



SAVED TO SERVE
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MUSIC & DANCING

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will study music reform from the Bible. This lesson is not an exhaustive study but it properly lays the foundation regarding music's original purpose, styles of music to avoid, and what God encourages us to listen to.
2. What are some of the primary functions of music in scripture?

a) Psalm 71:22, 23 _____

b) Psalm 57:9 _____

c) Colossians 3:16, 17 _____

3. What do the angels do in heaven? Psalm 148:2; Job 38:7

"Music was made to serve a holy purpose, to lift the thoughts to that which is pure, noble, and elevating, and to awaken in the soul devotion and gratitude to God. What a contrast between the ancient custom and the uses to which music is now too often devoted! How many employ this gift to exalt self, instead of using it to glorify God! A love for music leads the unwary to unite with world lovers in pleasure gatherings where God has forbidden His children to go. Thus that which is a great blessing when rightly used, becomes one of the most successful agencies by which Satan allures the mind from duty and from the contemplation of eternal things." {PP 594.2}

4. What did God create Lucifer with, which indicates he was a skillful singer and musician in heaven? Ezekiel 28:13

5. After Lucifer fell from heaven, he tempted our first parents and deceived them. What were his words to Eve and how was the serpent's voice described? Genesis 3:1-4

"The angels had cautioned Eve to beware of separating herself from her husband while occupied in their daily labor in the garden; with him she would be in less danger from temptation than if she were alone. But absorbed in her pleasing task, she unconsciously wandered from his side. On perceiving that she was alone, she felt an apprehension of danger, but dismissed her fears, deciding that she had sufficient wisdom and strength to discern evil and to withstand it. Unmindful of the angels' caution, she soon found herself gazing with mingled curiosity and admiration upon the forbidden tree. The fruit was very beautiful, and she questioned with herself why God had withheld it from them. Now was the tempter's opportunity. As if he were able to discern the workings of her mind, he addressed her: "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" Eve was surprised and startled as she thus seemed to hear the echo of her thoughts. But the serpent continued, in a musical voice, with subtle praise of her surpassing loveliness; and his words were not displeasing. Instead of fleeing from the spot she lingered wonderingly to hear a serpent speak. Had she been addressed by a being like the angels, her fears would have been excited; but she had no thought that the fascinating serpent could become the medium of the fallen foe." {PP 53.5}

6. **Note:** We just saw that Lucifer, now called Satan, is a skillful musician and used his melodious voice to deceive Eve. As we will find out, he is still using the medium of music to deceive humans and cause them to disobey and dishonor God.

7. The account of Saul and David playing the harp teaches us important lessons about the power of music. Read 1 Samuel 16:14-18, 23.

a) If the Spirit of the Lord left Saul, what is the meaning of "an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him" in 1 Samuel 16:14? (For comparison, see how the Bible describes the hardening of Pharaoh's heart - Exodus 8:15, 32; 11:20).

b) What was suggested to help Saul be alleviated of the evil spirit? 1 Samuel 16:16

c) Who did Saul's servants say was with David? 1 Samuel 16:18

d) When David, under the influence of God, played the harp what happened to Saul? 1 Samuel 16:23

8. **Note:** Many use the argument that 'nothing is wrong with the melody or tune of music by itself. If you put godly words to a tune then it makes it Christian.' Based on this account with Saul and David, that assumption is far from the truth! Music by itself, without lyrics, has an influence on our minds and it can either cause an evil spirit to leave someone or it can bring an evil spirit upon a person.

9. **Music and the Frontal Lobe - Proof Positive by Dr. Neil Nedley**

"Few people understand the powerful influence that music has on the frontal lobe. Music enters the brain through its emotional regions. Depending on the type of music, it can either influence the brain beneficially or detrimentally. Music therapists tell us that certain types of music, such as rock with its syncopated rhythm, bypass the frontal lobe and thus escape our ability to reason and make judgments about it."

"Music enters the brain through its emotional regions, which include the temporal lobe and limbic system. From there, some kinds of music tend to produce a tonal lobe response that influences the will, moral worth, and reasoning power. Other kinds of music will evoke very little, if any, frontal lobe response, but will produce a large emotional response with very little logical or moral interpretation."

Nedley, Neil. *Proof Positive*. Nedley Publishing, 1998, 1999, pp. 285-86.

10. **Note:** The experience of the Israelites at the base of Mt. Sinai in Exodus 32 also teach us vital lessons about music.

11. As Joshua and Moses descended the mount, what did Joshua hear from the camp compared to what Moses discerned it to be? Exodus 32:17, 18

"As Moses and Joshua came down from the mount, the former bearing the "tables of the testimony," **they heard the shouts and outcries of the excited multitude, evidently in a state of wild uproar. To Joshua the soldier, the first thought was of an attack from their enemies. "There is a noise of war in the camp," he said. But Moses judged more truly the nature of the commotion. The sound was not that of combat, but of revelry.** "It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for being overcome; but the noise of them that sing do I hear." {PP 319.3}

"As they drew near the encampment, they beheld the people shouting and dancing around their idol. It was a scene of heathen riot, an imitation of the idolatrous feasts of Egypt; but how unlike the solemn and reverent worship of God! Moses was overwhelmed. He had just come from the presence of God's glory, and though he had been warned of what was taking place, he was unprepared for that dreadful exhibition of the degradation of Israel. His anger was hot. To show his abhorrence of their crime, he threw down the tables of stone, and they were broken in the sight of all the people, thus signifying that as they had broken their covenant with God, so God had broken His covenant with them." {PP 320.1}

12. What other ungodly practices went along with the loud, war-like music in Exodus 32?

a) Exodus 32:19 _____

b) Exodus 32:6 _____

c) Exodus 32:25 _____

13. While the Israelites were engaged in these sins of false worship, who did they THINK they were glorifying and worshipping? Exodus 32:4, 5

14. What could they not appreciate nor receive while listening to the worldly music and engaging in the heathen ways of eating, drinking, and dressing? Exodus 32:15 -16, 19

15. **Note:** This account in Exodus 32 emphatically shows us that many of the popular music (praise songs, gospel songs, gospel rap, gospel reggae, christian rock, etc.) are out of harmony with God's way of true worship. People who listen to this type of music (especially before a sermon is given) cannot appreciate God's living word when it is spoken just as the Israelites could not receive or accept the ten commandments given by God to Moses. In a majority of cases today, when these types of music are played, the same disregard for health reform, recreation reform, and dress reform are among the congregants who profess to be worshipping God.

16. Read the following quotations and write down the points you gather from it.

"It is impossible to estimate too largely the work that the Lord will accomplish through His proposed vessels in carrying out His mind and purpose. **The things you have described as taking place in Indiana, the Lord has shown me would take place just before the close of probation. Every uncouth thing will be demonstrated. There will be shouting, with drums, music, and dancing. The senses of rational beings will become so confused that they cannot be trusted to make right decisions. And this is called the moving of the Holy Spirit.**" {2SM 36.2}

"The Holy Spirit never reveals itself in such methods, in such a bedlam of noise. This is an invention of Satan to cover up his ingenious methods for making of none effect the pure, sincere, elevating, ennobling, sanctifying truth for this time. Better never have the worship of God blended with music than to use musical instruments to do the work which last January was represented to me would be brought into our camp meetings. The truth for this time needs nothing of this kind in its work of converting souls. A bedlam of noise shocks the senses and perverts that which if conducted aright might be a blessing. The powers of satanic agencies blend with the din and noise, to have a carnival, and this is termed the Holy Spirit's working." {2SM 36.3}

"When the camp meeting is ended, the good which ought to have been done and which might have been done by the presentation of sacred truth is not accomplished. Those participating in the supposed revival receive impressions which lead them adrift. They cannot tell what they formerly knew regarding Bible principles." {2SM 37.1}

"No encouragement should be given to this kind of worship. The same kind of influence came in after the passing of the time in 1844. The same kind of representations were made. Men became excited, and were worked by a power thought to be the power of God." {2SM 37.2}

17. **Note:** Many people say that since "David danced," it is justifiable to dance and jump around in the church. For context, read 2 Samuel 6:12-15, and let us unravel this account.

18. What was Michal's reaction and response to David dancing? 2 Samuel 6:16, 20

19. Was David naked or inappropriately dressed? 2 Samuel 6:14; 1 Chronicles 15:27

20. Was God displeased with David's actions? 2 Samuel 6:18; 21. (*Compare this scene with God's response to Uzzah's sin during David's first attempt to bring the ark to Jerusalem - 2 Samuel 6:1-10*).

"David's dancing in reverent joy before God has been cited by pleasure lovers in justification of the fashionable modern dance, but there is no ground for such an argument. In our day dancing is associated with folly and midnight reveling. Health and morals are sacrificed to pleasure. By the frequenters of the ballroom God is not an object of thought and reverence; prayer or the song of praise would be felt to be out of place in their assemblies. **This test should be decisive. Amusements that have a tendency to weaken the love for sacred things and lessen our joy in the service of God are not to be sought by Christians. The music and dancing in joyful praise to God at the removal of the ark had not the faintest resemblance to the dissipation of modern dancing. The one tended to the remembrance of God and exalted His holy name. The other is a device of Satan to cause men to forget God and to dishonor Him.**" {PP 707.2}

21. In an effort to evangelize, should God's people invite worldly musicians to perform and minister to them? See quotation.

"In their efforts to reach the people, the Lord's messengers are not to follow the ways of the world. In the meetings that are held, they are not to depend on worldly singers and theatrical display to awaken an interest. How can those who have no interest in the word of God, who have never read His word with a sincere desire to understand its truths, be expected to sing with the spirit and the understanding? How can their hearts be in harmony with the words of sacred song? How can the heavenly choir join in music that is only a form?" {9T 143.2}

"Worldly Musicians—**Do not hire worldly musicians if this can possibly be avoided. Gather together singers who will sing with the spirit and with the understanding also.** The extra display which you sometimes make entails unnecessary expense, which the brethren should not be asked to meet; and you will find that after a time unbelievers will not be willing to give money to meet these expenses."—Letter 51, 1902. {Ev 509.2}

22. **Note:** Daniel 3 brings to view a scene that will be repeated in these last days, in which not only God's people, but also those in the world will be forced to worship falsely.

23. What was used to compel the people in Babylon to bow down to the image Nebuchadnezzar had set up? Daniel 3:4-7

24. What warning does God give to us for the last days? Revelation 14:9, 10

25. **Note:** In closing, let us look at the type of music God sanctifies in His word.

26. What type of music does God admonish us to listen to? Ephesians 5:19, 20; Colossians 3:16, 17

27. Read Romans 10:17. In the context of music, what should the songs we listen to inspire within our hearts? (*This includes the melody & tune as well*).

"Eternal things have little weight with the youth. Angels of God are in tears as they write in the roll the words and acts of professed Christians. Angels are hovering around yonder dwelling. **The young are there assembled; there is the sound of vocal and instrumental music. Christians are gathered there, but what is that you hear? It is a song, a frivolous ditty, fit for the dance hall.** Behold the pure angels gather their light closer around them, and darkness envelops those in that dwelling. **The angels are moving from the scene. Sadness is upon their countenances. Behold, they are weeping. This I saw repeated a number of times all through the ranks of Sabbathkeepers, and especially in — . Music has occupied the hours which should have been devoted to prayer. Music is the idol which many professed Sabbathkeeping Christians worship. Satan has no objection to music if he can make that a channel through which to gain access to the minds of the youth.** Anything will suit his purpose that will divert the mind from God and engage the time which should be devoted to His service. He works through the means which will exert the strongest influence to hold the largest numbers in a pleasing infatuation, while they are paralyzed by his power. **When turned to good account, music is a blessing; but it is often made one of Satan's most attractive agencies to ensnare souls. When abused, it leads the unconsecrated to pride, vanity, and folly. When allowed to take the place of devotion and prayer, it is a terrible curse.** Young persons assemble to sing, and, although professed Christians, frequently dishonor God and their faith by their frivolous conversation and their choice of music. Sacred music is not congenial to their taste. I was directed to the plain teachings of God's word, which have been passed by unnoticed. In the judgment all these words of inspiration will condemn those who have not heeded them." {1T 505.2}