OF GOD SING IN WORSHIP TO GOD?

- A. **Desiring to please God.** Psalm 104:33-34A.
- B. **From the heart.** Psalm 71:23; Ephesians 5:18-19.
- C. **With all our heart.** Zephaniah 3:14 (“shout” is “sing” in the NKJV).
- D. **With joy and gladness.** 2 Chronicles 29:30; Psalm 71:23A. We should sing because we are happy, and we should be happy to sing. Don’t sing grudgingly or of necessity, for God loves a cheerful singer.
- E. **With thanksgiving.** Psalm 147:7A; Colossians 3:16.
- F. **With righteousness.** Amos 5:21-24; Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16. Our songs can be witnesses against us. Deuteronomy 31:19-22.
- G. **With all our might.** 1 Chronicles 13:8A.
- H. **Understandably.** 1 Corinthians 14:15 (“mind” is “understanding” in the NKJV), 16-19, 26.
- I. **Loudly.** Nehemiah 12:42B-43; Psalm 81:1. Loud singing is more inspiring singing for the ones who sing and the ones who sing with them.
- J. **Without undue concern for external sound quality.** While there is value in being trained in singing to the Lord (1 Chronicles 25:7), God never judges His children’s singing on the quality of its external sound. If you can’t carry a tune in a bucket, sing as per the above you’ll be pleasing to God and a blessing to those who hear you.
- K. **Steadfastly.** Psalm 57:7.