

THE POWER OF APOSTOLIC MUSIC

The background of the book cover is a vibrant blue gradient. A prominent, glowing arc of light in shades of yellow and orange curves across the middle. Several musical notes are scattered across the scene, appearing to float or be part of the light's path. A faint grid pattern is visible in the lower-left quadrant, suggesting a globe or a technical diagram.

THE PROPER ORDER OF DAVID'S
TABERNACLE, RE-BUILDING IN
THESE END-TIMES

STEPHEN BENNETT

THE POWER OF APOSTOLIC MUSIC

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BY

STEPHEN BENNETT

An Awesome City Ministries Publication

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THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO

The global community of singers, musicians, worship leaders, music directors, chief musicians, sound and recording engineers, leaders of churches, artists, all manner of music facilitators, and all the brethren of Christ who desire to see the glory of God cover the earth. May all of your God given gifts and wonderful talents be for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ - the music Master of Heaven!

To your journey and all your struggles and triumphs.

To all your families that walk the road with you.

To all your churches that are loved so much; may they arise in this hour to become the apostolic glorious Church of this modern era.

To all the new churches yet to be planted and built.

Dedicated to you the reader to rise up and be all that the Lord intended! May this text help you along your way!

Recommendations

'Much of Stephen's insight has come from his willingness to pay a price as a pioneer, yet keep his focus on the restoration of the glorious Church. This book will encourage other pioneers of apostolic expression as well'.

***Apostle Jonas Clark - Spirit of Life Ministries /
Global Cause Network - Florida USA.***

'I can think of very few musicians, or bible teachers, whose words carry more weight than Stephen. He is a prophetic voice to the Church and needs careful study by all those serious about ministering the Gospel through the vehicle of music'.

Tony Cummings - Editor CrossRhythms Magazine - UK.

'In the Old Testament prophets were known as seers. Stephen has surely seen in the Spirit the power of apostolic music and what happens when it is played'.

Les Moir - Kingsway Music UK.

'Stephen carries a governmental anointing for releasing the apostolic and prophetic in music for the Church. This book brings understanding for the need of apostolic music, so Gods House of glory can build'.

***Pastor Mark Van Gundy - Church of Destiny /
Global Impact Network - London UK.***

'Stephen and Rebecca Bennett are anointed prophet musicians; gifted to teach, and impart present day revelation to the local church. Our worship team was activated to a greater level of breakthrough anointing. They released revelation, deliverance, healing, and restoration, launching our church into a new dimension of the apostolic move of God!'

***Apostle David Coker - Faith Christian Fellowship,
Carnesville Georgia USA***

'Like the prophet Habakkuk, Stephen brings God's heart, voice, and vision to the Church. His book 'The Power of Apostolic Music', has been written for now. The message is clear – start running'.

Marion Lockyer - Intercessor.

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Earth

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Heaven

Our awesome Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the all powerful Holy Spirit who continually keeps getting me and my family ready for adventure with Him, and loving us always along the long and winding road. May your grace, love, mercy, and gentleness permeate us all in great measure, for our lives, churches and nations - you are amazing and we love you Lord.

In Honor Of The Songs And The Prevailing Yet To Come

'Sing to the Lord a new song, and His praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you coastlands and you inhabitants of them! Let the wilderness and its cities lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar inhabits. Let the inhabitants of Sela sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains. Let them give glory to the Lord, and declare His praise in the coastlands. The Lord shall go forth like a mighty man; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; he shall prevail against his enemies' (Isaiah 42:10-13).

In Honor Of Jesus The Only True God

'For thus says the Lord, Who created the heavens, who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: "I am the Lord, and there is no other" (Isaiah 45:18).

In Honor Of Israel His Beloved

'For the Lord will comfort Zion, He will comfort all her waste places; He will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in it, thanksgiving and the voice of melody' (Isaiah 51:3).

On the Journey

Hi!

How's the coffee?

Hmm...oh it's tea!

A break is good on the journey.

Is this a lull in your busy church schedule? Have you left the gig, and now back on the road? Are you snuggled down with your glasses on? Is your train running smooth?

Are you flying in coach, just popping on the light? On a beach soaking up rays? Perhaps on a bus, or relaxing in a car? Wherever you are reading this book, I welcome you into these pages.

We are all on a momentous journey with Jesus. The bible says we are blessed, when our strength is in Him, and 'whose heart is set on pilgrimage' (Psalm 84:5). This journey, however, is not always easy, and in these troubled times on earth, we must be resolute in our faith to keep moving forward. Our faith in Christ is always tested; we have to walk His way, and live His word, for the road gets narrower as we become more like Jesus. The scripture reminds us, 'it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God' (Hebrews 10:31).

When we consider our personal journey, it is vital we have a mature understanding of the times we live in. The Church is now in an era of apostolic restoration and reforming. We must be prepared for the future, and be ready to make any changes in our lives and ministries. Are you ready for true apostolic power?

It will take apostolic anointing to reach the whole world, and to see all of mankind seeking the Lord. This is the generation where it is now possible. Jesus is calling the Church to press onward and live the apostolic life - in that journey we find the power of apostolic music.

The Lord has a grand dream for His glorious Church. He has been waiting for centuries, to see it fulfilled. Our own dreams can often take longer to be a reality than we ever imagined; in the battles of life, we can easily lose sight of them. The last days are now upon us - don't sit on the sideline. Jesus wants you immersed in helping to make His dream come to pass.

I pray this book blesses you, and helps you on your journey.

Stephen Bennett

'To be, or not to be, that is the question: - Whether 'tis nobler in the mind, to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune; or to take up arms against a sea of troubles, and by opposing, end them?'
Shakespeare's Hamlet, Prince of Denmark (111.i).

Foreword

Today we are in an emerging apostolic generation, filled with excitement, anticipation, and much change. Jesus said he would be coming back for a glorious Church without spot or wrinkle. I am convinced this glorious Church will be filled with a fervent lifestyle of worship that will transcend anything we see today. The emerging apostolic Church is experiencing revelation about Davidic order, music, sounds, government, influence, and the believer's authority. When we understand the times of reformation, restoration, and proper order we are in today, then we can get into agreement with the Holy Spirit, and help build a truly glorious Church. Stephen's book - *The Power of Apostolic Music* - presents this and more, showing us the creative power and potential we have in the apostolic model of the Church.

God has created each of us as beings of worship. Apostolic worship is not a style, or type of music, but a means to bring one to a powerful and life-changing intimacy with Jesus. It sets the spiritual climate of our lives for the habitation of the Holy Spirit and His glory. Apostolic music brings a creative expression that releases the deepest of emotion, and the greatest of jubilation, through God's glory and power. It brings change, and is affecting the Church in the way we worship.

Much of Stephen's insight has come from his willingness to pay a price as a pioneer, yet he still has kept his focus on the restoration of the glorious Church. This book will encourage other pioneers of apostolic expression.

I remember a story of the great impressionist painter Renoir. Toward the end of his life he suffered severe rheumatism. Renoir had immense pain in his hands with every brushstroke he made.

One day his friend Matisse asked, "Why keep pushing yourself and suffer such pain?" Renoir replied, "The pain passes, but the pleasure, the creation of beauty, remains."

Renoir was willing to keep pressing forward, so must we, as the apostolic Church. The Apostle Paul said, *'Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus'* (Philippians 3:13-14).

Stephen Bennett's powerful book will help you get ready to possess the land of apostolic music.

Your partner,

Apostle Jonas Clark - Spirit of Life Ministries

Hallandale Beach, Florida USA

"I think all creative activity in fact is a process of destroying frontiers. You take your voice into a place where it hasn't been before and the friction is the interesting thing. And the sparks are the work."

Bill Flanagan – U2 at the end of the world (Bantam Books)

"We're an arts network that's about taking chances and being controversial."

Jeff Gaspin – Bravo President

"Our viewers reinvent themselves every few years, and you can never get too attached to a philosophy, style, or program."

Van Toffler – MTV President

"God, why don't you play me? Why don't you step inside me since you made me?"

Jim Caviezel – Actor playing Jesus in 'The Passion' movie

‘My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. Indeed we count them blessed who endure’.

James 5:10-11 – The Bible

‘Why do you thus detain a miserable man? Spare me, spare me, and let me depart’.

***St Bernard of Clairvaux – Cistercian monk before death,
August 20th 1153AD.***

‘Prophets and prophecy, with the right spirit and motivation, have great power to influence and effect the lives of people for God - toward unity, obedience, humility and Christ-likeness’.

Bishop and Prophet Bill Hamon

‘Disciples are made, not born. The passionate, consecrated warriors, that the Holy Spirit is preparing today, will not only receive a revelatory message to deliver; they will become revolutionary messengers along the way. Jesus said that no man can put his hand to the plow and look back (Luke 9:62). You must keep looking forward’.

Jim Goll – The Coming Prophetic Revolution (Chosen books)

‘The end of all things is at hand therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers’.

1 Peter 4:7 – The Bible

“The gamble the artist always makes is to say, “This is what’s happening to me at the moment, and here’s the language I found to say it. I say this because I don’t have any choice.”

Bill Flanagan – U2 at the end of the world (Bantam Books)

Prelude

An action, event, or situation serving as an introduction

An introductory piece of music or forming the first piece of a suite

'Life experience is often our author, and the years are the quills of ready writers'

The birthing of this book has been an incredible journey. It has taken 7 years to complete. There are some things you cannot learn any other way, except through the passage of time. You walk through your life with God on the mountains and in the valleys, and in the process you gain revelation that changes you. Your creativity flows relative to the change you experience. In the transitions that take place it is also important to discover the right timing for releasing those things we create. *'To everything there is a season, a **time** for every purpose under heaven'* (Ecclesiastes 3:1). There is also a right time to clearly understand God's purposes in our lives, and in the Church. We may get a glimpse of our future, and even experience some of it on our journey, however, the fullness of what the Lord has for us always requires patience. *'But let patience have its **perfect** work, that you may be perfect and complete lacking nothing'* (James 1:4).

God's perfect work and principal purpose for the last 2000 years, is the restoring and formation of His glorious Church. In the brief time since World War 2 - compared to all Church history - this restoration has been rapid. In this period the ministries of the evangelist, teacher, and pastor, have been greatly expanded and very influential. In the last twenty years, the ministry of the prophet has emerged with bold expression and increasing acceptance in the Body of Christ. Since the early to mid-nineties, the end-time apostles have begun to take their place. God has raised up new Christian movements and remarkable churches that are strong in the word of God. Our lives have been enriched through enduring Christian truths such as faith, healing, prayer, intercession, financial blessing, and the marvelous liberty of praise and worship. This restoration is for all believers to grow and live in the fullness of Jesus Christ; to be raised up in power, do the work of the ministry, and reach the world with the Great Commission of the Gospel (see Mark 16:15).

These are apostolic and prophetic days. God's glorious Church is emerging in a new apostolic reformation. Great changes are taking place, that are bringing proper order to the House of the Lord, and increased maturity to God's people in understanding their ultimate purpose. The end-time apostles of Christ are bringing this forth with a breakthrough anointing. It is not a new denominational move, but a reforming by the Spirit of God unlike anything before in the Body of Christ. It is important we have an *'ear to hear'* what the Holy Spirit is saying, and move with Him (Revelation 3:6). The themes in this book are not particularly new, however, for some, they will be a revelation and confirmation in hungry hearts. Apostolic and prophetic terminology may also be unfamiliar, although, it is better understood in light of what God is accomplishing now in the reforming of the Church (see recommended reading list at the back of this book).

The Lord is re-building the proper order of the Tabernacle of David today in the Church (see Acts 15:16). The Tabernacle is also an apostolic model for the powerful ministry of music being released in these end-times. The tabernacle cannot be fully comprehended in all that it represents, without apostolic wisdom and prophetic revelation. This was not really possible for most, even up to the mid-nineties, however, now is the appointed time to understand. No one has all the answers, or may categorize it into a neat and tidy box. I am not attempting to do this; my aim, as the Lord has led me in my writing, is to bring some clarity, and help those who perhaps have not understood their Christian experiences along the way.

In the last 15-20 years, we have seen rapid growth in Christian music, especially in worship, and contemporary (CCM). Since the mid-nineties this has been exponential. The enormous growth in Christian music sales has led every other music form in the marketplace. Fresh sounds, that are alive with expression, have released a new flow of musical openness between Christians around the globe. Creative energy abounds, with a flood of quality new songs. In these historical times, the Lord has also been pouring a prophetic and apostolic anointing into the Church. There is now a great prophetic momentum in Christian music, proclaiming into the

world what the Holy Spirit is saying. It has strong governing authority, boldness, and influence. In understanding the restorative journey of music, this is all extraordinary with the effect it is having in people's lives. God is clearly hanging out with His musos today - praise Him!

In the nineties, the Spirit of God challenged the Christian music industry to change. Many artists and facilitators were tired of worldliness in all their efforts, and hungry for more of God in their ministries. In the last 10 years the popularity of worship music has exploded with a whole new generation of worship leaders. We live in times as of the Prophet Nehemiah; when the singer and musician will be '*gathered and consecrated on to the wall*' - that is, set in their rightful place of authority in the church, to cover cities with songs, helping to fill the churches (see Nehemiah 12). They place a high value on relationship, and in doing so cut strong committed covenant with their leaders: to work, to clear rubbish, to war, and to build the House of God (see Nehemiah 4). These governing artists of sound have a great love for the local and corporate Church. When singers and musicians are established in their proper spiritual place, unprecedented provision is also released (see chapter 8, *On the Wall Musicians*, in my book *Prophet Musician*). It is important for church leadership to nurture (in a proper biblical way) the music ministry gifts God sends them. In future days, the power of apostolic music from the Body of Christ will help move whole nations toward God.

Coda!

OPUS 1

MUSIC
IN THE NEW
APOSTOLIC
REFORMATION

1

Music in Apostolic Reform

Reformation - the act of reforming, or being formed again

The removal of faults, errors, abuses, or malpractice

A radical improvement and change for the better

The ministry gift of the prophet has seen a broad restoration since the 1980's, and there has been a powerful release of the prophetic voice around the globe. It has stirred the spirit world, and prepared the way for the apostolic Church to rise in the new millennium. The first decade will see the Body of Christ continually in apostolic transition. In the period since the 1980's, much of the worship and music from the Body of Christ has also been a prophetic voice. God has raised up musical messengers; sent ones, paving the way for the end-time power of apostolic music. This era is now being called the new apostolic reformation. Some have used the term, a new apostolic wineskin, or the third day Church - as we are in the third millennium since Christ, and 'a thousand years is but a day to the Lord' (2 Peter 3:8). Whatever term is used, the Church is being reformed to become radically improved and glorious.

The new apostolic reformation is bringing revelation to those who genuinely have an ear to hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches (Rev 3:6). This is prophetic, and reveals to the Church the fullness of her purpose in these days. 'Where there is no vision (prophetic divine communication), the people perish...' (Proverbs 29:18). The listening Church is not perishing; it is in transition, to ultimately function in proper divine order. Apostolic revelation also shows us the ultimate purposes the Lord has for the power of music - awesome sounds from the

Body of Christ helping to bring immense change to our world in these end-times. This will be the result of music in the apostolic reformation.

The Prophet's Voice

The prophet's voice is always a forerunner. 2000 years ago, John the Baptist (Jesus' cousin) was the voice who paved the way for Christ to be revealed to the world. When John was born, his dad Zacharias sang a prophetic song over him confirming his destiny, *'and you child will be called the prophet of the Highest, for you will go before the face of the Lord to **prepare** His ways'*. Jesus said, *'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will **prepare** Your way before You'* (Matthew 11:10, Malachi 3:1). John was that messenger, and his voice stirred the spirit world. Jesus said, because of John *'the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force'* (Matthew 11:12). The war was on, because the prophets voice had gone forth, and the *'Messenger of the covenant'* was about to be revealed - Jesus Christ, Savior of the world
(Malachi 3:1).

When Jesus was baptized, and the Holy Spirit came upon Him, He was released to rise into the fullness of His authority and ministry as the *'apostle of our faith'* (Hebrews 3:1-2). Sometimes the prophetic has to be in a wilderness to do this! John and Jesus were family. The ministry of apostle and prophet are being connected closely now. They are foundational ministries in all that is ahead for the Church.

The heavens are stirred, the war is on, and the Church must be strong; being reformed is part of the transition into the apostolic model of church. Singers and musicians will become an apostolic prophetic voice as the foundational ministries nurture and release them.

Music in the Apostolic Pattern

If we are to release God's earth changing glory through our music, and for the apostolic reformation to be prevailing - we need to take heed of Heaven's pattern. God has a heavenly design and structure for everything. The spirit world is not some nefarious, wispy, chaotic place. It is a place of perfect truth, design, and specific structure for the proper implementation of God's plans and purposes here on earth - *'as it is in heaven'*(Matthew 6:10). Divine order for today's Church is part of the blueprint, and within her there is an apostolic pattern for music. This is foreshadowed in the Tabernacle of David for us to model today. The principle of doing things according to heavens ways is clearly shown in the bible. Moses (as with David) also received a pattern for building his Tabernacle. The priests in his day were ones, *'...who serve the copy and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the Tabernacle. For He said, 'See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain'* (Hebrews 8:4-5).

The divine order of heaven's pattern will take the Body of Christ to a governing level of power. Music and song must also come into its proper order of function today. God required this of King David before he set up the Tabernacle (1Chronicles 15:13). The Tabernacle is an apostolic pattern for these end times, and as the Body of Christ comes into apostolic order, so must music. Those who truly seek after God (like Moses) will understand. Strategy, plans, patterns and purposes, are revealed from being close with the Lord. The reformation is restoring an apostolic pattern of expression, and a mature understanding of the proper function of music and song in the House of God. As music decrees and proclaims into the spirit it helps build the Church. Healing and deliverance flow in those sounds, and release the manifest presence and glory of God. The powers of darkness are bound and pushed back. Change comes to nations and a great harvest of souls is reaped. Music and song are not the sole answers to

seeing the nations come to the Lord, however, the ministry of music has an important leading role to play in these end-times.

There are many Davids (male and female) whom God has prepared to fulfill their destiny now. Many have strong prophetic gifts, and need to be divinely connected with apostles, working together in healthy relationship. Some have gone through many trials and experiences in their preparation, just like David. They must be embraced and received by the Body of Christ, helping advance the Church into the realm of apostolic governing sound. Jesus said, "...he who receives whomever I send receives Me" (John 13:20).

Music in the Foundation Gifts

The proper order of music should function in the Church within an apostolic teamwork of the five-fold ascension gifts (see Ephesians 4:11-13).

The apostolic and prophetic gifts are a foundation of the Church. '*...Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone*' (Ephesians 2:20). Jesus is '*the stone the (religious) builders rejected*' (Psalm 118:22). Jesus is the cornerstone who strengthens and supports, bringing the proper order of this foundation all together in the day we live. The apostle Paul said to his spiritual son Titus '*I have left you in Crete that you should set in order the things that are lacking...*' (Titus 1:5). Today God is moving to activate, and strengthen all the paradigms of Church life - to have the fullness of apostolic expression, knowledge, understanding, and wisdom.

In recent history, there has been a preparation for the apostolic foundation to be restored. There has been a different emphasis at distinct times in the broader end-time restoration of the five-fold gifts (1 Corinthians 12:28 & Ephesians 4:11-13). The evangelist in the late 1940's - 1950's, followed by the teacher and pastor in the

1960's and 1970's, the prophets in the 1980's, and the emphasis of apostles from the 1990's. Today these gifts can function in proper relationship together, in the divine order of God's apostolic pattern for the New Testament Church. Music is right in the midst, and can now be fully released into its proper place of authority and power.

The five-fold gifts have been existent under various title and function since Jesus' time; however, the restoring of proper biblical terminology as common place has been a phenomenon of these days. Some ministries and movements still secularize their language in an attempt to be modern. This can be confusing, amongst the thousands of Christian religions and traditions, who have already brought the power of God's word to none effect. It is important we use the language of the Holy Spirit and call the gifts what they are, not unbiblical references such as doctor, director, associate, superintendent, or reverend.

The five ascension gifts (given by Christ to the Church after he ascended into heaven) are for training and releasing Christians worldwide into their varied callings - to do the work of the ministry. In this apostolic paradigm, the training and releasing of singers and musicians is vital (see chapters in opus 5, *The Proper Order*). The release of the Body of Christ is the prophesied army of God, the great camp of the army of the Lord (see Joel 2:11). An army moving in great power, functioning everywhere in life as well as gathering together. An army that meets anywhere - in work places, houses, or with each other. Everyone is a leader for Christ - moving in power, connecting with people, and winning souls to God. The real Church; focused, specific, strategic, and truly envisioned for the whole planet. It functions powerfully on all levels of life, motivated by great love, and carrying God's grace and power.

Music in the Apostolic and Prophetic Anointing

The anointing of the apostolic and prophetic gifts, is an important and powerful ministry combination. The Lord is strengthening and uniting them to affect the world. These gifts have an awesome breakthrough anointing - working together.

Two thousand years ago the apostle Paul and prophet Silas went into national territories and turned the world upside down - together (Acts 17:6). We will see this happen more in our time. It is God's desire for this anointing to be released throughout the whole Body of Christ, as part of our individual priesthood as believers in Jesus (1 Peter 2:5,9). This anointing will cause the Church to spiritually govern with power, and embrace the nations for God. The Church will reach into every corner of life, correcting false spiritual authority, dysfunction and imbalance.

God's order is first apostles and second prophets (see 1 Corinthians 12:28). Without the apostle set in their governing place, the end-time anointing to reach the entire world cannot be released, neither the full governing power of music. Music will have awesome influence in our world through apostolic and prophetic anointing. The new apostolic reformation will create the platform for this to happen.

Selah and be formed again.

2

Governmental Music

Governing - to rule with authority in an official office

A position of authority to bring change - to be a predominating influence

Since the 1990's, global strategic prayer and mature intercession for cities and nations has escalated. There is a concentration of prayer on the earth today unlike anything in history. It is a governing level of prayer and intercession that has been instrumental in releasing the apostolic paradigm and anointing into the Church. Prayer with a global mindset and focus has released a great spiritual momentum in the Church; as with the extensive growth of Christian music this momentum is apostolic. Music and song must now take its governing place in the Body of Christ. King David prophesied of these days, *'...prayer also will be made for Him continually, and **daily** He shall be **praised**. There will be an abundance of grain (the word) in the earth...all nations shall call Him blessed'* (Psalm 72:15b, 16-17).

The combination of prayer with praise has developed rapidly in recent times - with maturity, authority, and power. Now we are seeing tens of thousands of believers beginning to gather in football stadiums for prayer and worship events. The focus of these gatherings, are a call to the cities and nations of the earth - as the word of God, music, prayer, and intercession, function together, the nations will honor the Lord and be blessed.

Over the years Christian music has been established strongly with evangelistic purpose, teaching God's word, and an intimacy in worship reflecting the shepherding nature of the Lord. In recent times the expression and purpose of music has become more prophetic and aggressive, paving the way for the

power of apostolic music. Understanding the governing influence of music is increasing in the Body of Christ for a great end time purpose; turning the world upside down. The creative nature of music, and its ultimate purpose, is embedded in the governing prophetic and apostolic spirit. It is time for singers and musicians who carry this anointing, to arise with governing sound in their hearts. The devil and his evil strategies have tried to destroy the lives of many artists, and take them away from their calling. It is now your hour to rise again in faith and take hold of your destiny. The world will hear the sound of the Church in one accord with Heaven.

Governing

The words governing, and government relate to apostolic and prophetic terms now being used more widely in the Church today. These are not just buzzwords but biblical terminology we must understand. The Church is to have governing influence in the spirit world, and on the earth. Governmental people have authority to bring powerful change. To do this we must fully know our authority in Christ and the effect that has. We are completely washed from our sins by the blood of Jesus. We are His righteousness, called to be priests and kings in our lives. We live in His governing authority, for His glory (Revelation 1:6).

The kings of the Old Testament, such as Hezekiah and young Josiah, brought great change to Israel in their governing position. They walked in the ways of their father David (see 2 Chronicles 29:2 & 34:2). They were holy rebels against the devil. Consider Hezekiah, *'the Lord was with him and he prospered wherever he went. And he rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him. He subdued the Philistines'* (2 Kings 18:7-8).

These kings took hold of their authority in the ways of David. They pulled down the idols and demonic strongholds binding their people. They called the people to turn from their evil ways, and bring their hearts back to God. They were a voice of passion:

zealous, enforcing, and spiritually energetic. They had emphatic trust in God, and were radical reformers in their time. In music they followed David's model, and commanded the people to use his words in song, and the words of the prophet Asaph (see 2 Chronicles 29:30). Hezekiah is a picture of an apostolic reformer. When you walk in this governing anointing things happen fast. This quickening will occur in the Church as it transitions into divine order. The changes in the world will be rapid in these end-times. *'So the service of the house of the Lord was **set in order**. Then Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced that God had prepared the people, since the events took place so **suddenly**'* (2 Chronicles 29:36). Governmental music from the Church set in order is to have this authority, power, and influence to change.

Increase of His Government

The prophet Isaiah tells us about the governing authority of Jesus in the Church and the throne of power David established through the Tabernacle. This governing authority includes the power of apostolic music. *'For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; and the **government** will be upon **His shoulder**, and His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the **increase** of his government and peace there will be **no end**, Upon the **throne** of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this'* (Isaiah 9:6-7).

There is a never-ending increase of God's governing authority for the Church to operate in. Today the Lord is performing this in the new apostolic reformation. We must release this authority through music. The authority of Jesus (prophesied in Isaiah) is Davidic in nature, hence the reference to David's throne. The increase of His government is established in apostolic authority; foreshadowed through King David's worshipping life. The Tabernacle of David in theological terms, is a type, or pattern of

the Church. Governmental anointing and power is to be fully released into the world through the Church. *'For thrones are set there for judgment, the thrones of the House of David'* (Psalm 122:5). The divine order, and the apostolic structure of the Church, will accommodate the endless increase of holy government available to it. If you consider the song Moses wrote with Jesus, the manifest judgements of God, are synonymous with the nations coming to worship Christ (Revelation 15:3-4).

Governing authority will bring His judgements and justice to the earth, pushing back spiritual darkness, and releasing the nations to God. We also execute this in the music proclamation of high warring praises, this is part of governing in the spirit (Psalm 149:6-9). This authority should be released through the lives of singers and musicians. Why? So all of mankind can seek after God (Acts 15:17). God's promise of restoring David's Tabernacle and the music structure it represents, is God's end-time strategy for the Church. This will commission the Church to her final glorious hour. The apostolic power God wants to release through music cannot be facilitated in many church structures and their current ways of thinking. The reasons for this are often a lack of knowledge, powerless traditions, dullness, worldliness, or an unwillingness to change and move forward with God's present-day restoration.

The apostolic Church has local and global governing strategies to reach the world. When the increase of governmental authority is fully matured and released through the Church, people in darkness will see great light. A beacon will shine into the deepest valley of death and despair, breaking the heavy burdens of the devil oppressor once and for all. Multitudes will be saved, and wealth will be in the House of God for the good of the nations. The Church will be a gift to humanity, and will increase constantly with great joy. This is the governing Church (Isaiah 9:2-5).

No End Now

The possibilities of governing power in the Body of Christ are endless. The phenomenal power of music also has endless governmental capacity for influence. The responsibility of establishing government sits on the shoulders of our apostolic leader - the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, *'the apostle of our faith'* (Hebrews 3:1). We are His Body - to execute governmental authority on the earth by His Spirit. He is zealous for it. In obedience: we must do, say, and sing what God says, as Jesus did with the Father. We live in Christ; therefore we must point the way to Him.

Singers and musicians also set musical decree into the spirit with this authority, as did the apostles when they gave decrees to strengthen and release the Church (see Acts 15:22). A local church operating in apostolic authority, decrees and brings change by the Spirit of God - this is governing action, as it is *'not by might nor by power but by my Spirit says the Lord'*, (Zechariah 4:6). God intends for us to be His true sons and daughters led by the Spirit (Romans 8:14). Our God is omnipotent and massive - He owns everything - we must not hold back. There is no end to our possibilities as we continue to believe, being the co-heirs of all things with Christ (Romans 8:17). What a great and marvelous promise!

Throne Thinking

True advancement in the 21st Century must come from moving on with the Spirit of the Lord and living in His ways. Many of us have just thought about God, Church, and spiritual authority, in the various ways it has been handed down to us in our Christian traditions, or movements.

If we are to fully embrace the apostolic move in these days, we must change the way we think. The Prophet Isaiah said, *'on the throne of David...to order it and establish it'* (Isaiah 9:7). God is on

the throne, so we must all be throne thinkers. In Christ we sit with Him *'in heavenly places far above all principalities and power'* (Ephesians 1:20-21). Throne thinking is governmental thinking - we think as God thinks (as Jesus did), and we do as God does. God promised David he would establish this in these days. *"I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn to my servant David: 'Your seed I will establish forever and build up your throne to all generations.' "* *"...I have sworn by my holiness; I will not lie to David; His seed shall **endure forever**, and **his throne** as the sun before me'* (Psalm 89:3-4, 35-36).

God is establishing and building up the throne of apostolic authority in the Church. It has endured through history and is flourishing now. We are in apostolic days, the majestic, and royal authority of Christ will shine like the sun in the Church - the sun is hot, warm, and inviting. The Lord promised David. God has great zeal to establish His authority, government, and right order (Isaiah 9:7). The Hebrew language paints the picture of the Lord being red in the face, with an absolute righteous burning desire. This zeal for His temple was manifest in Jerusalem; it had *'eaten Him up'*, moreover, Jesus violently cleared the temple on account of the merchandising ways of the religious ministers (John 2:15-17). God does not tolerate anything against His Holy desire where His government is concerned. He wants to advance His glory now against all substitutes, false and futile. God is hot for this to happen. If the Church does not flow with God's ways, we are warned by the Psalmist, *'He who instructs the nations shall He not **correct**... ? The Lord knows the thoughts of man that they are **futile**'* (Psalm 94:10-11). Man made ideas from the principles of the world, religious traditions, or simply just trying to be cool and contemporary, are not enough anymore. They are futile in truly being able to reform and change nations.

Selah guv'!

OPUS 2

GOVERNING
SINGERS &
MUSICIANS

3

Planted in the Local Church

Music and the arts have had great governing influence in fashioning the culture of society, particularly over the past 50 years. The arts embody the nature of the apostolic and prophetic spirit - through creative expression inspired by God, and the ability to bring great change. Many times in the bible, the power of music, song, and the arts, played a great role in building and preparing the House of God. In this new millennium, strong, creative, apostolic churches will continue to grow and expand with endless possibility - as the Body of Christ revives and yields to the purposes of Jesus. Planted in these churches will be extraordinary apostolic singers, musicians, songwriters, and creative leaders. These artists carry governing spirit and attitude, releasing great power from God. Singers and musicians are to be strong examples of apostolic quality and character.

The Local Life

'The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those who are planted in the House of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing' (Psalm 92:12-14).

The musicians and singers planted in emerging strong apostolic churches are ministers. They work as part of the five-fold ministry team in the local church where they are called. In that calling they should be supported, encouraged, loved and nurtured, in a proper biblical manner. Apart from involvement in the local church, some music ministries may be sent further

into the Body of Christ around the globe, or for some, into the secular marketplace. This may develop in a church's strategy to reach cities and nations, and is a wider call with music ministry that often results from being anchored in the local church – this should be supported and encouraged. If they are truly sent by the church, participating in the wider call should not result in losing their local roots where they are planted or losing valued relationships just because they are away, or not as involved. Local relationships should build and deepen over time, for they are vital for stability, and accountability in one's life. The balance of a healthy enjoyable local life is found in being secure in your church, where you are submitted to apostolic oversight in a place called home - everyone needs that safety which is found in love, trust, and loyalty. This is important for the singer and musician.

The dichotomy of a calling in music at a local and wider level must be carefully and sensitively managed; failure to do so has shipwrecked many lives and families. Such tragedy could result for many reasons, including local over-familiarity, or leadership feeling threatened by their abilities, or a general lack of understanding in an artist's gifts and their proper function and place in the church. Singers and musicians may also cause their own upsets in life through lack of wisdom, or running ahead of themselves in their vision. Nonetheless to be governing in music, and fully released in it, you have to be planted. Intense spiritual warfare comes with an effective music calling - vehement resistance from the devil, and even our fellow man. The enemy of your soul will always try to unsettle and attack the roots of your planting - he does not want you to flourish. Planted people should always bear fruit to their old age, and everything they do should be fresh and flourishing - it is a biblical promise.

God is Gathering

Apostolic strength in music gifting has to be based and maintained in a local church relationship - especially now -

where you are planted is where you will be effective. The spiritual battles (which are escalating on the earth) are far too much to be out there on your own, or unconnected to anyone without relationship. The days of unplanted lone-rangers are over. There are many singers, musicians, and potentially governing leaders in music and the arts, who have been prematurely cut off from their calling. This often happens because they are rejected, or misunderstood, or controlled by leaders who don't release them to fulfill their call. Many artists react by refusing to be under authority again due to the pain they go through. If that person is you - seek the Lord, go back to a great House of God and start afresh. God is gathering his people; you are needed, and He will make a way for you.

Let your cry be like David, *'teach me **your way**, O Lord; I will walk in **your truth**; unite my heart to fear your name'* (Psalm 86:11). David also needed his scattered, painful humanity, brought back together again. It is important for churches to nurture and give platform for the creative gifts to be expressed, especially with music and song, as is it such an inherent part of church life. Strong clear vision for the release and nurture of musicians, singers, and creative people should be a normal part of the apostolic church.

God is gathering people back to Himself. Potential big plants can't stay alone in their own pots forever. You will end up stuck on the patio of past dreams; let them go or redefine them. Commit to flourish in a good local church, renew and be re-planted - this is God's way. *'Your way, O God, is **in the sanctuary**; who is so great a God as our God?'* (Psalm 77:13). You may be in a transition; build on the relationships God gives you in this season. Those people often pick you up from the patio and help you move forward. Sometimes you may be in a long transition over months, or years, however, the Lord will lead you as you seek Him - He will bring to pass the desires and dreams of your heart (see Psalm 37:4).

You Can Make It

Do you feel like you have been to hell and back? David went there deeply in his experiences of life. David said, '*...great is your mercy toward me, and you have delivered me from the depths of Sheol. ...A God full of compassion and gracious...*' (Psalm 86:13,15). To hell and back is a very real experience for many people – some call it a *dark night of the soul*. Jesus knows how you feel - you can make it. God will heal and deliver you into a new life if you keep your trust in Him. There are churches and leaders who may condemn you to failure for leaving them. Some may turn aside from you, for in their eyes you may not measure up in their paradigm of success, however, God is bigger than small mindedness. These types of people would have judged David the same way. In their blindness, they would have missed seeing a king being formed in David throughout his cave dwelling years in the wilderness. Many of you long to be gathered and nurtured, having a deep yearning for fulfillment in everything the Lord has for your life. Keep the faith; Jesus '*satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness*' (Psalm 107:9).

*"Like a digging finger in the shadow of despair a fathomless ache revolves.
A planet in a spin for a universe of vision that has already tasted purpose,
the hors d'oeuvre at a government banquet - chilli on the tongue at fast's end."*

Trust God in the Testing

'Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope is the Lord. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit' (Jeremiah 17:7-8).

If you are securely planted in God, the fruit in your daily life will continue to grow, and you will always have something to give. When things do get tough, you will go through desert times in

your life. It is always a challenge to rise up from this, however you must overcome, forgive, love, and do whatever it takes to change. Your experiences may have been His test for you. These times prepare you for what God ultimately has for your life. We all need the security of genuine connection in the House of God. It is God's way to succeed in the things that are ahead; otherwise the enemy can make mincemeat out of you. It is important to not have all of your trust and faith in man, or institutions, because God wants all your trust – you need to be '*planted by the waters*' in Him. This level of trust and faith in the Lord brings you into Christian maturity.

David said in the central verse in the bible, '*it is better to **trust in the Lord**, than to put confidence in man*' (Psalm 118:8). It is important to state here, that genuine submission, and obedience to God's ordained authorities in the Church is absolutely vital to ones progression in life. It is wonderful when you can actually have great confidence and trust in those that are your apostolic leaders and oversight. It is never plain sailing with all the sensitivities that come with human relationship, but the bible is clear that we are to submit one to another in an attitude of love and humility, honoring the authority that God puts over us. When musicians, singers and artists live a life of humility, submission, and obedience to their *set man* of leadership, there is protection and blessing for your life. It is also important for the leader(s) to fully embrace the artists God gives them, recognizing that the Lord has brought them to be planted under their authority to be developed as a significant part of the ministry and life of the church. (I highly recommend you read *Under Cover – the promise of protection under His Authority* by John Bevere – see back of book).

Trust develops over time, but you will flourish when planted by God, as your foundation is in Him, and not in men, or ministry. When the Lord is your sustaining trust and safety, love can be

perfected in you; any fear or anxiety will leave, and blessing will come. *'But You, O Lord, are a **shield** for me, my glory and the One who **lifts up my head**. I cried to the Lord with my voice, and He heard me from His holy hill. Selah. I lay down and slept; I awoke, for **the Lord sustained me**. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around'* (Psalm 3:3-6). *'I will both lie down in **peace**, and sleep; for You alone, O Lord, make me **dwell in safety**'* (Psalm 4:8).

Selah and get potted.

4

Partakers of Heaven

*‘Therefore, holy brethren, **partakers of the heavenly calling**, consider the **apostle** and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house’ (Hebrews 3:1-2).*

We must consider and know Christ as our apostle to understand being partakers of heaven. Jesus was commissioned by God the Father and sent as the apostle of our faith. In that sending He had all of heaven backing him up. When you are planted you can be released and sent with the same power of heaven behind you. Being planted, faithful, and carrying governmental anointing are inseparable. We then partake of heaven, with the potential to bring the fruit of apostolic power to the earth. It is in the nature of maturing singers and musicians to be apostolic and prophetic in their authority, and the high calling that comes with the gift of music. As we consider Christ as our apostle, we get to know him in the fullness of His authority and begin to understand our apostolic purpose as artists.

Know Him

Our eternal mandate is shown in the prayer of Jesus, *‘and this is eternal life, that they may **know you**, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent’ (John 17:3)*. Christ is our ambassador of truth, sent for our sake by the Father of Truth; that we may know God intimately, hear what He desires us to sing, and proclaim it on the earth. This discovery is learned over many years in our journey with the Lord. *‘**Blessed** is the man whose strength is **in you**, whose **heart is set on pilgrimage**’ (Psalm 84:5).*

It is maturity to know, understand, and perceive God's knowledge through being close to Him. Your true power and authority through music will only be resident to the degree that Jesus lives in you by His word. In the process we become more like Jesus our apostle. We may then be commissioned and sent forth with that governing authority and power in our music. God appoints us in this authority to sing a new influential song.

In knowing the apostolic nature of the Lord, there is a divine invitation to embrace everything of heavenly origin, including the music we declare. We can partake of the heavenly calling; understanding it, through faithful, intimate partnership with God. The effective, governing power of apostolic music is rooted in communion with God. The Greek word for partakers is *koinonos*: we become God's partner, associate, comrade and companion. We then share in the benefits of heavenly partnership in the territory where we are planted and called. It is our seat of authority, and within its boundaries we are to rule by the Spirit of God.

Spirit of Prophecy

An angel said to the apostle John, '*Worship God for the testimony of Jesus is the **spirit of prophecy***' (Revelation 19:10). As we get to know the Lord and mature in the character of Christ, his testimony in our lives becomes more evident. We then partake of the prophetic nature of God; the spirit of prophecy should be in our music. It is a normal part of the governmental nature and power of apostolic music.

Worship of God and the prophetic are intrinsically linked. The prophetic nature comes from the character of Jesus - it draws us to Him. Prophetic spirit testifies of Jesus: you can see, hear, and feel it. Your heart is genuinely excited. The prophetic doesn't hype you, or leave you feeling flat and cheated afterward; it releases and stirs you to Him.

God's Glory Only

In developing our relationship with God, the things of this world grow dimmer in their appeal and ability to distract us. Our character changes as we partake of heaven, and God's love compels us towards the beauty and power of His glory. It then becomes our consuming desire to see His glory released in the earth. The apostolic nature is about the glory of God and far outweighs any need for the glory of men. *'The wise shall inherit glory'* (Proverbs 3:35)

*'Nor did we seek **glory from men**, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children'* (1 Thessalonians 2:6-7).

The Apostle Paul, his spiritual son Timothy, and the Prophet Silas understood their authority as apostles and prophets; they knew their power was for the glory of God. In their character they were not brash, coarse, driven, or controlling in exercising their authority. Their nature as partakers of heaven was gentle, genuine and friendly. In this scripture Paul reveals an easy going, courteous, agreeable, pleasant, good-natured, cordial and sociable character - a good model for apostles and prophets. In the gentleness of these apostles was great power and Christ-like character. This was compared to the gentle nature of a nursing mother that also has great power through her selfless attitude. Her primary concern is for her new child, not herself. These men were concerned with God's glory not their own. The heart of governing singers and musicians should be the same. The apostolic music they release carries the glory of God. Their sounds usher in that glory and the power to deliver and heal; this will happen more in the days to come. The power of governing music may be couched in the gentlest of intimacy (like a nursing mother), or in loud warfare, and celebratory proclamation. This is the nature of the apostle and prophet - they are spiritual warriors.

The loud, passionate, warring singers and musicians on a stage are often quiet and gentle in private. *“Is this the same person?”* one may ask; their governing authority and power is in their character, yet peace and humility surround them. Above all, they desire God’s glory and majesty to be revealed and honored. They have paid a price yet they handle well the fame, or the position of profile God has given them. They are relaxed, gracious, and are not intimidated, or fearful. They love their spouse, children, pastor, and their church. People and relationships are a priority in their lives. Jesus said to the twelve apostles, *‘be harmless as doves’* (Matthew 10:16). King David established a position of governing authority in the Tabernacle with His heart after God. The same applies to the singer and musician today as partakers of heaven.

Carrying Grace

The apostle Paul said, *‘Through Him we have received **grace and apostleship** for obedience to the faith among **all nations** for His name, among whom you also are **the called of Jesus Christ’*** (Romans 1:5-6).

Jesus was totally faithful to the Father in His appointment as apostle and High Priest of our confession. Our heart must also be the same in our obedience to Christ and His faith to receive governmental grace. Grace and apostle-ship go together. Governing singers and musicians carry much grace in their sounds; people feel it, hear it, and respond to the Holy Spirit of grace. Partakers of heaven bring God’s grace. God said to Paul, *‘My grace is sufficient for you for My strength is made perfect in weakness’*. Paul said, *‘I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me’* (2 Corinthians 12:9). Apostolic power comes by grace in a character of humility. True apostolic leaders have much grace; they are not insecure, controlling, or threatened by others. They are fathers and mothers, with a heart to see you released and fulfilled in your call. They understand

that any power or authority they have, is given by God's grace to bless others.

People the Prize

The apostle Paul said, *'If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord'* (1 Corinthians 9:2).

People should always be at the heart of what we do. Our priorities should be for winning, changing, and maturing the souls of men and women. Governing singers and musicians bring forth songs and sounds of revelation; helping to change, build, and release people into Christ. Your anointing reveals your call and gift; it is obvious in the fruit. You won't have to manipulate, control, market, or sell yourself to prove anything. It's not just about winning awards, or making big sales, or just being the latest successful worship leader. People are the real seal and reward of apostolic music. If sales, fame, or awards ensue, give thanks and enjoy them.

The power of apostolic anointing in music, as in preaching, sets a spiritual seal over the lives of people. It brings security by setting a spiritual song in their hearts. Songs from heaven protect people from the devil's devices. When a church or territory is covered by those sounds, they open the heavens and bring protection in the spirit (see chapter 8 *On the Wall Musicians*, in my book *Prophet Musician*). The atmosphere is lighter and more buoyant - God is in town. The areas around apostolic churches also prosper and increase in financial value. Governing music is like a royal seal in the signet ring of a king. It leaves a divine stamp in the hearts of people, and an indelible mark of influence wherever those songs are sent.

Selah, heaven awaits you.

5

Paying the Price

Her skin was almost liquid milk after many months in the preparation of beauty. Heaven was now her scent, a bouquet of endless time. She danced in a slow gesture; at last she was in His chamber. The bride of long patience gazed into the earnest eyes of majesty. He glided around her, effortless, viewing everything with regal intention. Peace embraced the air. Love overwhelmed. Moments were hours and the hours were moments until she was still, waiting like a white swan at rest. She slowly lifted her head; the glistening crown alighted upon her braided locks. Contentment and tranquillity were now her attendants. She stood serene, every pore exuding radiance. She was now distinct - full of eternity, and an heir of promise. He touched her shoulder. The blade of a new discernment dwelt in the scepter He gave. Her hand ran the edge. The song played; down she lay in the unending dream. Loss was gain, and her cares were long gone in the bliss.

Price of Partnership

Just trying to be cool and current can leave you wanting. The latest songs sound terrific. Your own nostalgic favorites still enjoy the glory of yesteryear. Volume stirs and pumps. The sweet and soft sound, soothes and makes you fly. Skill and excellence are important. The governing anointing of God yet still hovers and waits.

There is a cost to carry apostolic and prophetic authority. Governing power comes from the foundation of an intimate partnership with Christ. Your authority is released through a

continual, growing relationship with Him. You live worship daily - in spirit and truth, through normal life. This encompasses everything you do hidden and public; a maturing balanced life needs work everyday. Your life is laid down for the Lord's purposes, with a consecrated excellent attitude. The price - you are prepared to fall in the ground and die (see John 12:24-26). When you are buried in a place of complete trust in Jesus, fruit is born. You will find the hidden sound, the resurrecting songs of power. Profound will be their affect.

She lay immersed in the bath of milk, surrounded by petals of white roses - she decided, that forever after, *"I will let go and let God, whatever it takes Lord I'm all yours. I belong to you, for you purchased me with your shed blood. I'm committed to your purposes, casting all my cares on you Lord once and for all."*

The Wrong Price

Paying a price is not an irrational view of death to self, whereby you are physically, mentally, or emotionally burnt out. It isn't a constant feeling of being controlled, or driven, or where church business has become a ceaseless burden. Your wife, husband, or children should not suffer irreparably for the sake of the demands of a ministry. If you are feeling abused, or used, or running yourself into debt so you can make it - something is wrong. You must take heed.

If this is happening to you, serious questions should be asked. Wise counsel should be sought, even outside your circle of connections if needed. Change should be enacted as soon as you are able. You will have trials in life, but continual cost paying with absolutely no reprieve is not of God. This kind of price is often driven by Jezebel's religious demons of control (see chapter 15 *Jezebel and False Authority*). The Lord *'redeems your life from destruction'* (Psalm 103:4). You don't have to destroy it for Him.

Suffering

Apostle Peter said, *'For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil'* (1 Peter 3:17). *'But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you'* (1 Peter 5:10). Apostle Paul said, *'if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together'* (Romans 8:17b). *'I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ'* (Philippians 3:8b).

Ministers who carry apostolic and prophetic grace in their lives have paid a big price along the way. Singers and musicians who have this grace in their music will also know that journey well. Suffering is not something you go looking for, however, to learn some valuable lessons in God, you may have to go through certain things. Jesus never promised you a problem free life, but if things are severely crumbling around you with undue suffering, you'll know it. Don't be in denial - stick with your conviction. Hear those in authority who genuinely love you, re-think and get some answers for your own good. Valuable months and years may be saved from being off track in your destiny.

David made it clear, *'If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do? The Lord is in His holy temple, The Lord's throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men. The Lord tests the righteous...'* (Psalm 11:3-5). Tests are a part of life. But God will not allow you beyond what you cannot endure (see 1 Corinthians 10:13).

The Right Price

*From a distance they look at your mountain -
They do not know the fire you stroked
They never climbed your rocks - never seen your view -
never felt the breeze of the planted flag for you*

There will be battles and sufferings in life, although the fruit of a right price brings you through to maturity in Christ. Greater balance and peace are its reward. Every believer walks this road - led by the Holy Spirit. On the journey you increase in wisdom with prudence (God's strategy, see Proverbs 8:12). Your life improves in righteousness with a loving character. In the midst we keep praising, believing, full of faith and hope - even when things are hard. God's governing authority and power is released through you. You function in what you are meant to be doing. You become a voice, not an echo of someone else. Your songs carry greater weight in the effect they have in the spirit and on people. Life is enjoyed more abundantly, and you learn how to live it well. This journey takes time, and isn't always an easy path.

Jesus called it the narrow way (see Matthew 7:13-14). In the confines of Jesus' way, apostolic character is formed in you. You learn to focus on the prize of your high calling, and things that are good for your life. *'Finally, brethren, whatever things are **true**, whatever things are **noble**, whatever things are **just**, whatever things are **pure**, whatever things are **lovely**, whatever things are of **good report**, if there is any **virtue** and if there is **anything praiseworthy** - meditate on these things'* (Philippians 4:8).

Messengers to the Church

*'If anyone inquires about Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker concerning you. Or if our brethren are inquired about, they are **messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ'*** (2 Corinthians 8:23).

The apostolic singer and musician have the Church at the core of their heart. The journey you walk and the price you pay prepares you as Godly messengers to the Church. Jesus wants His glory and majesty in the Church - the glory of Christ on the earth - a phenomenal thought. He wants the world to know about His glory, and to see it cover the world. Singers and musicians have a vital role in seeing this happen.

There is a price to pay to do anything of consequence for the Lord. There is so much to accomplish in these days, and we need each other. Titus and the brethren were partners in relationship; partakers together in meeting needs. Apostles need prophets; singers and musicians need apostolic leaders to release them to grow in the power of apostolic music as governing *'messengers of the churches.'* *'Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!'* (Psalm 107:31). Write some great new songs of thanks - you've paid the price.

Selah-pay.

OPUS 3

THE POWER OF
APOSTOLIC
MUSIC

6

The Power of Apostolic Music

King David prophesied, *'Through the greatness of your power Your enemies shall submit themselves to You. All the earth shall worship you...He rules by His power forever; His eyes observe the nations...'* (Psalm 66:3-7).

The impact of what God is reforming by His Spirit will continue to sound from the Church; being decreed, and proclaimed, through *the power of apostolic music*. The Church must be an apostolic and prophetic people carrying governing sound. God's power brings enemies under our feet and worship to the forefront. The greatness of His power, worship and ruling, are all linked. This power is apostolic and governing in spirit. God takes ruler-ship in this worship and the devil submits - it can affect nations. The apostolic thrust is to see whole nations turning to the Lord. Releasing the *greatness* of power into the world results in the worshipping of God. The apostolic Church must have its eyes on the nations.

Apostolic Music

"What do you mean?" - many may ask this question when the word apostolic is applied to music. The Greek word *apostolos* means apostle or apostle-ship. This also refers to a delegate, or a messenger sent for a purpose or mission. They have orders and apostolic anointing. This is the terminology of government, or an ambassador. The apostle Paul was an ambassador for Jesus who *'turned the world upside down'* (Acts 17:6). Singers and musicians are governmental ministers of sound; sent ones with a message, led by the Spirit of God to help turn the world upside down!

The apostolic paradigm in music with prophetic anointing should not be taken lightly. It is not another fad - it is how music in the House of God *should be*. Apostolic music can't be approached with a casual *have a go* attitude. It is a high calling, and requires spiritual ruler-ship in your own personal life. In this attitude to discipline, the spirit world reacts to you. You must carry commanding power with competence, and the responsibility to precisely execute a music mandate given to you from God. You bring forth power and sound with authority. Godly messengers have a character you can deeply trust, a spirit of faithfulness that resides in a submitted heart. In this godly character we are dead to ourselves and any selfish agendas. Governing apostolic power is then released in our musical sounds; bringing profound, spiritual, tangible and natural changes.

Apostolic New Song

Songs and sounds have been released in the earth today that are fresh, inspiring and visionary. Hillsong church Australia has inspired many around the globe. The declaration of '*Shout to the Lord*' is a good example. The prophetic songs from the band Delirious in England, have been commanding in the spirit, with power and intimacy - releasing the Church to a greater worship expression, in particular the youth. Many other different church cultures are also having great impact in their spheres of influence. Along with other songs past and present, we can hear an increasing echo of the same spirit of King David the musician: the governing apostle, prophet, priest and leader, of our historical, Godly musical heritage.

David is a type of Jesus; his life foreshadows Christ our Lord. To foreshadow means to mirror what is to come. Jesus is the royal musician, and he sings over us (see Zephaniah 3:17). King David sang the heart of God.

*'Oh sing unto me a **new song**'*

'Declare His Glory among the nations' (Psalm 96:1,3).

After 3000 years, this prophetic declaration still has great influence today; a continuation of new songs increases God's glory into the earth. As we pursue this with apostolic power and authority, we will affect the heavens and increase God's power in the Church; the governing power of the Holy Spirit is released to restrain and rend spiritual darkness on the earth. The devil knows this and vehemently fights against those who bring it forth. The word of God declares that in these last days His glory and knowledge will cover the earth (see Isaiah 11:9, Habakkuk 3:3). We must also proclaim it with new song and sound. This glory ushers in heaven's power to change people in cities and nations.

David declared, *'He has put a **new song** in my mouth, praise to our God; **many** will see it and fear, and will trust in the Lord'* (Psalm 40:3). At the end of many concerts in the 1980's, the famous band U2 played their own proclamation of this Psalm called *40*. They were prophesying, and God used them. Their fresh sound, and unique Christian based Irish passion, has been a major prophetic influence on many Christian musicians and their worship in the past two decades. God has also placed many sounds for worship in the cultures of nations - to declare and release His glory through their own unique way of expression. The anointing of the apostolic prophetic gifts (set into the nations through the Church) will release and inspire unique worship of God: the passion of flamenco, the bouzouki of Greece, the drum sounds of the islands, and the ragas of India, to name a few. In all the tribes and nations of the earth, many types of music will carry the wind of the Spirit of God. The people of nations will hear the sounds from heaven and turn to one alone who can save them - Jesus Christ.

Apostolic Power Starts In Intimacy

The Psalms of King David, and others, carried strong apostolic authority and power. David poured out his heart to the Lord, and declared what he heard in the secret place of intimacy with Him. The cry for intimacy is a theme throughout the Psalms - apostolic power starts in intimacy with God. It is there we have an ear to hear what the Spirit is saying to us (see Revelation 3:6). In hearing, we sing prophetic revelation from Jesus with apostolic authority. How do we get such authority?

*“How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and **do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?**”* (John 5:44). Our desire must be for Him alone - not being reliant on any human need for recognition, honor, or fame. True faith is being *in* Jesus. In the secret place of our personal relationship with Christ, we find intimacy with Him. The eyes of our spiritual hearts are opened to see and hear His songs - He is the supreme songwriter. His way is best; understanding this will give you a mature grasp of governing spiritual authority.

This can't be just learnt from a book; it has to be experienced, and be a working revelation in your own life. We should not allow anything to distract, or rob us from our call. Jesus is our top priority not just our success.

Resurrection Power Is Apostolic

The greatest example of resurrection power is Jesus raised from the dead. David prophesied of Jesus' words on the cross hundreds of years before it happened. *'Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me O Lord God of truth'* (Psalm 31:5). When we fully commit our spirit to God in every area of life, we will also experience great resurrection power in our lives and ministries. In having a consecrated heart, we show our love of the Father, as Jesus also did by going to the cross. As we die to ourselves, His love and resurrection life becomes strong in us,

therefore evident in all we do. This process has inevitable trials in the Christian journey.

Apostolic governing power is resurrecting power. Apostolic music releases and ministers this in every dimension, proclaiming resurrection from deadness to life and changing lives. Moving in this power will come with persecutions as the apostles also experienced in the book of Acts. The apostles turned the world upside down and often got beaten with rods, stoned, or jailed for their efforts. They also sang and praised their way out of their prison house (see Acts 16: 25). Apostolic power in sound can break down the toughest prison doors.

When the nature of resurrection power is in your music you will send the devil hopping mad. You will need to be prepared for some fierce spiritual opposition. Resurrecting power flies in the face of death, defeat, and fear, stirring up religious demons and everything hell can throw against you. It stirs the spirit world as did James and John - the disciples called Sons of Thunder. The Lord is releasing an army of worshipping warriors into the nations - sons and daughters of thunder. Battles will come against you, sometimes from those whom you wouldn't expect; contentions will often be from established religion or the traditions of men (whether old or contemporary). Religious spirits hate resurrection power, however, when this power is released through your music God loves it – it releases His glory.

There are certain times when I have ministered a quiet intimate song during a church service and the power released through the sound caused a demonic manifestation in a person. The exposing of the evil spirit resulted in a deliverance right there in the corporate atmosphere of God's presence. I didn't consciously set out to *make it happen*; it transpired during the song and the person was set free and healed. This has happened on a few occasions where certain people had been troubled for a

number of years and no manner of counseling had solved their oppressions from the devil. In the atmosphere of people gathering, there is a power in music to heal, deliver, and lift burdens off people's lives. The music doesn't always have to be loud, driving, or up beat to have an affect in the spirit world. It's the governing power in the music that makes the difference. This is a characteristic of apostolic music the Lord wants to release into the whole world - it sets people free

Governing Sound

Governing sound has the ability to warfare in authentic commanding power (see chapter 6 on *Spiritual Warfare* from my book *Prophet Musician*). Commanding authority draws people back to God, and can affect whole communities and national territories. This apostolic operation of God's spirit is imperative if our music is to have any real effect in the spirit world.

The transition into this dimension of music is developed through our day to day life and local church; ideally where we are working with apostolic leadership. Under this authority and anointing, we birth governing song and sound for the region we live and even beyond. They are usually prophetic and burden lifting - sent (apostolos) through you by the Spirit of God with apostolic authority. Selah (pause and think about that).

God has new music strategies - distinct governing purposes for sounds to be decreed into the spiritual territories of different nations. Timing is important for the proclamation and release of specific songs. These are apostolic and prophetic declaration songs of God's word and truth; sounding what is and what is to come. Power songs of faith, intimacy, majesty, and glory. Warring songs of violent spirit and aggression - taking the kingdom by force. Gathering songs that call cities and nations to come together. New and fresh prophetic instrumental sounds, in various genres of music, prophesying God's vision into hearts.

New articulation of sound for different cultures, released in the worship of God within their own expression.

Global proclamations that exhort cities and nations to worship Jesus will release the Church to new levels of expression and liberty. These apostolic sounds will be articulated through anointed singers and musicians who are yielded to Jesus, having walked the journey and paid the price to be ambassadors of sound. They are ever changing and fresh as the Holy Spirit leads them. This is beginning to happen already, although there is much more in the future, as the Lord prepares His people to move in the power of apostolic music in these end-times.

What We Sing Is Important

'Praise the Lord'

'For He is good and his mercy endures forever', (2 Chronicles 20:21).

Over 2,800 years ago Jehoshaphat's musicians sang a simple tune with two lines of lyric. There were no song lists. It was a simple symphony from heaven, winning an enormous battle of national and governmental consequence. The heavens split wide open the precise moment they sang. The spiritual atmosphere was affected over the whole area and nation. God's own music strategy released Him to fight the battle (which He loves to do), and the enemy was destroyed. Flesh was put to death.

As a consequence of singing God's battle strategy Israel prospered. Great spoils of rich provision were released to the nation. New songs were also birthed from the experience, and the nation was full of genuine joy and rejoicing - not hype, or entertainment. Now they understood the power of a God given music strategy, and the effect it had. With prophetic revelation their motives in producing song were pure - not just because they wanted a share in the Church music market, or just to be well known, or trying to get the illusive record contract. If this

was today, perhaps only after a battle like this God may allow the church to do an album recording! In this grand biblical example, God's goodness was ultimately acknowledged and experienced nationally. The fear and reverence of God came upon the neighboring nations. The Lord's presence, peace, and rest permeated where Jehoshaphat lived and ruled - astonishing!

Apostolic governing music affects nations (you can observe the dramatic affect of music in the world within our recent rock and pop culture). In Jehoshaphat's music department, no one could take any real credit or glory - it was a move of God due to their obedience, a moment in time requiring fresh current sound. The new monthly song-pack, and the company recommended album of the month, were still sitting in cellophane wrap on J'fats desk. Marketing did not provide the song - it came from seeking God in prayer and fasting. In the night God's people went from fear to faith and the Lord gave the musical plan. The army was not pumped on 10 songs. The power was already in the simplicity of heaven's song - ready to be revealed as God's people flowed with Him. In God's zeal for the increasing government and influence of His people, He set the ambushes and won the battle for them. This song of the Lord prophesied, released power, and destroyed the enemy (see more in later chapters in *Opus 5 on singers, musicians, and prophesying in the proper order*). His song was a message with a mission, delegated and sent from heaven for the vocal messengers of Jehoshaphat's musicians. They were the apostles of sound, the sent ones before the army who pierced the darkness and won the battle.

What song we sing, and when we sing it, is important - this principal applies today; the Church will be what it sings. We need God's current melodies, proclamations and praises. They are apostolic and prophetic in spirit. These spiritual songs and sounds are extremely damaging to the devil. In releasing them you will have spiritual warfare. You must be a seasoned and

wise warrior, for the apostolic dimension is warring. Governing singers and musicians are warriors; their primary focus is not fame, record deals, or their own glory.

The Power of Apostolic Music Destroys the Devils Works

Jesus said, '*...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil*' (1 John 3:8b). Jesus is our David. King David was manifest with governing power in a Tabernacle paradigm that destroys darkness. We are all under the royal apostolic authority of Jesus as modern day music Levites. When His presence and glory is manifest in our music, the devil will flee. Apostolic music has great power to resist the devil.

In this time of apostolic reform, there are sounds in heaven to be articulated on the earth having the same impact as Jehoshaphat's singers and musicians. There is a call from heaven going through the nations to '*Blow the trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly, gather the people, sanctify the congregation...*' (Joel 2:15-16). The time is now - to have an ear to hear the sounds the Holy Spirit declares in heaven, and release them into the earth through the power of apostolic music.

Selah and sing!

7

Heaven Sounds Earth Sounds

One mouse click and I am around the world. One click and decisions are executed without moving an inch. One click, I bank and shop. One click, we communicate over thousands of miles, anywhere at anytime. One click of the remote, and in an instant I see what governments, armies, and economies are doing. One click and it all falls into place, where it once wouldn't work, or would take so long. Today, a click changes things.

Walt Disney brought joy to children with a mouse. Small noise has become a big sound. Tiny, can turn into a huge avalanche or explosion. In the axis of a heart and mind, a little whirl of change sets in motion wise choices and great consequences. The crack in a wall can undermine the foundation, and suddenly history is pulled down that divides a city. The hairline fracture in a leg bone can disable movement and motion, yet the pain may challenge your character to be stronger and change forever. I like the furless synthetic marsupial purring in my palm as I compute. I like new clicks. New things make your life more effective and productive - if they are embraced.

Consider these thoughts: are our hearts online, or are they stuck in an old fax machine? Do we hear the sounds of change, forever working in our world? Do we hear sounds on earth as they are in heaven? God loves change. He has a sound for every season; heaven is passionate to mix with earth. There are new sounds and strategies for His Church, and for the governing role music must have. The world system is speeding forward with incredible momentum. It is now the time for end day's ministry

before the Lord's return. The Holy Spirit is moving in mighty ways now. We must listen and be ready.

Sing Decrees to the Wind

The wind of the Holy Spirit is everywhere for God is omnipotent. The Church is everywhere, for God's tabernacle is people. It is ordained of God that we prophesy, sing, proclaim, and declare into the spirit world. This is a governing, apostolic prophetic action; these decrees change things, as heaven sounds its music through us into the earth. The New Testament apostles gave decrees to the Church and strengthened it (see Acts 15: 22-32). During the middle ages in Europe, the old market town criers rang their bells in the village-square to gather the people. They unfurled a scroll, and proclaimed an ordinance or decree to the town. It was then considered done - *"yea even now the law."*

Ezekiel the prophet spoke to the wind (the life giving breath of God, see Ezekiel 37:1-14). The world of the spirit was moved, and the sounds of his words accomplished action in the whole House of Israel. The nation revived and became a great army - it happened as Ezekiel spoke. He could have sung as the prophets often did, either way, the appointed voice of the prophet had to be heard, and be connected with the Holy Spirit breath of life. He was the voice of God's desire, speaking to the wind as the Lord commanded - it was God's way. This fusion of human voice and spirit brought change. This prophetic action is a type of the Church functioning in apostolic authority in the end-times - singers and musicians speaking to the wind with the melodies of change.

The Prophet's Result

Ezekiel responded with obedience to God's strategy. We proclaim to the breath with our music, as did the voice of the prophet. The effect Ezekiel had applies to us today. The dead culture of a church environment can change back to real

kingdom life. Structure that is out of order, can transition into proper apostolic order - then everything begins to fit correctly. New life dawns, as the foundation bones of the Church Body respond to the sound of the prophet's voice in the wind. The singers and musicians play heaven's sounds, and power comes like a rushing mighty wind (see Acts 2:2). The Lord is then revealed in all His glory and majesty. In a short time, what was dry, changes into a fearless army. Bringing forth the right sounds and voice raises an army - anything is possible! A new thing is springing forth and *'shall you not know it?'* (see Isaiah 43:19).

Church Alive and Functioning

The dramatic change that Ezekiel brought about, is a mirror of what will happen more in our time through the influence and power of apostolic music from the Church. Singers and musicians who carry this authority must work closely in genuine relationship with an apostolic leader and team - particularly the music director, or chief musician, or prophet singer overseer. Ultimately these governing music leaders must be fully embraced and their gifts released in the Church - to wait on the Lord and give birth to apostolic songs and sound. In David's day, singers and musicians were actually employed just to thank the Lord. What a great job that would be - a *Thankerologist* - and paid to do it! *'Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! Because His mercy endures forever'* (Psalm 118:1).

Music leaders and their families must be provided for as they were in the days of Nehemiah. They need to be at peace because there is constant spiritual war with their job description. It's not just a normal 9am to 5pm job; it is a high calling - a way of life. Music leadership is to be absolutely protected, loved, nurtured, committed to, covered, interceded for, and saturated in prayer (see chapter 26 *Provided for in the Proper Order*). The devil hates the spiritual authority of singers and musicians, for they help to accelerate the Church. Music oversight must be understood and

facilitated biblically in an apostolic context. If this does not happen people will suffer, and the gift of heaven's sound in the Church will be impeded.

Earth's New Sound

*'The gift of prophecy may come through human mouths or actions,
but it originates in the mind of God – spiritual thoughts in
spiritual words and demonstrations'*

(1 Corinthians 2:9-16) - The Coming Prophetic Revolution by Jim W. Goll

Many have asked, "What is the new sound? Is it newer styles of music, or just the old revived?" Kevin Prosch (a prophet musician) aptly prophesied in the lyric of a song in the 1990's - "God is speaking through the music." The new sound is not a specific style of music, or the music edge of any particular church movement and their in-house culture. They are sounds from heaven, received here on earth; heaven's sounds voiced in our music and song, in whatever style is pertinent for any church, city, or nation. Inspired melodies, rhythms, grooves, lyrics, and music ideas released through the sounds we use on earth.

Often many of these are already in nations and cultures, like the passion of the Latinos sounds and flamenco. The sound is a voice - His voice in our sound. David tells us the Lord's voice is very powerful.

*'The voice of the Lord is **powerful**; the voice of the Lord is full of **majesty**... The voice of the Lord **breaks** the cedars... The voice of the Lord **divides** the flames of fire... The voice of the Lord **shakes** the wilderness...The voice of the Lord makes the deer give **birth**, and **strips** the forests bare; and in his temple everyone says, "**glory!**"'* (Psalm 29:4-9).

Where God's voice is, there will be glory. The Lord's powerful sound and voice is a spiritual dynamic in music that goes way

beyond entertaining, or excellence of execution. It is expressed through consecrated singers and musicians, with great release and power in what God is saying to the Church now. In essence these are spiritual songs, or songs of the Lord. They are prophetic; wrought and shaped in us by the Holy Spirit through our character in Christ. *'Indeed He sends out his voice, a mighty voice'* (Psalm 68:33b). We then craft these songs and sounds on the earth that have been sent by the Spirit. *'The Lord is my strength and song'* (Psalm 118:14). Jesus Christ is our ultimate source of song.

Many gifted musicians in the world also experience this principal of receiving music *from above*, whether they know God or not. Paul McCartney dreamt the song *Yesterday*, one of the most recorded in popular music. John Lennon used to say he heard song melodies from above. Recently in a television interview Michael Jackson said, *"Musicians need to get out of the way of the music and listen. Let the music play through you."* He sat up in his favorite tree at home in Never-Land and hears songs from above. His music has helped shape the musical sounds in popular culture. Many of these styles and sounds are actually used in worship today, and throughout the music of Christendom. Michael Jackson has a controversial life, however it does not take away the fact that he has a very sensitive music gift. Imagine all of these artists creating for the glory of God. Some may say, *"Oh the devil gave them the music."* Jesus said, *'the thief (devil) does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly'* (see John 10:10). The bible says that in the last days, *'I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh'* (see Joel 2:28). Many unbelievers hear and create beautiful music through their gifts in many styles. They may not acknowledge its from the God of the bible, however, most do know its from above somewhere.

The Greek word for spirit is *pneuma*. It means breeze, or a breath of fresh air. Our songs are to carry the purposes of God's heart in the fresh winds of Holy Spirit power. They are articulated on the earth through creative, devoted singers and musicians. You know it when you hear it - one's response is instant. It's real and intense with nothing false; it is spirit to spirit, deep to deep, and heart to heart. *'Deep calls unto deep at the noise of your waterfalls, all Your waves and billows have gone over me'* (Psalm 42:7). The waters of His Spirit touch you like Niagara Falls - now that is power.

Music in church services and times with God should not be powerless, short, boring, entertaining interludes; leaving people hungry for more so they will keep coming back, or just sound bite music slots between announcements.

These gatherings should be moments that change your life in a continuity of growth - glory to glory, building line upon line - because the God of heaven is in the midst with all His fullness. David tells us that God's desire and love is to inhabit, live, remain, and stay in the praises and sounds of His people. *'But you are holy Who inhabits the praises of Israel'* (Psalm 22:3).

Spiritless Sound

God said through the prophet Amos, *'I hate, I despise your feast days, and I do not savor your sacred assemblies. Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them, nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings. Take away from me the noise of your songs, for I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments. But let justice run down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream'* (Amos 5:21-24).

The prophet warns that we can get to a place of blasé habitual routine and increased heartlessness with our music. It is easy to be blinded by professionalism and the constant striving to get

things just right. The power can wane in the process, and God can get tired of our church meetings and offerings. Our music can become an aggravating noise to Him, like the repetitive, loud continual ringing, of an unanswered phone. It is amazing God could get bored, or sick and tired of our music. It maybe nice and melodious, however, in His eyes it can become religious and lifeless - a well performed noise in a predictable time slot. The heart of Christ and the sound of true kingdom spirit are found wanting, as the form, performance, or image becomes more important. When we play, or sing, we must remember we are serving God and one another. It has been said, *'it is not how brilliant you sing or play the tune, but it is by the Spirit with which you play it that you will move people.'* Jesus warned the church of Sardis, *'...you have a name that you are alive but you are **dead**'* (Revelation 3:1). Sometimes we may think we are alive, yet be almost dead in our spirit and not even know it. Now there's a shock; their works were not perfect before God, and they were called to repent! Our reputations, human hype, sleek professionalism, and contemporary image are not enough anymore. If we are not careful it can all be deceptive to experiencing true life in the Spirit. Remember Jesus said, *"even the elect"* can be deceived if possible (see Matthew 24:24). You will know the difference by discerning the Spirit, and having an ear to hear what He is saying (see Revelation 3:6). How do we know how to keep from error?

Error and Truth

Jesus said, *'If you **abide** in my **word**, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the **truth**, and the truth shall make you **free**'* (John 8:31-32). Free from what? Free from error that takes you away from the truth. Error will bind you up. The new apostolic reformation will bring the Church into the truth of her proper function. Various degrees of error can often be found in an atmosphere where people are led continuously with hype, constant unending pressure with the entanglements of earthly

business, projects, events, and activities, without any real rest. Congregations are always kept on the go - excessively busy, and even entertained.

Leaders attempt to excite their people in God, with a myriad of things to be involved with and attend. Nevertheless this can be wearisome in the long term, as people are not really led to a place where they can grow maturely, in an authentic, intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. The fruit of constant inordinate pressure maybe disillusionment, sickness, divorce, chronic fatigue, backsliding, or simply people getting to the point where they have had enough. The true apostolic anointing does not produce this fruit.

The fruit of error can also be seen in the music atmosphere of church life. It is not a normal biblical function to watch worship, or sit silent with arms folded. When there is no sense of real genuine moving of the Holy Spirit, the majority of people will sit quiet most of the time, or watch with respectful boredom, or tired familiarity. These are signs of some level of spiritual captivity - something is wrong. It may all sound good and edifying, yet there is not a freedom in the fullness of liberty God intends for His House. Look out on the congregation - if we *really* touch the heart of God, our own hearts will be changed. *'The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord'* (Psalm 97:5). His presence doesn't just move your mountains - it melts them.

Worship services (especially in today's apostolic era) should be an increasing encounter with the manifest presence of the Lord. His glory, and the profound change it brings to our lives, should be our experience. As believers we can't capitulate to being overly casual in our attitudes, or only focus on just being professional. This can breed arrogance in churches, where again the form ends up taking precedence and denies the release of

true power. *'God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be held in reverence by all those around Him'* (Psalm 89:7). Error, however subtle, will keep heavens sounds away from the earth; that is why Jesus warned us that the worst Christian deceptions in these end-times are not so obvious.

David prayed, *'Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults. Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression'* (Psalm 19:12-13). Doing things in presumptive error is a great transgression to God's people. Doing things for God in truth, will bring forth greatness and catch the attention of nations. It will be a dream come true, and many may wonder what they were doing before. *'When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them"'* (Psalm 126:1-3).

Popular

In the western world the songs performed in many church meetings have just become well-crafted popular styled music: often predictable, easily marketed, entertaining, and consumer friendly, some are just produced for the royalties they generate. The music is celebrated, and much of it is exemplary and positive, although it can fall short of the impact it could have in the Spirit.

Commercial popular music often communicates an idealistic fantasy of life, be it a girl or boy, a lifestyle, or another world we want to escape to - *"I'll love you all night long baby!"* The idealism is often over the top. You may feel a sense of escape, or being suspended from normality, however, never really touching what you are crying out for in your heart. It may make you dream, yet it can't take you there - in the end it is not reality.

If overly contrived popular style praise is the only music ever played in a church, the result may be similar. It may be fun and edifying, yet rarely carries an apostolic breakthrough anointing that takes you to a place of glory in the Spirit. This is true, especially when there is a major over emphasis on performance, or keeping up a church image, or when the music presentation is often produced with a marketing motive, or just for media. At worst, when it is a sleek church showcase set to impress. The emphasis on image (which is quite prevalent today) creates a stage performance, where moving in time, clicking fingers, wearing exquisite robes, or trendy brand clothing, or colors, often overshadows the reasons why we are on a platform. The lyrics we sing may all sound good, however, we end up missing the point. In many church services the music has been reduced to a predictable 15 minute warm up before announcements and the preaching. People's hearts are left hanging out for more. You feel suspended, not having arrived - before all the advertisements and in house news take over. This is not a healthy place to be in for worshippers. Over time people can be lulled into thinking that is all there is.

In our efforts to be contemporary, current, and popular, our sounds can easily become spiritually dull, although it all seems right. The dullness gets on you because music has huge covering power over people in a local church. Why does this happen? In our highly stimulated visual world, we have allowed image and performance, to sometimes usurp the more important consideration of a greater relationship and consecration to Jesus Christ. The end result is a form that denies the release of real governing power. It is in such a place where God may say, *"take away from me the noise of your songs."*

Many styles and expressions of music are used and blessed by God. In right context they are all effective. Many Christian artists are called into the numerous areas of music as a witness for

Christ. There are bands with vision to release the glory of God through various music genres in the world market. This trend is increasing, and is highly effective in reaching people who will never go near a church building - especially the younger generation. With the apostolic anointing, we should be invading our culture in all realms outside the walls of what we call churches, however, if we just try to stay popular within established church, we may create a maintenance level of music that is safe and spiritually middle of the road. This can breed an entertained, spectator audience, who are hooked on meetings - when they should be a participating congregation who can mature through intimacy with the Lord and be released as the mighty Army of God.

When people do not participate, or are unmoved by music in church, the problem may be with their own attitude; sometimes they are going through difficulties in life, or their church experience is all they have ever known and they are stuck in a rut.

Nevertheless, the Lord is calling His whole Church to a much higher apostolic place, where His government is executed through awesome music; sounds which carry and release His grandeur, majesty, and glory that brings change. The mountains in people's lives will melt away in His presence; healing and deliverance should be common place. We have to live spiritually rich in God's wisdom to see this happen with our music.

The forging of mature able character, to be apostolic singers and musicians, is a journey that takes time and needs steady building under apostolic authority. It is often wrought with trials and tribulations. Our God is a builder - the apostolic paradigm is a master building anointing. Great construction takes time, especially with human beings. There are no cutting

corners in our journey with the Lord. *'Unless **the Lord** builds the house, they labor **in vain** who build it'* (Psalm 127:1). The point is clear - we must do things the Lord's way. We are all on a restorative journey and we cannot stay camped where we have been. If we only follow the popular, or the ways of the world, our worship may become vain. We may honor God with our lips and our style, but our hearts can still be far from Him (see Matthew 15:8).

Psalms Hymns and Spiritual Songs

The bible tells us, *'sing to **Him**, sing psalms to Him; talk of **all his wondrous works**'* (Psalm 105:2a). The New Testament also says, *'Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him'* (Colossians 3:16-17 and Ephesians 5:19).

We are to sing to God, and we are also to speak to one another - even to cities and nations - in psalms, hymns, and spirit songs. The use of psalms and hymns are in literal terms; God's song-book of Psalms, the biggest book in the bible. The Lord loves the psalms, and there is power in using them, nevertheless, they are a seed, and a template of possibilities for now and in our future. We are not limited to only use the 150 Psalms in the bible, because the Lord says, *'Sing to the Lord a **new song**'* (Psalm 33:3, 40:3, 96:1 & 98:1, 144:9, 149:1). *'Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus'* (Colossian 3:17). Today there are thousands of new sacred songs being birthed continually. There are more songs and sounds on the earth now than any other time in history. They are fresh, and expressed in many styles.

In the birthing and progression of music in David's day, we have the song collection of Psalms. In historic reformation, the Church

revived and grew with new hymns, penned by the likes of John and Charles Wesley and other reformers. In these end times, we fully mature into spiritual songs birthed by the Holy Ghost that carry governing power. In them blows a fresh wind from heaven - prophetic and apostolic in spirit, heaven sounding into the earth. The greatest songwriters in history were some of the greatest theologians; for example, Martin Luther the great German reformer of the 1500's and the Wesley Brothers from England in the 1700's. Charles Wesley wrote over 3000 songs. These were people who were strong in the word of God.

(Visit John Wesley's historic home in London at the Wesley Chapel and Leysian Center, 49 City Road London EC1Y 1AU - it is very inspiring). If you want heaven's sound in your music, be as the reformers were - rich in the word. '*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path*' (Psalm 119:105). Let God's word be a lamp and light to your songs.

Heaven's Spirit Sound

There is something absolutely fresh and new for us in this apostolic move. The Lord wants our music drenched in a river of reviving experience - in a mighty way. In the Old Testament, the prophet Amos said our music could become unacceptable to God. He further says, '*but let justice run down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream*' (Amos 5:24). The sound of justice with righteousness in our music ultimately compels people closer to God; for it is all about Him. The *proper order* in the Hebrew language means *the Lord's justice*. It is His way and pattern of doing things. This is the divine order we must function in. When there is a free flow of water (the Spirit) the results are mighty. The justice, or proper order, also refers to the apostolic order of David's Tabernacle and the mighty sound it releases. When our music is a mighty stream of apostolic power and not a noise to God, we will help bring forth what is right and good - the Lord's justice. Our sound will then usher in great change in the nations.

The governing music God desires soars on the wings of holiness, and the righteousness of Christ's life working in us. It is reviving, revelatory, and reformatory in spirit. This music brings great change in the atmosphere, and to the hearts of man. There is an undeniable authority in the midst of His presence and glory; for the sounds are heaven sent. It is a voice of the new, not only an echo of elsewhere, or what has been repeated many times before. It is not music only created by reason of man's good ideas, or for the demands of a church culture, or for the uniformity of denominations, or movements that have institutional traditions or liturgies. It is not because of the pressure of earthly market forces to produce records (as good as they may be), and all the marketable stuff that can often end up being middle of the road. How do we avoid these pitfalls? By staying totally Jesus focused; having an ear to hear what the Holy Spirit is truly saying, and to sing, proclaim, and be involved in only what God requires.

New Thing

The power of apostolic music brings change. Our God is doing '*a new thing*' (see Isaiah 43:18). Former things are relinquished, and in the process there is a renewing of apostolic vision. New freshness of spirit is set constantly in God's new thing, and enemies bow down to its governing authority. Spiritual rivers of life flood into dry, ancient, hard and crusty places like a mighty stream. God fashions and feeds His people to really ambassador Him in their lives. We must respond maturely according to His plans.

When the world hears the sounds from heaven they will worship Jesus, '*the Desire of All Nations*' (Haggai 2:7). Singers and musicians have the governing gift and power from God to unlock this. The Lord is setting things in order in this hour to make it so.

It may be a new thing for many people, however God has prepared for thousands of years to see this time come to pass. '... *The God of Israel is He who gives **strength** and **power** to His people*' (Psalm 68:35b). '*All the kings of the earth shall **praise** you, O Lord, when they hear the **words of your mouth**. Yes, they shall **sing** of the ways of the Lord, for **great** is the **glory** of the Lord*' (Psalm 138:4-5).

Praise His Power

David was emphatic in praise, '*Be exalted, O Lord, in Your **own strength!** We will sing and **praise your power***' (Psalm 21:13). King Nebuchadnezzar made a decree to the whole known world 2,500 year ago, '*that at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, you shall fall down and worship the gold image...*' (Daniel 3:4-5). There was a demonic governing power present in ancient Babylon (Iraq), causing everybody in the known world to respond to idolatry - amazing! How much more can the Church cause the nations to bow and worship the King of kings and Lord of lords? We need heaven's sounds on the earth. With apostolic governing power by the glory and majesty of our God - the nations will turn to the Lord. This is the power of God that David understood and sang about. It was the glory King David lived in. My good friend, Pastor Dave Markee in England, says that God is about to redeem this Lost Glory (Dave's book *The Lost Glory* – see back for details). In our time, it will be with even greater power.

We must encourage one another onward in our quest with God, to bring heaven's sounds into the earth. Up until now, what the Body of Christ has experienced in the power of music has been extraordinary, especially in recent years, however, there is so much more to come in this apostolic restoration. We must stay hungry for God and focused on doing things His way.

Selah on all that with a nice hot earthly cuppa.

8

Apostolic Music Assignments

Cyrus Stockland was floating face down, dead still, in a deep blue pool. In his hand was a rolled parchment with a red ribbon and a crowned wax seal. His eyes were shut and the sun was shining warmly on his back. Even though he couldn't see them, he was aware of hundreds of people at the edge of the pool looking at him; they stood like cardboard cutouts with their arms outstretched - they wanted what was in his hand. Cyrus had been praying at home, but he was now no longer on his knees. It felt like he was in a pool; yet more like in a womb suspended in amniotic wonder. He opened his eyes and gazed down into the fathomless blue; in a moment all his musical learning melted away as his ears popped and he began to hear - a rich voice resounded, a melody accompanied, and a rhythm danced unlike anything he had heard in the conservatoire. The distant beat of a heart gracefully wove itself through the tempo. Suddenly he was in front of his orchestra; the baton melted like a candy stick, and instead, his fingers spread and played arpeggios in the air. In this vision his musicians were following music they could not see, yet they felt it as he moved his fingers - they were surrounded by light. Thousands in their seats were listening behind him; then they all stood in unison with their hands raised. In the pool his body hung there in the liquid as if dead. Slowly his arms came together; they were wrinkled and white like a laboratory specimen. He slipped off the ribbon and broke the red seal. The parchment unrolled itself and floated up in front of his eyes. He gasped at the arrangement, the glowing golden stave, and the exquisite royal brush strokes of each black note. He thought of Shakespeare, Bach, Mozart and all the

others he had studied. He knew they had heard something; now he understood what he had yearned for in his heart. In a moment he was awake, rolled up in a ball on the teal green carpet of his lounge. His cup of tea still emitted little hot vapors. The chocolate Tim-Tam biscuit was now a little brown pool in the saucer. How long his vision had been he did not know. He lay there on his back pondering every note, every change, and every sound - his life would never be the same.

You have the key of David as a singer and musician. You can hear the sounds of heaven. Through your music you can open doors in the spirit no man can shut (Revelation 3:7). The apostolic commanding power of heaven is in your sounds. These songs and pieces of music carry governmental spiritual weight when they are written, sung, and proclaimed. The effect they have is always present any given time they are released. God also gives you specific music assignments as you move forward and mature in your walk with Him.

USA

For example, at the end of 1986, the Lord gave me a prophetic proclamation song for the United States called, *Come back to the Lord America*. The Lord specifically said to me, “*You will record it in 5 years.*” At the time I tried to change the song to fit some other nation, as I didn’t have any specific vision to go to America. Most people did not understand the song, or show much interest; my awareness of its purpose was also limited. The recording was completed 5 years later - at the beginning of a period when the Lord sent my wife and I into the nations.

From 1993 we began ministry visits to America. The Holy Spirit led me to proclaim the song wherever we ministered. He said, “*Take the Old Glory - the Stars and Stripes of the US flag, and wave it as a banner over the people. As you sing and proclaim the song, call the nation back to me.*” I did this in obedience. Believers wept as they

were stirred deeply in their spirit, and many prayed for the nation to be saved and changed. Wherever we went I was conscious of singing to the wind of the Spirit in America with new glory. There were strong prophetic moments as we traveled and ministered. I was aware of singing with the authority of the key of David, opening heavenly doors no man could shut. Something powerful was being released in the spirit, touching the dry bones of the land. I will never know the full effect of those times until eternity, but we had some part to play as a voice in God's plans. The prophet Ezekiel spoke in obedience to God; he triggered change into a whole nation (see Ezekiel 37). All that is needed is one man or woman to speak, or sing, at the appointed time. This premise is very real and biblical - one spark lights a big fire.

Your Songs

You may have songs and music with a specific, unique, divine mandate. Others may not be interested, or even understand them. You may be in a small or large church, in the country backwoods, or deep in the city - it does not matter. Your day will come to release your music if you are positioned and planted in the right place. Martin Smith (singer and songwriter, from the band *Delirious?* in the South of England) faithfully served God as a young man, writing songs to the Lord in his private place of prayer. In a few short years, those songs contributed a prophetic change to the tone of worship in many places around the globe.

Listening to children sing Martin's song, *I could sing of your love forever* (see www.worshiptogether.com), you realize again that we must teach our children to prophesy and decree in music. The apostolic paradigm is not always a perception of the austere and serious - it covers all of life and should also be fun. God is raising an apostolic, prophetic generation, and there are many yet to be released with apostolic assignment in their music. They are history makers and world changers.

Scripture in Song

In the late 1960's, David and Dale Garratt of New Zealand, were commissioned by God to start the music ministry of *Scripture in Song*. They were among the forerunners, facilitators, and inspirers, of a fresh new move of charismatic Christian worship. *Scripture in Song* inspired many and facilitated much of the new music. The liberty of fresh Christian music expression kept growing. The Jesus People Movement in America was a significant contributor. Christian Contemporary Music as we know today came from this move, along with other facilitators like *Maranatha and Integrity Music*. Now there are many new innovative music companies. In 1993, after 25 years, the Lord told the Garratts that *Scripture in Song* had completed its assignment. They were in a time of apostolic transition, and they founded *New Sound Ministries*.

They continue travelling the world inspiring different cultures in their worship of God (especially the indigenous and island groups) - to redeem their own unique sounds and cultural dance for His glory. Their work is apostolic. The Body of Christ has been blessed by their obedience to go to the nations where they have had influence in worship. It's now the time in history when the nations will come to worship the Lord. The Garratt's call and life assignment was specific and pioneering. They are an example of faithfulness to their commission.

Specific Calling

Apostolic calling is specific. Paul said, '*... for He who worked effectively in Peter for the **apostleship** to the circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles*' (Galatians 2:8).

The apostle Paul received his assignment and calling directly from Jesus. He was to carry the Gospel to the Gentiles (see Acts 9). It was an apostolic breakthrough assignment with global consequences. It wasn't easy for Paul, and he had many battles

along the way. He was often beaten and thrown in jail. There are churches today that would say, “*Oh I wonder what he has done wrong, the blessing has gone off his life.*” Paul’s breakthrough apostolic anointing changed the world; people are still changing through what he released in the spirit and the scriptures he wrote. Paul was a new sound from a very unlikely source. His born again life (from being a religious zealot), was now a new song, a new living letter. His conversion and message shook the status quo of Jewish believers. In the eyes of the Jews, Paul was commissioned to unlikely people - the rest of the world.

If Peter tried to do Paul’s job, or vice versa, it wouldn’t have worked. Their mandate of apostle-ship was different. In your church, region, and national territory, there are songs you must bring forth. Each country, territory, or region has a specific music message from God. Peter and Paul had specific tasks. People have music gifts, and they are assigned specifically to those regions. This principal also applies to the art and media world, business and politics, or secular music. There are different principalities, controlling spirits, and challenges to deal with in every territory. The Lord has specific strategy for every situation. You cannot put everything into a neat box, with a formula attached, that can be marketed to work anywhere. You must be sensitive to what the Lord is saying where you are. You are there to sing, proclaim, and play God’s new song.

Be Yourself

It’s easy to get caught in the trap of just doing music, or projects, with a self-promoted belief that *‘the whole world needs it.’* Products can be created on a treadmill of marketing deadlines or contracts, with some made to just increase a church profile, or *make it* in the industry. Producing recordings and communication resources is part of the joy of being a singer and musician, and creating them may often bond a team together. In our motives for producing these things, we have to be careful not

to cross the line into pride, arrogance and vanity. Always thinking *'we are the best in the world,'* is a trap.

It may take you from humility in your music, to a place where performance out-weighs the power of God. There are so many facets to Christendom and there are many edges that cut, although none are exclusively the cutting edge. You don't have to be the same as the most famous CCM band, or as the worship leader down the road, or across the globe. Enjoy their blessing and unique qualities. Learn from them and be inspired, however, you must be yourself.

Apostolic singers and musicians don't follow fads - they follow Jesus. They are aware of current trends, but ultimately, their sounds are enmeshed in what God is doing where they are, and the music assignments He has given them. If Jesus wants the world to have your music He will make a way, and perhaps they will come banging on your door. Marketing can elevate for moments of time, but genuine biblical fame comes because of the power of God.

The Twelve Apostles

The original twelve apostles of Jesus had specific assignments. He gave them power as sent ones; this is a significant point. Their power healed, cleansed, raised up people from deadness, confronted demons, and cast them out (see Matthew 10:1,8). Governing music, yet to be fully released in the earth, will carry great power, having the same effect. The evident power of God is a hallmark of true apostolic calling - glorifying the Lord. Ministries and churches that genuinely receive the apostolic and prophetic gifts in music will see great provision to fulfill all that God desires. Jesus said to the apostles, *'a worker is worthy of his food'* (Matthew 10:10). Jesus also said if they were not received or provided for, *'shake off the dust from your feet'* and move on (Matthew 10:14). With some churches you just have to do this

(see provision to the singers and musicians in chapter 26, *Provided for in the Proper Order*).

Jesus made it clear to the sent apostles; it will not always be easy, even though they had anointing with power. Jesus said, *'for it is not you who speak but the Spirit of your father who speaks in you'* (see Matthew 10:20). If we are true followers of Jesus, His sound will speak in and through us. We can take note for today - not everyone will receive you, or hear what you are saying (see Matthew 10:14). Be wise, and beware of religious men. There will be times when it may be very difficult for you in certain churches (see Matthew 10:16-17). Jesus said the apostles will have family warfare, they won't always be loved, and persecution will come with the call - ouch! Jesus' exhortation and resolve for them was to *'endure'* (see Matthew 10:22). Three times Jesus said, *'do not fear'*. Their battles were constant for they were establishing the apostolic paradigm of the Church (see Matthew 10:26,28,31). There are churches today that would consider you not blessed by God if you have opposition and problems - this is deception. True apostolic anointing leads the way and will always be vehemently opposed by the devil.

Jesus also encouraged his apostles to just do what he said, *'Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light, and what you hear in the ear, preach...'* (see Matthew 10:27). This principle is the same for singers and musicians, to have an ear to hear what the spirit is saying, and play it with governing power - whatever you may go through in life.

Jesus also said a curious thing to the apostles, *'Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth, I did not come to bring peace but a sword'* (see Matthew 10:34). The spirit and power of apostolic music, divides darkness from light, and the true from the false. In difficulties, we must take up the cross of our call in life, and completely follow Jesus (see Matthew 10:38). In laying down our

agendas for His ways we find our purpose - we move onward as followers of Christ to fulfill our call and assignments. In that place we carry the power of apostolic music, releasing the glory of God.

Selah-assign.

9

Root Out, Pull Down, Throw down, Destroy, Build and Plant

Jeremiah was a man who thought he was too young to be a prophet. He knew what ministry was about; as he grew up, he had watched his father. His heritage from His dad was great, yet he was not convinced it was for him. His father Hilkiah was the high priest in Israel, who helped the young king Josiah re-build the house of the Lord (see 2 Kings 22). Josiah was a type of apostolic reformer in Israel who walked in the ways of David and restored worship. The apostolic anointing builds. Jeremiah was from a family that helped to bring change and build God's way - it was his heritage.

One day God said to Jeremiah, *"I ordained you a prophet to the nations"* (Jeremiah 1:5). God commissioned and appointed this young man to be a nation changer.

Jeremiah thought he was too young and said, *"Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth"* (Jeremiah 1:6).

God replied, *"Do not say, 'I am a youth,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak"* (Jeremiah 1:7).

Young Jeremiah was also fearful of those that would oppose him. God said, *"Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you"* (Jeremiah 1:8).

Then the Lord touched his mouth and said, “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth” (Jeremiah 1:9).

Jeremiah is like many singers and musicians who have a prophetic, apostolic call. Each have a gift, yet they need a divine touch from God to put heaven’s sound in their song. They all need God’s strength and power to allay any fears, and have divine confidence to be His messengers. They should be sent ones, taking heaven’s mandate into the world under apostolic authority. After God had touched Jeremiah he then gave him the prophet’s commission - it was his job description. If we are to be strong governing singers and musicians, releasing heaven’s sound into the earth, we need to understand this commission. It is very much a part of the role of music, and the effect it has in the spirit.

The Job Description

*‘See, I have this day **set you** over the nations and over the kingdoms, (that is ruling authority) **to root out** and to **pull down, to destroy,** and to **throw down, to build** and to **plant**’ (Jeremiah 1:10).*

There are 4 consecutive elements to Jeremiah’s governing job description. First element - he had to be *set* by God. This means to oversee, care for, to be appointed, to visit, to muster, and to do judgement. The apostolic and prophetic foundation gifts are set by God to affect the territories of nations and kingdoms, both in the natural and spiritual.

Second element - 4 exhortations to destroy with total eradication. This is high level spiritual warfare that brings major change in the territories involved - by doing away with all the hindrances to God’s purposes. This is apostolic governing influence, where God is unleashing his supernatural power in full force. Third element - to build the new. Apostles and prophets build stronghold churches that benefit generations. Fourth element -

new and fresh apostolic movements planting and multiplying from what has been built. This was a major appointment; no wonder the young man had fear! He probably thought, 'How can I do this?' The Lord said to him, 'Do not be afraid... **I am with you**' (Jeremiah 1:8). God's presence and glory will be strong with the apostolic singers and musicians who will effect the nations.

Total Eradication

In God's commission to Jeremiah, the 4 commands for total eradication involve more than just binding and shouting at the devil. The 4 prophetic actions get to the deep roots of situations needing change - both in the natural, and in the spiritual ruler-ship of our lives and churches. If we want reformatory revival to continue individually and corporately, we must totally do away with what is not needed, and no longer works. This must be our resolve so the new can build.

The power of apostolic music has this effect through sound and proclamation. It roots out and pulls down principalities of darkness, and exposes false and futile things getting in the way of a church moving forward. This effect may be over cities and nations, as seen in scripture. To carry this power and ability, there must be repentance of sin. The ongoing removal of things hindering us in our own lives ensures we will have real lasting change. Otherwise we will not have the authority, or anointing, to effectively rule over nations and kingdoms.

In the Old Testament, a part of the job of the Levite priests was to bake fresh showbread every week, placing them before the Lord on a holy table. The left over bread was never kept for the following Sabbath. They either ate it, or burned it in an offering to God. With our music we must not settle for yesterdays sound going cold, or turning into irrelevant religious *show* bread that hangs around week after week going moldy (see 1 Samuel 21:6). We need sounds that are constantly hot and fresh for now!

We must arise maturely into all the fullness God has for the Church. Why? So we can build, repair, and fix into place, a secure strong legacy for future generations. The result of rooting out, and building in the apostolic model, is that the Church is able to accommodate (with maturity and divine order) tens of thousands of people responding to the gospel of Jesus Christ in our cities. So how do we root out, pull down, destroy, throw down, build and plant?

Perform My Word

The context to fulfill Jeremiah 1:10 is found in the previous verses, *'whatever I command you, you shall speak...Behold I have put my words in your mouth...'* (Jeremiah 1:7,9). The Lord then states to the young prophet, *'You have seen well, for I am ready to perform my word...'* (Jeremiah 1:12). In verse 11, the Lord asked Jeremiah an important question; it is pertinent for us today. He said, *'What do you see?'*

Can you see things the way He sees? Are your eyes opened to what God is about to do in the earth, and with your life? Are you ready? The Lord wants to fulfill all of His word. Jesus followed and did what He saw the Father doing; we must be like Him – this takes faith. *'Then they believed his words; they sang his praise'* (Psalm 106:12). Jehoshaphat's singers and musicians had a simple song. It was God's words and strategy to win a major war. The Church must sing and sound whatever the Lord commands us. Jehoshaphat's singers and musicians were not following world fads just because it was cool. The activation of His word roots out things not of God, and prepares a place for building with spiritually governing power. God loves performing His word and so must we.

Give them My Word

Preaching or teaching only motivational or inspirational messages (as good and practical as they may be), is not enough

today. A continual diet of this leaves many Christians in spiritual deficit, especially in our busy world where spending time in God's word is such a premium. Each of us must have God's word and the mature understanding of its full counsel in our daily lives. Why? *'Because they have forsaken me...Burned incense to other Gods...worshipped the work of their own hands'* (Jeremiah 1:16). It's easy to end up worshipping our own stuff as Christians - even with all our vision and pursuits. Singers and musicians who carry and release effective authority, are ones who obey and do God's word. The ministry of these last days will require it. God says in His word, *'Oh sing unto me a new song'* (see Psalm 96:1) - because you will need to for a breakthrough. We must have His strategy, His commanded word for the cities of this world.

Distraction from the Word

The life of a church can begin well in the spirit, however, over time it may easily get too comfortable, predictable, entertainment oriented and merchandised. Busyness takes over from prayer and God's word. We become rigid, inflexible, and too conscious of our image, where we opt for being spiritually safe. Our music appeases and tickles, without invasion. We stray from the primary purpose of reaching our world, and the battle that goes with it. Knowing the Lord becomes an add-on option to our busy schedules. God's divine strategies for His House are lost in a myriad of religious activity, achieving little of genuine consequence. Add to this, the increased pressures, thousands of choices, and mind-boggling distractions in today's society, and our spirits may grow numb to knowing true life with Jesus.

It is like the feeling you have after watching too much television, or being constantly entertained in house, and always trying to catch up with the latest spiritual thing. In the process we become a congregation of watchers and attendees. This is understandable to a degree, as many people are living tired lives

in the pressures of the modern world. The end product of church like this is being spiritually ineffective (even though we look like we are doing all the right things). We think we are reaching our cities, but we are not. Many believers do not have a clue what is really going on outside their four walls. This is why the Lord said, *'you have a name that you are alive but you are dead'* (see Revelation 3:1).

It is easy to have a popular or promoted reputation, yet still be spiritually inept without even knowing. We have become distracted from Jesus and His word.

It is time to change and root out the rubbish like the prophet Nehemiah (see Nehemiah 4:10). Jesus warned His disciples, *'Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees'* (Matthew 16:6). This scripture refers to religious doctrines, yet we must be wary of anything puffed up in our church lives that are not of God. Jesus called the religious of the day *'hypocrites'* (see Matthew 16:3). Hypocrites are pretenders, actors, and dissemblers who end up feigning truth, having a form of godliness but no power (see 2 Timothy 3:5). It is time to change. Stop being distracted from God's word and be refreshed, so you can flourish and be properly empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Apostles Rise Up

We need the ministry of the apostle to raise up governing apostolic churches to bring change through divine order - this is already starting to happen in the new millennium. The days of worldly competitiveness in church ministry and music has to end; it is time for the genuine apostolic fathers to arise in the cities, ones who will really care for the Body of Christ and the nations. God will shut down, prune back, and expose the false in whatever is hindering His desires in these days.

While writing the first drafts of this book in the late 90's, I was ministering and living in the great city of London - a city my wife and I love. This conglomeration of many villages, with all of its multi-cultures, has over 12 million people. It will take many strong apostolic governing churches to reach it; to root out, pull down, and bring the spiritual changes needed. There are many ancient spiritual bars, gates, and wily old demons deeply embedded in London. To bring change to the city it will require bold, committed, kindred-hearted, apostolic men and women of God. Leaders who can build and plant churches with apostolic foundation - training people who will be truly effective, lasting the journey. There is great spiritual contention for this historical city (like many others), and it will require far more than nice traditional songs and Sunday religion to bring the dramatic change the bible says will happen in these end-times. It is time now to rend the heavens over the cities of the world. To see the powers of darkness pulled down, and God's glory, grace, deliverance and mercy, released to the nations. I prophesy and proclaim it in Jesus name!

David prophesied, '*Great deliverance He gives to His king, and shows mercy to His anointed, to David and his descendants forevermore*' (Psalm 18:50). We are the descendants of David through our King Jesus The Anointed. What He has for us in this apostolic reformation, will tower above anything before in Church history.

Networks

The cities of the world have millions of people. It will need more than one church, or movement, or one style of music, to bring massive spiritual changes in these end-times.

God is raising up networks of committed churches; divinely connected in relationship, apostolic in spirit, prophetic in voice, strong in purpose, and unified in heart. They are not exclusive,

elitist, or cloned; thinking they have everything the world needs. They understand their calling, and where their function fits in the greater Body of Christ. These apostolic networks have the authority required, and are aware of the great cost in taking cities for Christ. God supplies resources, gifts, and abilities to fulfill His purposes, even from around the world if needed. The Body should supply easily through its many veins that crisscross the world! There is great rooting out to be accomplished in the nations for great building to occur. It will take these networks to do it.

The Cry for People

*'Summer is a gift to go by the sea on a pilgrimage of space
Fly away from all we create in the race of our human trial
Stop and be still or breathe a crystal breeze on sweeping downs
Seeing further than ever from a lovely hill all that is truly worthwhile'*

As I write, enjoying the beautiful warm English summer, I think about the call in the early nineties - to gather the last great harvest of souls before the new millennium. At the time, it was much proclaimed and marketed as the decade of harvest. This call proved to be more prophetic over time, as we have had a great taste of harvest in various parts of the world - more than any time in history - yet it has only been the entrée, as the fullness of harvest has obviously not yet come. *'The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved'* (Jeremiah 8:20). Does this prophetic cry from scripture refer to all the missed opportunities, because the Church is not ready to contain the end-time harvest? Are we really missing the point in much of our Christianity?

God's heart cries out for His people through His prophet, *'For the hurt of the daughter of my people I am hurt I am in mourning'* (Jeremiah 8:21). The prophet's voice is the cry of God. When that cry is sounded out, it stirs the spirit world to action. God's cry is

always for the hearts of His people. The heart is the place the kingdom of God dwells - it is the King's domain. Elohim the Lord is jealous for you and I. He hurts for His fractured, ruined, broken, vexed, and quenched people (see Jeremiah 8:21): who are maybe over scrutinized, over worked, over hyped, or over merchandised in their Christian experience. Unfortunately in all this human effort and involvement the lives of people are not really changed, or moving forward with any lasting impact. God wants to restore people now, not to the old but to something fresh and new. We can all ask the following questions as Jeremiah did when he prophesied the heart of God.

'Is there balm in Gilead, is there no physician there? Why then is there no recovery for the health of the daughter of my people?' (Jeremiah 8:22). Where is God's real power and healing? Where is the restoring to soundness, wholeness, and victorious living and witness? Who really cares? Where are the songs and sounds that bring such glory, majesty, and the release of healing anointing? The sick and needy restored to wholeness, as the apostles and prophets of music move the spirit world to action as they play and prophesy.

God is saying, *"My people it is time to change."* In the governing process of rooting out, pulling and throwing down, destroying, building and planting, great healing will be released for God's people in these days. The Toronto Blessing in Canada was a catalyst for the Body of Christ in the early to mid 1990's. It began to bring much of this on a broader scale, and was an indicator from God of the future - it is the heart of God to bring healing and wholeness to people. Much rooting out, and pulling down of demonic religious strongholds is being accomplished today. Much more understanding in this area is being established in the Church. The apostolic paradigm brings reformatory change, divine structure, a prophetic platform, and a power base to bring resolve to the cry of God's heart. The prophets and the apostles need each other.

The Battle for the Voice

There are many singers and musicians who carry the voice of God in their music and song, however, they haven't had the platform within a genuine apostolic structure, or the opportunity for longevity, to build and facilitate that voice into something powerful for the Church. There is a battle against the apostolic prophetic music voice having a secure platform. Only true apostles can release it to function at a governing level. These artists carry an anointing to help root out and pull down the enemy, exposing the false and inadequate spiritual structures in the lives of people and churches. The devil knows this, and he wars continually against the governing voice having a secure platform in proper apostolic order. When a music gift is only employed to fill a job position in a church structure, without genuine relationship, things will eventually fall down. If the singers or musicians function with any degree of apostolic and prophetic authority, the enemy will seek to come in like a flood - particularly the controlling Jezebel principality that will suppress and divide (see chapter 15 *Jezebel and False Authority*). When the inevitable spiritual pressures come against singers and musicians, genuine covenant relationship is the vital backbone of support to strengthen and resolve situations in a church. Their calling is not just another payroll slip on a list, where they just turn up and fulfill a function. Many singers and musicians have been used this way. The result is, they often become disenfranchised from churches that they could have helped build and bring needed change.

It is essential to understand the apostolic governing paradigms of what God is restoring in music today. There is a vehement spiritual war on and God does not want His Church in distress anymore. He cries for her pain. He cries for her to be in proper order and function, and able to win the battles against the enemy. He wants the Church powerful and governing, changing cities and nations.

No Division

One of the worst tools the enemy uses against the Church (which we have to stay aware of all the time) is division. It is a classic strategy the devil uses in music and creative departments, in trying to unsettle and isolate people - it must be rooted out. Division (schism) is an abomination to God; He hates it in the Church for it brings discord to the brethren (see Proverbs 6:16,19).

*'That there should be **no schism** in the body, but that the members should have the same **care for one another**. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it, or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. **Now you are the Body of Christ**, and members individually' (1 Corinthians 12:25-27).*

Schism comes from the Greek word *schisma*. This means, a split or a gap in theology and understanding: a severing, or dividing, to rend, or make a break, or tear. The devil loves to cause this sort of ripping to shreds in the Church. Schism is where we get our word schizophrenia. This means a mental disease, marked by a breakdown in the relation between our thoughts, feelings, and actions - frequently accompanied by delusions and retreat from normal social life.

The power of apostolic music can bridge any divide. It can break down the walls of any division within churches, bringing a unity of spirit. The spirit of division has to be destroyed - otherwise nothing can build to maturity for planting further into the future. Through our music we rend, or tear the heavens open, creating a gate of heaven and releasing God's glory and presence. In doing so, we unlock His power into the atmosphere we live that ministers immense change and healing. Hearts are melted in the presence of Christ. In the Old Testament this is called exalting the horn of the Lord. This means to increase the influence of God, as did Heman and the other prophet singers

and musicians of old (see chapter 30 *Singers in the Proper Order*). If the devil has any controlling religious influence he does the opposite in the atmosphere and creates division. He brings demonic chaos, lack of unity, discouragement, confusion, depression, and fear. We must listen to this strong appeal from God, through the apostle Paul.

'Now I plead with you brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment' (1 Corinthians 1:10). Division also means schism. There were four perceived divisions when this passionate plea was written in the Bible nearly 2000 years ago. Gerald Coates, founder of the Pioneer movement in England (www.pioneer.org.uk), says in his book *The Vision*, that there are over 22,000 versions of Christianity. You can quite rightly say, "Cor blimey, Gordon Bennett, gee whiz, bi-goly, fair dinkum, oh crikey no, and God help us!" depending on your national background! Is the Church really that schizophrenic when we are supposed to be one body of believers? There is still much rooting out to do.

Is Christ Divided?

'Is Christ divided?' (1 Corinthians 1:13). A great question to ask today - people in the world asks that question all the time. Many unsaved can't believe some of the rubbish presented to them as Church. The true answer - Christ is certainly not divided. Is an undivided Church an idealistic notion for the world? No! It is the word of God and His desire.

Are there men of God in cities who cannot sit in the same room as one another? Yes, sad but true - should this be? Are there singers and musicians who cannot work with each other due to hurt, pride, jealousy, insecurity, or lack of love? There needs to be repentance and change, for the truth is - we are all family undivided in Christ. We must forgive, make understanding, love

one another, and move forward. We must root out, pull down, and destroy the paradigms not working for Christ. It is time to have the prophetic vision God gave to Jeremiah - to build and plant governing church seed into the nations. We don't need more confusing divisive religion. Where are the men and women to motivate this? Apostolic fathers and mothers who truly have the Lord's heart and clear perspectives? Today they are rising up, and working with them are singers and musicians with a new sound. They are part of the apostolic and prophetic rooting out, pulling down, and building process.

Singers and musicians really hate divisive ways and the stresses they bring. It is part of the inherent sense of order and justice residing in the creative heart. Physical illness can result if a church environment allows or perpetuates division - however subtle or obvious. The sensitivities of a God given music gift will want to pull down, root out, and confront things that create and bring division to the House of God. The status quo of a church leadership that does not like to be shaken, or confronted, or does not allow anything else deemed negative, dislikes this anointing. There is often a lack of understanding in the purity of motive with confrontation against divisive spirits. Any demonic religious control will often silence the apostolic and prophetic voice in artistic gifts. The rooting out of division, however, is part of establishing proper order in the Church; this is why the enemy tries to isolate, divide and conquer. The ways of the devil will not prevail against godly apostolic order. The glorious Church will rise and build. Beyond all the upheaval of rooting out, the Lord wants to build and plant. Jesus is going to build His Church. Our job is to point the way to Him, and do emphatically what He says.

Jesus is Building His Church

Remember, Jesus said to the apostle Peter, *'and I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the*

gates of Hades shall not prevail against it' (Matthew 16:18). The revelation of Christ (who and what He truly is) is the foundation rock of truth for building the Church. Jesus said He will accomplish the work; all hell will come against the building process, however, the devil, with all his demons and Jezebels cannot win. This is why the apostolic and prophetic ministry must root out the things that are not of God. The true House then can build in proper order, to bring great and permanent reformatory change to cities and nations. It is time to sing it.

Selah and build!

OPUS 4

PREPARING FOR
THE TABERNACLE
OF DAVID

10

Music Sowed Music Reaped

The redemption of music for God's final glory

Over the last 20-30 years there has been an amazing restoration of powerful Christian music and worship throughout the world. It is a part of what the bible terms the re-building of the Tabernacle of David (Acts 2:16). The Lord sowed music into the world and is now reaping it back for His full purpose in this era - for the nations to turn their hearts to Him in worship. This process that has been in restoration for hundreds of years yet quickening in recent times.

Reaping the House of Judah

*'Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, that I will **sow** the house of Israel and the **House of Judah** with the seed of man and the seed of beast. And it shall come to pass, that as I have watched over them to **pluck up**, to **break down**, to **throw down**, to **destroy**, and to **afflict**, so I will watch over them to **build** and to **plant**, says the Lord'* (Jeremiah 31:27-28).

This prophecy in the Old Testament, is a picture of historical and present truth relating to music restoration. Judah is one of the ancient tribes of Israel. The word Judah in the Hebrew is *Yada*, and means praise, or the tribe of the uplifted hand - it represents God's music. The prophecy says the House of Judah will be sowed with the seed of man into the earth, and eventually reaped back for building and planting purposes. As a loving Father, the Lord has watched over this *His-story* for centuries. The language in verse 28, of plucking up, destroying, building, and planting, is prophetic action in a process with an apostolic

result – building (see Jeremiah 1:10). God sowed music into His world, and has been watching over His seed of song and sound for a long time. Now is the hour when He is building His governing Church in the new apostolic reformation to complete all things. He is also reaping the house of Judah as it were, in that process - music.

Kingdom Principle of Sowing and Reaping

The whole bible is based on the kingdom principle of sowing and reaping. Dying and reforming is a recurring cycle from Genesis to Revelation. Jesus, the ultimate reformer, sowed the word of God on good ground, and He expected a multiplication of return on the seed sowed (see Matthew 13:1-23). He sowed Israel, and she has been restored and reaped back in our time. During World War 2, the devil tried to kill and destroy the seed of its people prior to Israel becoming a nation in 1948. It is no surprise that over the centuries music has also been a part of the sowing and reaping process - especially the reaping we have seen in recent decades. Two thousand years ago, Jesus the promised seed was sown into the world on account of the Father's love. Today the risen Savior is reaping the fullness of the Church; constructed and built with millions of believers (the fruit of His seed over the last 2000 years) who are the living stones of Christ. The adding of believers to the Church has been exponential over the last 50 years. Why? It is time for global harvesting, and God wants millions more people in eternity with Him.

We have seen great fruit in Christian music in our day, because God sowed the seed of music into the world. There is an even greater multiplying in the reaping yet to be seen on earth - the ingathering of harvest in these last of the last days, the restoration and re-building of the apostolic Tabernacle of David - the Church.

Building and Planting for Harvest

God is building and planting his powerful ruling Church, to contain and facilitate the reaping of souls. The 1990's were declared as the decade of harvest. There have been some revivals, spiritual refreshing and moves of God in that time, but not the end-time harvest. The Church was not ready for it. Through apostolic restoration, the proper order is preparing and establishing the Church to be in a governmental posture, with the spiritual maturity to gather and contain harvest.

There has been much rooting out and pulling down by God over the centuries. The Lord is now reaping the sown seed of the House of Judah - music. This is part of a global tabernacle for the harvest of souls. Music has a major role in releasing the harvest with awesome praise, prophetic decree and proclamation. When seed is sown you reap back multiplication and increase - you do not get back the same seed. It's a kingdom principle, and today the music fruit is multiplying rapidly.

Kings of Praise

David was King of Judah - the King of praise - in Christ we are the same. We can be kings of praise in our own small worlds, but God wants us to move forward like David - to bring the apostolic kingship of sound to the nations. David's life progressed to rule the nation of Israel. We must follow his example, and in the emerging apostolic Church we must impact the nations through our music. Through David's authority as King of Israel he established the Tabernacle of David; its ultimate purpose is for the nations. *'All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, And shall glorify Your name'* (Psalm 86:9).

It is time now for the Church to come out of any religious presumption and into the proper order (as was required of King David by God). The purpose for divine order is found in the

pattern God gave us in David's Tabernacle - especially so for music. God is completing His reaping and building process now. The result is a flourishing, powerful apostolic Church, governing and spiritually potent. Singers and musicians are an important part of this, and must be planted to be a part of apostolic teams, breaking down the strongholds over churches, cities, and nations. You are part of the reaping of the House of Judah; the global re-building of the Church patterned in the Tabernacle of David. *'Let the heaven and earth praise him ... for God will save Zion (type of the Church) and build the cities of Judah (praise!) and possess it!'* (Psalm 69:34-35).

Apostolic Power is with Judah

In the book of Genesis (before David's time), Jacob (or Israel) prophesied over his sons from his deathbed. One of his sons was Judah (who represents the tribe of the uplifted hand of praise). Jacob said to him, *'Gather together that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days'* (Genesis 49:1). Jacob's prophecy in the book of Genesis, is also a prophetic picture of the apostolic power of music and song in the Church today - the last days of governing power. *'Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's children shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion's whelp; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; and as a lion, who shall rouse him? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people'* (Genesis 49:8-10). Let's discover this amazing word.

The Hand

The hand of Judah represents uplifted hands in praise and worship to God. Jesus Christ was a descendant from this tribe, as with David. The five fingers of a hand also represent God's grace (the number 5), and also the five-fold ministry of the apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher. The thumb is like the

apostle; he crosses the palm, touching and supporting all the others (I can see you playing with your fingers now). Without the apostolic thumb, the hand won't work as it is designed - except maybe scratching around. Scratching time for the Church is over! *'I have found My servant David; with My holy oil I have anointed him, with whom my hand shall be established; also My arm shall strengthen him. The enemy shall not outwit him'* (Psalm 89:20). The full hand of power is established in the heart and worship paradigm of David. It is apostolic and full of grace; the enemy cannot stand against this and is defeated.

The bible says, when the earth is full of His praise, and His glory covers the heavens, *'rays of flashing light'* will go forth from the Lord's hand (Habakkuk 3:4). In the King James Version this is referred to as horns of power. This has a mighty influence in the spirit and on the earth. The prophet singer Heman exalted the horn of the Lord; it was his job in the Tabernacle of David (see chapter 30 *Singers in the Proper Order*). This awesome power is hidden in God's hand. When Elisha's musician played, the open hand (which was closed) of God's almighty power came on the prophet, enabling him to prophesy (2 Kings 3:15). *'You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing'* (Psalm 145:16). There is great provision in the open hand of God. When the hand of the five-fold ministry gifts are fully restored in the Church, we will see great power released in the Church, and music will be at the forefront. The hand of the fivefold ministry gifts shall pin the enemy down.

In His Hand is Our Heritage in Jacob

Prior to the children of Israel entering into the Promised Land, Moses spoke a final blessing on Israel (before he died on Mt Nebo).

'Yes, He loves the people; all his saints are in your hand; they sit down at Your feet; everyone receives your words.'

*Moses commanded a law for us, a **heritage** of the congregation of Jacob' (Deuteronomy 33:3).*

We have an awesome heritage in Jacob. We are all in God's hand of power; we have to come to that realization. Music and song are pre-eminent in releasing God's hand of power, however, we must be people sitting at Jesus' feet receiving His word (see Luke 10:39). Remember Mary? She did the greater thing rather than being too busy like Martha. Our inheritance is on our generation's horizon. Moses continued, *'he said of Judah: "Hear, Lord, the **voice** of Judah, and **bring him to his people**; let his **hands** be sufficient for him, and may You be a help against his enemies"'* (Deuteronomy 33:3). The voice of God in our sound is permeating the earth; we must bring Jesus through that voice to the people - in all the governmental power that is in the hand of God. The palm of His hand is the place where we dwell safely. What we have in our own hands with music is sufficient, and God will help us. When we use our hands to create music (with God's help), there will be great victories against the enemy and the cities and the nations will open up to God. Asaph tells us, *'**In Judah God is known...** in Israel, ... His Tabernacle... His dwelling place Zion (you, the Church), (It is there...) ... He broke the arrows... the shield... the sword... the battleaxe... Selah'* (Psalm 76:1-3). In Judah the enemy's artillery is destroyed. *'Flash forth lightning and scatter them'* (Psalm 144:6), yes Lord!

The Hand of War

Genesis 49:8 shows us that the glory and power through music (Judah), stands firm on the neck of our enemy the devil. When he is pinned down that way the devil cannot do anything except growl and wriggle. Apostolic governing song and sound will pin down our enemies. The Old Testament tribes always camped around Judah, which was often the leading tribe to go first in battle against the enemies of Israel. We camp around Judah first thing every Sunday morning with our praise. Those who

encamp, are a Body armed and ready in the Spirit of God - because Judah is ready - to just sit and watch on Sunday, and be tickled and entertained, is not the calling.

Jacob tells us that Judah is like a young lion. When he has made a kill he is not proud, but bows down and lays before the Lord in reverence of worship - like '*an old lion*' (KJV). Judah is also likened to an old lion - one who is aged with wisdom and battle experience, yet with the energy, vitality, and the power of a young lion. This is the matured apostolic Church. The questions arising from the prophecy in Genesis 49:9 are this: Who can come against the governing power of worship that is exercised in mature humility? Who can come against the true fear and reverence of God? The devil would not dare rouse Judah. If he did Judah will bite his head off with another song! Draw close to God and the devil will flee! Apostolic music warriors will have the wisdom of God and the maturity of life to carry governing authority in their sound. In their music they are current and accessible.

These are sons and daughters of thunder, ones who can touch Christ the Rock at His heart, taking that cloak of power, and help turn a city or nation away from Hell. They are ones who say to God - '*be my strong habitation, to which I may resort continually,*' (Psalm 71:3a). We will need to in these days.

David said, '*Blessed be the Lord my Rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle*' (Psalms 144:1). The hand of five-fold ministry in the Church is to war on the five battlefronts represented by these ministry gifts. They are to destroy the enemies of God, like the principality of Jezebel who seeks to bring the Church down (see chapter 15 *Jezebel and False Authority*). The Lord is training the hands of the Church all over the world to win the battles for the cities and nations. As the fingers of five-fold ministry in the Church are coming into their

proper place (through the apostolic reformation), we can be completely effective as a Church. Mature *Lion Kings*, *Simbas* of power, standing not on Pride Rock, but on the Lord our Rock - Jesus Christ, who trains us to kill the *Scars* of the devil world (see the movie *Lion King!*).

The Hand of Governing Authority

The Lord tells us that the scepter of ruling authority of the kingdom of God, and the power of governmental decree and proclamation through praise, shall not leave Judah until Jesus comes (Genesis 49:10). This governing authority in music has a major influential role before we see the return of Jesus. The sons of Korah echoed this truth in their song of love about Christ. *'Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom'* (Psalm 45:6). True authority is rooted in Christ's righteousness and living it. That character can then be trusted with governing authority, the spirit of which will then be in our music bringing change.

The lawgiver will not depart from the feet of Judah. Ephesians 6:15 says our feet represent the gospel. If the real governing power of Christ is not in our song we do not have real effective spiritual power in these end days. The Lord will not allow that to happen for He is the lawgiver, and He will see His glory cover the earth. *'... Judah is my lawgiver'* (Psalm 60:7b). We execute the justice of the lawgiver through our music. It is the inheritance of the saints in our high praises (Psalm 149).

Shiloh

Shiloh means a place of rest. Shiloh is also a name referring to Jesus, and a picture of His Second Coming. Shiloh represents the glory of God. It was also the place of the first permanent home of the Ark of the Covenant (in the Tabernacle of Moses) after the initial conquest of Canaan (see Joshua 18:1). Shiloh the place, became the main sanctuary of worship for Israel during the time

of the Judges in the Old Testament. It was where Hannah prayed for a son, and the Lord appeared to Samuel when he was a boy, establishing him as a prophet (in the Tabernacle of Moses). Shiloh is a place of prophetic birthing and decree. Christ is at the center of it all.

When we begin to walk in the real rest of God, in our relationship with Him, and with one another, we will carry increasing governing authority in our music. From this place of rest, prophetic revelation comes - mirrored in the life of the prophet Samuel in Shiloh. The devil will come to try and take away the presence and glory of God from your life when living in this posture. That is why we must have apostolic maturity; to be strong in the Lord, and understand what God is doing in these days.

Time to Carve Up!

'Judah will plow' (Hosea 10:11). Music will carve the track. It was sown into the world and now it is being reaped. With the power of apostolic music, you have the authority to carve a swathe of healing and deliverance into the heavens and the earth. The waves of the Spirit of God are going to get bigger. You will need far more stability to ride the waves (like the surfers of the ocean on bigger boards), so you can stay afloat carving up the waves. The bigger the waves, the more relaxed you have to be, and more focused, wiser, and skilled. The waves will then carry you a long way and you won't fall off. It's time to *'take the drop and ride the big ones - the sets are coming!'* Keep your hands clean, your heart pure, and you will see the reaping of Judah in your musical life. Go carve!

*'Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has **clean hands** and a **pure heart**, which has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall **receive blessing** from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his*

salvation. This is Jacob, the generation of those *who seek him*, who seek Your face. Selah lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory **shall come in**. Who is this King of glory? The Lord **strong** and mighty. The Lord **mighty in battle**. Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the **King of Glory**. Selah' (Psalms 24:3).

Selah is a David lyric, © Dave - 'Aeons Ago Incorporated'!

Reap!

11

Prophet Samuel in Shiloh

'Then the boy Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation' (1 Samuel 3:1).

Samuel's life was an essential part of David's preparation for kingship and establishing the tabernacle. Samuel's life represents an important role the prophetic has in the reaping and establishing of music, giving us valuable insight into the journey of music restoration over the last 20 years. From childhood, Samuel lived in Shiloh in the Tabernacle of Moses. He ministered sincerely to the Lord in reverential fear, albeit within a corrupt priesthood. In those bible days there was no prophetic revelation with God's word, or visionary breakthrough in people's lives. Religion and its traditions were ineffective and devoid of the true word of God. The Lord, however, had a plan for change - a little boy called Samuel. He would grow up and bring national breakthrough in the word that would have repercussions for centuries. In the past 20 years in the Church, there has been much widespread prophetic revelation at many levels, with breakthroughs of fresh new vision. This time of prophetic and apostolic restoration in modern Church history is parallel to the period of new prophetic establishment from Samuel in Shiloh, until David as king of Israel. Today the Body of Christ has increased and matured unlike ever before. The Church is flourishing upon a continuity of godly revelation, wisdom, love, knowledge, and the availability of God's word that has been restored in recent times.

The Pivotal Prophet

Samuel was the first of a new era of prophets. In the Old Testament, Samuel was the pivotal prophet, between what the Jewish people term the former and latter prophets. Samuel was also a judge in Israel and had great governing authority in the nation. His arising from Shiloh foreshadows the beginning of the prophetic restoration since the early 1980's; a move that has prepared the way for the apostolic to emerge now. Samuel's ministry as a prophet, precedes and makes ready for the apostolic kingship of David's reign in Israel. The reign of David, the establishing of the Tabernacle, and the structure and power of music within it, is a mirror of the new apostolic reformation today. David carries the heart of God and is a biblical type of Jesus - the apostle of our faith. Samuel the prophet came from the heart of Shiloh (Jesus). The restoration of the prophets and apostles today are very much in the heart of God's unfolding plan. We must understand that this is a very important reforming period in Church history now; God is preparing her to be mighty and glorious. Singers and musicians need to realize this in light of their calling with music, and the glory it will release in these days.

Hannah - Samuel's Mum

We all know mothers are really important and Samuel's was no exception. Her name was Hannah, which means grace. She was a worshipping God-fearing mother. She dedicated her little boy Samuel to the *'Lord all the days of his life'* (1 Samuel 1:11).

She had been barren and Samuel was the miracle seed of her prayer and cry to God. Samuel was special, because she asked *'for him from the Lord'* (1 Samuel 1:20).

When we ask God how and what to birth, he will give us what we really need. Samuel came from the womb of grace and a pure heart; he was needed for God's current purpose of the day. The

prophet Samuel - the fruit of grace - paved the way for David. The ministry in these end-times will be by the sovereignty of God, distinguished by His grace.

In Hannah's purity toward the Lord, God filled her barren womb with the seed of His own dreams - a new prophet for a new spiritual era in Israel. Samuel was born at the end of a period, when the old, corrupt, religious order in Shiloh was diminishing - that is the ministry of Eli the priest in the Tabernacle of Moses. Just as Samuel heralded a new era of truth, the restoration of prophetic and apostolic truth today will expose and root out whatever is corrupt in Christendom. The restoring of these ministry gifts today, is Christ's perpetual grace for mankind. Samuel is in company with the likes of the reformers Martin Luther, or John Wesley, who paved the way for great things to come in the future Church. In Samuel's time it was for David the king and the awesome glorious music in the Tabernacle. Today, this will be in the rise of the glorious apostolic Church, and all the powerful, glory releasing music yet to come.

Hannah gave her son to the house of the Lord forever, and she prayed an awesome prophetic prayer about the power of Christ in the end days. A prayer that also spoke of David, and Jesus, as the anointed of God. *'For by strength no man shall prevail, the adversaries of the Lord shall be **broken in pieces**: from heaven He will **thunder** against them. The Lord will **judge the earth**. He will give strength to His King, and exalt the horn of His anointed'* (1 Samuel 2:9-10).

As parents in this modern era of distraction, our hearts should be the same for our children - that they be committed to the Lord God forever. The boy Samuel left his parent's home in Ramah. He served in the House of the Lord in Shiloh under authority to the priesthood (albeit corrupt), ministering to God in humility and service. This humble attitude should be our heart for the Church,

for *'The upright shall dwell in your presence'* (Psalm 140:13b). Powerful music and song have their roots in this attitude.

Tingling Ears

The location of Shiloh was in the *Promised Land* where the Tabernacle of Moses had found its final residence. Shiloh means rest; it is where the Lord spoke to Samuel as he served God. In a place of rest in the Lord He will speak to you. In His rest you will have an ear to hear the sounds and songs of heaven. When you are positioned right in your life you will begin to hear as Samuel did. One night in bed when Samuel was a little boy, he thought he heard Eli the priest calling him. After Eli had told him to go back to bed three times he realized it was God talking. The Lord then said an amazing and beautiful thing.

He said it in a way a Father would talk to his son during a bedtime story. What the Lord uttered to Samuel pre-empted the Tabernacle of David and all that it represents in music. Those words would also see continued prophetic fulfillment right down to these last days.

*"Then the Lord said to Samuel: "Behold, I will do something in Israel at which both ears of **everyone who hears it** will tingle""*
(1 Samuel 3:11).

In studying this in the Hebrew I have paraphrased it this way. *"My word has been ignored little boy, but with you I will begin to establish prophetic order. I will uncover the ears of those that have an ear to hear what the spirit is saying, that they may receive divine prophetic revelation from my heart. They will hear the sound of proclamation, revealing who I really am in all my governing glory in the last days. They will hear my song my son, and it will make them, and the world, quiver in the fear of the Lord!"*

Fear of God and His Word

After God's little tingle whisper in young Samuel's ear, the Lord said He would judge his pastor Eli, ending his ministry. *'In that day I will perform **against** Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end'* (1 Samuel 3:12). The fear of the Lord was now deep inside Samuel. The man he looked up to (who cared for him in the House of the Lord), was going to be terminated by God. The iniquity and corruption of Eli's sons, brought God's judgement to the ineffective, aging religion, of Eli's priesthood. In his lack of authority and order, Eli had failed as a spiritual and natural father. His sons were in rebellion, and they did not know the Lord (1 Samuel 2:12).

In a prophetic move, judgement comes to cleanse in God's House. In the last twenty years this has increased. Why? The reverence and fear of God can be in the Church, and we can realize with conviction that God actually means what He says in His word and will do it. Jesus said, *'...why do you call me 'Lord Lord', and **do not do** the things which I say?'* (Luke 6:46). The fear toward God and His word should be in the heart of the singer and musician. The spirit of this reverence releases governing power in our music. The prophetic restoration today is establishing a healthy fear of God; the apostolic will strengthen it.

When the Lord spoke to Samuel at an early age, He set within him a high respect, and a reverential fear for the word of the Lord - something lacking in many believers. The little boy had an encounter with E.T. God - Elohim Father, Terminator Judge. The Lord was his Rescue Hero and Judge Dread BC. His sweet, innocent spiritual eyes, were opened up to the future. He was being prepared by God; the one who would anoint and proclaim what was to come - King David - the foreshadow of Jesus Christ, and all that the Lord would do in these last days in the re-building of David's tabernacle. *'So Samuel grew, and the Lord*

*was with him and let **none of His words** fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel had been **established** as a prophet of the Lord' (1 Samuel 3:19-20).*

You will grow and be established in your ministry, when the word of the Lord is held in this esteem. When you keep the heaven in God's word deep in your heart; earth and its rocky distractions won't rob you of your destiny.

Firmly Established

It is important to understand that the prophetic (as Samuel's life shows us), had to be firmly established in the revelation of God's word. This had to happen before David could be anointed, and released, with any governing authority to build - as with music in the Tabernacle.

The prophetic has to be firmly established today before the apostolic can function properly in full authority and power. The two are then yoked together, functioning as they are meant to, as foundational ministry gifts of the Church. This is why we have had strong prophetic restoration over the last twenty years. The devil knows this, and has endeavored to bring vehement resistance, and deception, against the prophetic being established; for this gift helps to bring divine order.

The fullness of what David's Tabernacle represents (in music and in the Body of Christ), will be fulfilled when the apostolic reformation emerges with full power in the Church. It is the reason why the Lord had prophet overseers in the music structure of the Tabernacle - it is a foundational gift that establishes properly (see Chapter 30 *Singers in the Proper Order*). Prophets can see where others cannot, and they prepare the way for apostolic authority to rule and reign.

Stay in the old religious Shiloh, and you will shrivel like an Eli prune. Stay in the Shiloh of Jesus, and He will come to you; your ears will tingle and He will open the eyes of your heart to see accurately.

The apostle Paul prayed, *'the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints'* (Ephesians 1:18).

Be rich

12

Shout for God's War

Samuel was now established. The revelation and power of God's word began to go into the nation. God was moving into something new, the prophetic wind was blowing, and consequently war vehemently ensued with the Philistines (1 Samuel 4). No surprise huh! The prophetic will always stir warfare, for the devil hates what it ordains against him. That is why he releases all his religious and demonic strongholds against prophetic and apostolic restoration. In your music calling, it is vital to understand that it is not going to be just cozy, success, recognition, and bright lights! The question is *'Are you ready for battle'?*

The Active Word of Revelation Means War

When God's word is active, and increasing in effectiveness in a nation, there will be contention stirred with spiritual warfare. Samuel's word came to all Israel, unfortunately the ensuing battle with the Philistines (recorded in 1 Samuel) was a victory for the enemy. The Israelites couldn't believe they had lost, so they blamed God (1 Samuel 4:3). Then they got Eli's two corrupt sons to bring the ark to the defeated Israeli camp, out of its then proper place of residence in the Tabernacle of Moses. They had lost the battle and become religious, trying to sort things out their own way with a corrupt priesthood! Nonetheless the defeat had a divine purpose. This defeat was used by God to effect the final judgment on the ministry of the corrupt priest Eli. It heralded the end of the Lord's presence in the religious setting at Shiloh.

God's glory cloud was moving on. When Christian religion stays staunchly camped in what it creates (in either old or new paradigms); it may eventually become spiritually dead and ineffective, like Eli's priesthood. We must always advance with the move of the Spirit and the glory of God; not perpetrating religion beyond what it is supposed to be. In neglecting God as Eli did, you will eventually kill the effectiveness of your Christianity. In due season judgment will come, which will then need repentance and change. God used the defeat by the Philistines to say, *"Its over, I'm out'a here man - got to get ready for David! I am off to plant a brand new root for my eternal tree - 'The Root of David'!"* (Revelation 5:5).

The Shout

*'And when the ark of the covenant of the Lord came into the camp, all Israel **shouted** so loudly that the earth shook'* (1 Samuel 4:5). The sound was a war cry. The Hebrew word for shout is *ruwa*, and is the same sound referred to in Joel 2:1 that speaks of the prophetic sound trumpeted in the last days. When the ark came into the camp of Israel and the shout went forth, the Lord was using the moment to proclaim that He is coming out of dead rebellious religion. He was fed up, and was now leading the way forward going straight into the face of the enemy. It's an example for us - His presence stirs war against enemies. The prophetic and apostolic nature of God's authority stirs up war against His enemies. It caused the earth to literally quiver and tingle and quake. *'I feel the earth move under my feet...'* God's apostolic power shakes the earth and its nations.

It is interesting to note that Israel had the sound of the war cry, but they did not have the wherewithal to actually win. The same is for us today, we can make the noise, but are we actually ready for the real battle that only God can win?

The Noise of the Shout

*'Now when the Philistines **heard** the noise of the shout, they said, "What does the sound of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews mean?" Then they understood that the ark of the Lord had come into the camp. So the Philistines were **afraid**, for they said, "**God has come into the camp!**" And they said, "Woe to us! For such a thing has never happened before"' (1 Samuel 4:6-7).*

The powers of darkness (the Philistines being a type) did not understand it at first, but then they realized God was now in the House with His people. He was in their shout! Under Eli's religious ministry, the devil had certainly not observed any effective spiritual power bothering his sulfuric kingdom. When God is really set free in the House, the enemy is super scared and you will have battle. Why? The government of God is on its way.

The damage that praise will do to enemy strongholds in this modern era, are far beyond anything we yet understand in the Body of Christ. *'For vain is the help of man. **Through God** we will do **valiantly**, for it is He who shall tread down our enemies'* (Psalm 108:12-13). This was proclaimed in a very popular chorus through the 1980's.

As the Philistines reacted to the shout of war, the devil is saying the same thing about the powerful music and song that is emerging from the Church today. *'Woe to us! For such a thing has never happened before'*; he is scared, angry, and knows his end. He has the bruise that Jesus the *Lion of Judah* inflicted on his head. Whenever he skulks around it reminds him all the time of his ultimate defeat. As the old chorus said, *'Praise is the power of heaven'*. Like the foolishness of the cross, God will use the sounds of song to confound the enemy in these last days.

*'**Shout joyfully** to the Lord all the earth; break forth in **song**, rejoice and sing praises...Let the **rivers clap their hands**... For He is*

coming to judge the earth' (Psalm 98:4,8-9). The rivers of refreshing have flowed; shouts and claps of praise have gone forth from them. Our song shall be a shout that wars in these last days. Oh yes and rivers do have hands! Hillsong church in Sydney Australia, prophesied and decreed to the world in the song '*Shout to the Lord*' - now one of the most popular Christian songs in history. There are also many more shouts still yet to come.

In our local church in the early 1990's, I was involved in a live worship album that had a strong warfare theme. It was a musically aggressive, prophetic edict against the powers of darkness. The music from that album prophesied into the spirit over the territory of the local church. The songs and sounds proclaimed victory, and confronted dark strongholds coming against the church moving forward.

The prophetic nature of the music also pre-empted and heralded a major breakthrough for acquiring permission to build on the church land. This had been a stressful battle over the years for the leadership. The governing music broke open the heavens when lifted to a warring level, as did Jehoshaphat's musicians in the Old Testament. This helped set in motion a very real victory for the local church to eventually build and plant more churches in the future. The album was a shout of war from the House of God into the enemy's camp. It was part of what the Lord has been doing all around the world in preparation for His glorious apostolic Church to arise. There were many albums that were produced in the 1990's with a warring theme. I am sure the devil said at the time, "*what does this mean?*" as afterwards we certainly had our share of spiritual warfare in our lives.

Judgement before the Shout

From 1988 to around the end of 1991- 1992, there was a period of strong judgement by God in the Body of Christ. Around the world many ministers were exposed in their sin. Spiritual walls

were crashing, as were walls in the natural world; Communism's iron curtain had fallen, the Berlin Wall came down, as did the Wall Street financial markets. The excesses of the entrepreneurial 1980's were being exposed - in and out of the Church. God was saying, "enough!" as He did with Eli and his sons when judgment was decreed.

The early 1990's were a period when greater apostolic understanding and release was about to be established in the earth. We are seeing this accelerating now in the new millennium as the new apostolic reformation. In those days God was giving a new shout into the spirit world through the Church. Music was playing that out in its proclamation. There has been increasing contentions in the spirit and many changes in the Church in the 1990's for those who are flowing with the Spirit of God. In that period amazing things have been happening around the globe with massive increase in salvation, revivals, and spiritual refreshing. Strategic organized intercession, and global prayer for cities and nations has also developed. The Church is maturing in its apostolic authority and is preparing the way for God's glory yet to come on earth. Singers and musicians get ready - it is the time for the fulfillment of the re-building of David's Tabernacle.

Are We Ready?

The Philistines said, "Woe to us! Who will deliver us from the hand of these **mighty gods**? These are the gods who struck the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness. Be strong and **conduct yourselves like men**, you Philistines, that you do not become **servants** of the Hebrews, as they have been to you. Conduct yourselves like men, and **fight!**" (1 Samuel 4:8-9). A powerful apostolic church will enslave the enemy, and even the devil and his cohorts will need to encourage themselves to fight like men. When the Lord is actually present, the devil sees the believer as gods. When the devil looks at you he sees Jesus and the shed

blood that covers you. *'You have covered my head in the day of battle'* (Psalm 140:7b).

Israel (the Church), however, was not ready for the kind of vehement attack from the Philistines. The Lord was doing a new thing, yet things were still out of order; the consequences were that many died.

Goliath shouted, *'give me a man that we can fight together'* (1 Samuel 17:10). David was the guy. In the early 1980's, the Lord raised up ministers such as Ed Cole to challenge men to conduct themselves like men. During the last 20 years this prophetic call has been going through the Church (see the book *Maximized Manhood*). The Lord needs His Church to rise up into maturity in these days - there is a spiritual war on. It requires Christ-likeness to fight the war, in all that genuine manhood and womanhood represents. The devil knows this, hence the cry of the Philistines, *'conduct yourselves like men'* - it is part of preparation in these last days. The Body of Christ has not been ready for the vehemence and wrath of battle with a very angry devil. The Church, however, is being strengthened and will pin down the neck of the enemy once and for all. The word of the Lord will go to all nations and the end will come. It is written!

The Ark Stolen

*'So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and every man fled to his tent. There was a **very great slaughter**, and there fell of Israel thirty thousand-foot soldiers. Also the ark of God was captured; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died'* (1 Samuel 4:10-11).

Don't fight spiritual battles unless you know what you are doing and you are ready. Thirty thousand people, represents a lot of blood spilled. When the enemy rises up from the very *'depths of satan'* (Revelation 2:24), and is vehement in attack against you, if you are not ready, or mature enough to fight, the cost and pain

can be great - spiritual war is real. When you become governing in the spirit and apostolic in nature, he will come against you in any weak areas. The devil does not want you to bring the ark of God's glory to earth. He wants to keep you captive, spiritually numb, and religious - no matter how good it looks. Living in such a state will eventually kill your Christian effectiveness. It happened to Eli the priest when he was told the news of the stolen ark.

*'Then it happened, when he made mention of the ark of God, that Eli fell off the seat backward by the side of the gate; and his **neck was broken** and he died, for the man was old and heavy. And he had judged Israel forty years'* (1 Samuel 4:18).

Eli was not shocked that his sons died, but that the ark had been taken away. This scripture almost has a sense of comic relief. It was now too late for Eli, his brand of religion needed its neck breaking anyway. It had become old, fat, and useless. God had enough of him. This kind of Humpty Dumpty religion would not be put back together again. Nonetheless like the great reformers of old, the Lord had raised up Samuel the prophet in the old order and had prepared him as forerunner to the new.

Ichabod

Judgment also came upon Eli's daughter-in-law Phinehas - she died just after giving birth. She had a son called Ichabod; his name means *'the glory of God has departed'* (1 Samuel 4:19-22). She named him this for she knew the glory had gone; her corrupt minister husband had been part of the reason. The family sin had killed her; the church had become a weak incestuous family affair, and now the price was being paid. Not following God's ways can destroy whole family destiny and shipwreck lives.

It is amazing - the glory had left, but religion kept going! What a terrible place to be in. So much of what happened in Eli's time is

going on in these times; where something God did use, has become an Ichabod. The apostolic move of reformation today, will divide the true from the Ichabods of Christianity. The true will carry the sound of heaven, accompanied by the symphony of the glory of God and His manifest presence - that is where the Lord will be. Like Samuel's word going out to all Israel, God's glory will come on the cities and nations of earth.

The Lord is a Man of War (Exodus 15:3)

With the ark leaving the old order at Shiloh, the Lord went directly to the battle as the captain of the hosts. He was like a warrior in a Trojan horse in that old acacia box, destroying the enemy by just being there. If the Lord is in a place long enough He will break the enemy in pieces so he is utterly useless. Then you will have reformation in a city. This is happening now in places around the earth.

*'Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the temple of Dagon and set it by Dagon. And when the people of Ashdod arose early in the morning, there was Dagon, fallen on its face to the earth before the ark of the Lord. So they took Dagon and set it in its place again. And when they arose early the next morning, there was Dagon, **fallen on its face** to the ground before the ark of the Lord. The **head** of Dagon and both the palms of its **hands** were broken off on the threshold; only Dagon's torso was left of it'* (1 Samuel 5:1-4).

During the night the Lord may have said something like, "Hey Dagas fall over and worship me!" Demons fled and the idol crashed. God's presence broke the government stronghold of that demonic principality by ripping its hands and head off. The apostolic Church will be harsh to the demonic enemies of God. King Jehu was to Jezebel, when he finally killed her and trampled her with his horse (2 Kings 9:33). Like the spiritual violence of John the Baptist and Elijah - this is a no-compromise,

vehement spirit. This will loose and release many out of darkness to the Lord. The hand of the God was harsh against the enemy (1 Samuel 5:7). Everywhere the Lord's presence and glory was, He wreaked havoc on their false religion, and also on their health, with tumors and cancers.

After a short while the Philistines became sick and tired of this, and decided to send back the ark. Prior to that happening, the Lord prepared a human meltdown scene. (This was played out in the movie *Raiders of the Lost Ark* with Harrison Ford). *'Then He struck the men of Beth Shemesh, because they had looked into the ark of the Lord. He struck fifty thousand and seventy men of the people, and the people lamented because the Lord had struck the people with a great slaughter'* (1 Samuel 6:19).

The Lord shows us through these examples, that the battle is actually His. We will have great effect when God's manifest presence, in all His glory, is in the nations. This means leaving the ways of religion, and taking God's presence into all society - directly into the enemy's camp, redeeming back what belongs to God, and dealing with the roots of demonic control.

David said, *'For God is my defense...Through our God we shall do valiantly for it is He who shall tread down our enemies'* (Psalm 59:9b, 12). After the Lord's little cameo of warfare right inside the enemy zone, He had a rest at the Hotel Liberal (I Samuel 7:2). The ark made its way to Abinadab's house (Abinadab means - liberal). There God waited patiently in His acacia box for 20 years - occasionally popping out for a chat with Samuel, checking a few battles, and waiting for His next plan to grow up - David!

The strength of governing music today will be built over time, so be patient. The Lord also had to be with David's preparation. There are many now, still growing up and being trained in

readiness for these times! *'Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with **singing**. Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves'* (Psalm 100:2). *'I will **sing a new song** to You, O God; on a harp of ten strings I will sing praises to You. The One who gives salvation to kings, Who **delivers David** His servant from the deadly sword'*. (Psalm 144:9-10). New fresh songs for cities and nations will come when you know His deliverance in your many battles.

Shout for God's war - it's His anyway!

13

Waiting for David

The Ark of the Covenant was at the house of Abinadab for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:2); it was there the Lord had time out from Eli's corrupt religiosity, hanging out in the world for a while. Whilst He relaxed in that 'Beverly Hills Liberal Hotel,' the widespread prophetic revelation of the Lord's word went forth into the nation through His Prophet Samuel. Meanwhile the Lord waited patiently for David to grow up and be ready for the next phase of His worship plan - the Tabernacle.

The Prophet Samuel was preparing the way for divine order to be established by David. In the 20 years since the early 1980's, prophetic revelation has been released and restored exponentially into the nations, preparing the way for the establishing of the proper apostolic order of the Church. In Samuel's day it was preparation for the building of the Tabernacle of David. In these end times, it is for the re-building of the Tabernacle, and what it also represents in the unleashing of governing power in music. The Lord is still patient, and is waiting for His Church to grow up into maturity now.

Put Away the Old and Prepare

*'Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, "If you return to the Lord with **all your hearts**, then put away the foreign gods and the ashtoreths from among you, and **prepare your hearts** for the Lord, and **serve Him only**; and **He will deliver** you from the hand of the Philistines"' (1 Samuel 7:3). Samuel also brought prophetic judgement to Israel as he released God's word into the nation. I have paraphrased some thoughts from this scripture. "Stop doing*

things your old religious ways where I am not involved any more, or your spiritual necks may break like fat old Eli's. It is time to come right into my heart; have an ear to hear what My Spirit is actually saying in these days. Put away all the false Christianity that does not truly represent me. I am sick of it, along with your tolerance of Jezebel goddess worship and the controlling fruits of the Jezebel spirit. All your false pompous religious ideas, all the Queen of Heaven and Mary style idol statues. Turn away from it all. Repent, change, and begin to prepare yourselves. I am about to deliver the nations into your hands from all the strongholds of the devil that have held them back. If you are not listening for my ways, my songs, my sounds, you will miss it!"

Blind Religion Wants Worldly Authority

Samuel had his own share of personal frustration and warfare, especially with his sons. They were also judges like Samuel, but they were dishonest with money and perverted the word. They had rebelled against their father, as did Eli's two sons. Samuel had observed the fathering model of Eli as he grew up, and he in turn made the same mistakes as a dad. In Samuel's weakness, God had a bigger purpose. The leaders of Israel did not have confidence in the authority of Samuel's sons, and they asked for their own king to rule over them like the other nations in the world.

The sins of Samuel's sons, caused Israel's leaders to move in the flesh and ask for authority that was not God's ultimate intention. In doing so Israel rejected the Lord's desire to reign over them (1 Samuel 8:1-7); they rather chose a committee, consensus style of leadership, to decide what shepherd they should employ and anoint for the national pastorate. In doing this, they also rejected the prophetic authority that Samuel represented. King Saul was their choice; a decision that led to the devil and all manner of Jezebel's witchcraft coming into areas of national authority. Saul's life reveals that when this kind of leadership is left unchecked, things will get very out of order and eventually

bring great damage. We need true apostolic authority to rise in the Church and the life of its music today; authority and order ordained by God.

Watch or Participate

Israel wanted leadership like the world, *'we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and **fight our battles**'* (1 Samuel 8:20). Samuel was grieved; he knew the Lord had something else in mind. In general, religious people will get others to fight and do the ministry for them. The New Testament priesthood of the believer (where the believer participates) is almost an alien concept to some people, and in churches where ministry is reserved for a select few. The New Testament priesthood is not something institutional that you join. It is developed in your character, and in your authority as a Christian believer by living what the Lord teaches.

The apostolic Davidic model of Church is opposite to many religious ways. It demonstrates the Church body doing the work of the ministry under ordained leadership gifts who have laid down their lives for others; governing authority that releases the Church, not controlling, manipulating, or squashing it. As singers and musicians we must understand the priesthood of the believer. We carry the priesthood in our hearts and lives; this is outworked in power through the proclamation of our music (1 Peter 2:5,9). In waiting for David, God allowed that to grow in him, and to become part of his character through his trials. David was the true authority that would be revealed, who would eventually be separated from the false authority of Saul.

King Flesh Granted

In God's purposes He allowed Samuel to appoint Saul to be king. Saul was a very tall, handsome guy (1 Samuel 9:2), yet he is a type of the flesh and a worldly example of authority. A good-looking image, however, does not always mean something is

right; we can easily be enamoured by outward appearances. Churches obsessed with their image may cross the line and get into deception through this area, where doors can be opened to many compromises and subtle infiltration of the enemy. People will tire of propping up image or stay blinded by it, and in their enamoured state they may fail to see what is truly behind the perceived growing image.

God's grace allowed the carnal, popular selection of King Saul, to precede the true spiritual King David. Often in restoration the false will arise before the true. *'However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual'* (1 Corinthians 15:46). In the relationship between Saul and David, the tension of flesh and spirit was used to fashion David's character - ultimately to be the King of Israel that God desired. The Kingship of David was a representation of Jesus, and the Lord's desire and eternal goal of being the King of all kings over all people. Over the last 20 years, there have been many Davids (male and female) being prepared in places and situations that are sometimes adverse, frustrating, and painful. Many can testify of having spears thrown at them by the Sauls of religious authority. As with David, this has tested their hearts, and has prepared them to rule and reign in this apostolic era.

Samuel continued fulfilling his prophetic role in Israel, by preparing and releasing the kingly authority on Saul as only God granted and allowed. *'Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him and said: "Is it not because the Lord has anointed you commander over His inheritance?'"* (1 Samuel 10:1). Samuel, however, knew that Saul didn't just need position, he needed the Spirit of the Lord upon him to make him useable in his role as king. He used the power of governing music to do it.

Saul Transformed into Another Man

'After that you shall come to the hill of God where the Philistine garrison is. And it will happen, when you have come there to the city, that you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with a stringed instrument, a tambourine, a flute, and a harp before them; and they will be prophesying. Then the Spirit of the Lord will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man' (1 Samuel 10:5-6).

This scenario again foreshadows David in all that he would establish in the Tabernacle, and also the end-time power of apostolic music impacting nations. These prophet musicians came down from the high place of worship; a place where there is spiritual warfare, where the enemy will try to stay encamped. They were coming down with song from where the enemy was on God's hill. Apostolic prophetic music will take you right into the battle as with the ark of God in Dagon's temple - to take off the head and hands of the enemy.

These musicians were prophets, true worshippers who carried the tehillah high praises of God that could affect nations (Psalm 149 musicians). They prophesied as in the proper order of music in David's Tabernacle. This governing power was in the musician of Elisha. When playing he opened the hand of God, loosing rays of flashing light from the Lord's hand. In David's Tabernacle, Heman (Samuel's grandson) sang and exalted the *'horn of the Lord'* - the release of God's influence and power.

Samuel's sons may have gone the way of Eli, but the Lord would redeem his grandson Heman, the son of Joel - an awesome prophet singer overseer, under the governing apostolic covering of David (see chapter 30 *Singers in the Proper Order*). In Christ all the sins of the fathers can be cut off and washed away by the blood of Jesus - your destiny can be fulfilled!

The scenario of the prophets transforming Saul (1 Samuel 10:5), also prophesied of the new King David to come, and what would happen with him in the power of the tabernacle music. As a young man, David would faithfully play music over Saul, transforming Saul's countenance from being a distressed and flesh driven person, to one who was at peace. Governing musicians walking close with God will bring real peace. David observed, '*mark the **blameless** man, and observe the **upright**; for the future of that man is peace*' (Psalm 37:37).

Saul wasn't fit to be a king with his fleshly character, he had to be converted and transformed by the Holy Spirit to rule. Saul then became a servant, a champion, and a great man who could function as a king - far more than he would have been without the Holy Spirit. Even so, Saul's heart was not after God like David's heart - the man God was really waiting for. David was chosen not for his height, or good looks - the Lord was enamoured by his heart. The prophet musicians transformed Saul to become another man. They did it by the Holy Ghost in their sound. The Lord has been patient, waiting to release the many Davids that have been fashioned in life over the past 10 - 20 years. The right time will come, as with David establishing the tabernacle, when they will help transform many a city and nation through their song and sound.

Patience - what a fruit!

14

David Anointed

David was a cool looking, handsome red head. He was well spoken, a skilled musician, a warrior who was sharp of mind and spirit (1 Samuel 16:12,18). No wonder insecure Saul felt threatened by him. David was probably more handsome than Saul, however, that is not why the Lord chose David.

Not Enamoured

It is good to be current and contemporary, nevertheless, we have to be careful of over emphasizing the importance of an outward look, in order to maintain a culture of a cool modern image in the church. Leaders and congregations can be enamoured by looks and gifts when actually certain people can be as Elvis sang, "...you just the devil in disguise." People were readily enamoured by Saul, though he was actually not God's choice. Being enamoured by things can be seductive, it can lead you into unhealthy soul ties with church leadership resulting in spiritual bondage, control, and deception. The Lord does not want us to be enamoured by anything except Him - not image, facilities, opportunities, success, or association.

Transfer of Authority

*'Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and **the spirit of the Lord came upon David** from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah. But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the Lord troubled him' (1 Samuel 16:13-14).*

The day eventually came when Samuel anointed the handsome 17 year old David. The transference of power was made from Saul to David and the deed was done. Samuel then went home to Ramah where his family lived. As John the Baptist decreased after anointing Jesus, so too did Samuel as we don't hear much more of Samuel until he died. The prophetic had done the job in preparation for the fullness David would bring as an apostolic leader. Today, it does not mean the prophet's ministry becomes void, or is finished, but the prophetic ministry becomes yoked to the apostolic move of God's government in the Church. This is foreshadowed and fulfilled in David, as a prophet, priest and King. In this joining of the foundational ministry gifts, the prophets and apostles of music can then be fully released in governing power and authority.

After David's anointing the Holy Spirit left Saul; as a replacement God sent a distressing spirit to hassle Saul. It took David's anointing in music to keep him refreshed. Authority that is out of order, and operating in the flesh as Saul did, will always bring distress; it will take the David's of today to root it out. As we can see in David's life with Saul, it can result in separation of relationship if leadership does not change and move forward.

David was now anointed; a transfer of governing authority had taken place in the spirit, however, David continued to serve Saul who was still the appointed authority. Saul was still the king, yet it was not the time for David to rule. He was not ready, and years would pass before he would reign as king. David continued to keep his heart right before man and the Lord. You maybe more anointed than those around you, some people may not see it, nonetheless, your heart should always be to serve. The appointed time will eventually come for you to progress in your call and life.

Loving Armor Bearer

*'So David came to Saul and stood before him. And he loved him greatly, and he became his **armor bearer**. Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Please let David stand before me, for he has found **favor** in my sight." And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and **play it with his hand**. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him' (1 Samuel 16:21-23).*

God had cleverly created a need in Saul for David's music gift to be used. David was also an armor bearer - these men were warriors, they stood before their leaders, protecting them with shields and spears, willing to lay down their lives. The power of apostolic music in a church is like an armor bearer to the ministry of that work; it is the covering power of music that brings refreshing to the House. David's great heart and attitude, toward the king he served, was present right from the outset; he was a lover, who loved greatly like Jesus. The Church is to be functioning like this today in genuine relationship.

It is very interesting to note that the spirit bugging Saul came from God. In the development of your life in music there will be times when it seems like the devil attacks you causing much distress. The enemy will be infiltrating in many of those situations, but it also maybe God at work. During the process you learn, and gain valuable experience - preparing you for kingly authority in your life and music.

Bring Refreshing

Saul was distressed by a spirit that made him very anxious, stressed and perhaps short of breath; the spirit David brought was refreshing. In the early 1990's numerous men and women of God in different denominations and movements were anxious, stressed out, and losing hope. Prior to that, a judgement and cleansing had been upon the House of God around the world for

a number of years. The Lord then sent a spiritual refreshing to the Body of Christ with His love, compassion to heal, to strengthen, encourage and re-awaken much of His Church. Many drew closer to the Lord - as we need to in this time of history. There were many songs and sounds proclaimed into the early 1990's by the many David's of the earth; they were part of ushering in the refreshing move of the Father's heart. The refreshing we saw in the 1990's, was also a prophetic sign of a transfer of authority to David – the apostolic Church; it was a sign for the re-building of the Tabernacle of David - the apostolic governing Church beginning to arise. In retrospect this is clear to see now.

The life of David and Saul is a picture of the battle of the flesh and the spirit - contention for true authority over false authority. This is a major spiritual battle we will face in these days. We are even seeing this played out daily now on CNN in our natural world. When the five-fold hand of ministry functions in the Church as it should, and releases governing music - it will be a refreshing place of Glory. We had a touch in the 1990's, but the apostolic move will bring the fullness of God's ministry in the new millennia.

Pinned to the Wall

*'Now the distressing spirit from the Lord came upon Saul as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand. And David was **playing music** with his hand. Then Saul sought to **pin David to the wall** with the spear, but he slipped away from Saul's presence; and he drove the spear into the wall. So David fled and escaped that night. Saul also sent messengers to David's house to watch him and **to kill him** in the morning. And Michal, David's wife, told him, saying, "If you do not save your life tonight, tomorrow you will be killed." So Michal let David down through a window. And he went and fled and escaped'* (1 Samuel 19:9-12).

The Saul of the flesh had a spear to war with; David of the spirit had a musical instrument. When you are anointed like young David was, with growing apostolic and prophetic power in music, you will probably go through some things where it will seem like all hell is breaking out against you to destroy your life. Sometimes you may even feel like you are getting pinned to the wall by your Saul. David's growing gift had hit the spiritual ceiling of Saul's authority; this can happen in churches. Suddenly you may find yourself with oversight that wants to cast you out instead of releasing you further on into your life and calling.

The preparation to carry kingly apostolic anointing in music, will have its share of spiritual warfare, contention with others, and God dealing with your soul and flesh. David's own pastoral oversight was out for him. Jealous, distressed, and insecure, Saul was in a governing position for which he was not equipped. David had great destiny, and went through constant reproach and attack from those that sought his hurt and demise. This pain of contention is reflected throughout the Psalms. It was so painful at times he prayed, *'Let them be confounded and consumed who are adversaries of my life; let them be covered with reproach and dishonor who seek my hurt. But I will hope continually, and I will praise you yet more and more'* (Psalm 71:13-14). In all the trials, he kept his hope and song increasing, not decreasing.

Jesus said, your worst enemies are those of your own household (Matthew 10:36). You need to guard your heart with all diligence. There will always be tension between flesh and spirit, faith and doubt. This can be good if you let it fashion you, not good if you let it kill your spirit. Sometimes you may just need to take time out. David said, *'Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You'* (Psalm 73:25). *'The Lord shall preserve your going out and coming in...'* (Psalm 121:8). In spite of all the pressures, David was confident in the Lord; our hearts need to be in the same place.

Saul Sinking into Witchcraft

'So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, "Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself..." (1 Samuel 15:12). 'For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king. Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice' (1 Samuel 15:23-24).

Well before this moment in scripture, and even before David's anointing, Saul's number was up and he knew it. False fleshly authority will eventually be short-lived and exposed for what it is when God's real presence and anointing is brought to bear. Saul didn't lead because he feared man and it was a snare to him. The fear of man is a great trap (Proverbs 29:25). Saul got so bad he had become a seeker of the occult for he had rejected the word of the Lord. His ongoing rebellion is likened to, and as deep as, the sin of witchcraft. In his own descending delusion Saul even set up a monument of vanity to himself on Mt Carmel. He was most likely driven by the same demons of Jezebel that Elijah contended with much later on the same mountain.

David's ability to drive away devils through his music, and what he established in the Tabernacle as king, reflects the musical role we have today. We must be anointed of God like David, having the wisdom and understanding of how to maturely deal with our spiritual battles. The end-times will have awesome spiritual contention unlike anything in history. Tune those strings, wind up those hearts, it is a great day to be writing songs.

Be anointed.

15

Jezebel and False Authority

'God's first purpose in spiritual warfare is already accomplished. He won the war once and for all through the death and resurrection of His Son. In His wisdom, He has left mop up operations for us so that His second purpose can be realized: By wrestling against the powers of darkness, we grow strong in Him and comprehend more fully what sacrifices Jesus Christ made for us. We must recognize also that this war is deadly serious and fraught with consequences. In the last several years, as the Elijah company has begun to arise so have Jezebels and Ahabs'. John Loren Sandford – Elijah Among Us (Chosen books)

The apostle John thought he had seen it all. He had never seen the Lord look so determined and scary with those burning flames coming out of His eyes. John fathomed this to some degree when he observed the hideous scenes that were unfolding on a giant screen behind Jesus - they were ugly to say the least. John really didn't have the word-stock to describe all he saw, except the images portrayed a depth of evil that surpassed anything he had ever seen, or imagined. The inexplicable suffering it would cause deeply saddened him. This humble fisherman realized, probably for the first time, how immense the battle was going to be in the future for the cause of his beloved Christ. What he observed on that screen, was to manifest fully in the very end-times - for a moment he wished he could be there to help. He knew that all heaven would admire and applaud the authority of those believers that overcame this gross depth of blackness. His journey and that of his fellow apostles had been hard enough. He also knew that the days left to him on his little island in Greece, would be an extended time of praying for the end-time Church. Then he saw Jesus speak the words to the Church at Thyatira – John began to hurriedly write

them down; the wisdom and insight they were to bring to thousands of people in the future was something he did not think of at the time.

*'I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you **allow** that woman **Jezebel**, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she **did not repent**. Indeed I will cast her into a **sickbed**, and those who commit adultery with her into **great tribulation**, unless they repent of their deeds. I will kill her children with death, and all the **churches shall know that I am He** who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works. But to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, and who have **not known the depths of Satan** as they call them, I will put on you no other burden'* (Revelation 2:19-24).

Jezebel - The Depths of Satan

In these last days there is much contention with this demonic Jezebel spirit which has come against the true authority of God being established in the Church. One of the most powerful weapons of demonized warfare is the Jezebel principality. The sinister depths of the devil within this spirit, rages vehemently against anyone in Jesus Christ who ministers and lives in genuine governing spiritual authority. Jezebel is referred to in scripture as from the '*depths of Satan*' (Revelation 2:24).

The *full extremes* of the devil's evil are embodied and found in this spirit, with all that Satan can dredge up from his darkened pit. Its one aim is to bring you to the depths of poverty in all senses of the word, and destroy your motivation for everything in life - killing your ministry, authority and at worse drive you to death, even suicide.

Jezebel Contended with David

When you consider the life of David, and his very open heart in the Psalms, there is no doubt this demonic spirit contended mightily against him in many ways. Its aim - to bring him down with all that he was pioneering and establishing in the Tabernacle of David and his kingly reign. Most of David's Psalms deal with him crying out for deliverance from his enemies. He was in constant warfare as a worshipper of God.

*'... I am restless in my complaint, and **moan noisily**. Because of the **voice of the enemy**, Because of **the oppression** of the wicked... My heart is **severely pained** within me, and the **terrors of death** have fallen upon me... **horror** has overwhelmed me. So I said, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would **fly away** and be at rest. Indeed, I would wander far off, and **remain in the wilderness**. Selah. I would **hasten my escape** from the windy storm and tempest' (Psalm 55:2-8).*

There were times David just wanted out from all the battles. There are many believers who have felt like that at times. David experienced vehement hate from the devil, especially after setting up the Tabernacle. Imagine what he stirred up in the spirit, in bringing forth the proper order, in the model of worship that was to foreshadow the glory of the end days. Even though anointed as a king, David had to learn how to be ruling in the spirit, and how to work with God as he went along. There were no role models who had done this before - he was a pioneer.

Jezebel Vehemently Hates Singers and Musicians

The demonic principality of Jezebel can hit singers and musicians very hard. Remember you have the hairy one's old job and he hates you. (See chapter 1 *Roots*, in my book *Prophet Musician*). You will experience this hate in various ways, in particular through people, and various restraining, or controlling church structures. Especially as you start to bring forth the glory of God in your music. At times you will want to give up and feel like flying away for some rest in the wilderness like King Dave.

Elijah the great lord prophet, ended up suicidal and depressed after contending with Jezebel at Mt Carmel, even though he had three years rest and preparation beforehand with the widow in Zarephath. It is no light thing to experience Jezebel's contentions; these things are real, not fantasy. We should be fully aware of the realities of the devil's wickedness, *'lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices'* (2 Corinthians 2:11).

Don't be Ignorant of Jezebel

This chapter is not an attempt at a comprehensive study of Jezebel as there are many complexities in dealing with this spirit. There are some great mature writings available on this subject, to teach and help make sense of things we perhaps have never understood before. (See the references in the back of this book. They are excellent and I highly recommend you read them.)

There is a saying that *ignorance is bliss*, however we must not be ignorant. Today the false in authority will become more obvious as true apostolic authority is established, and yoked in synergy with prophetic ministry and the other five-fold gifts. The stronghold of Jezebel in churches, and in the lives of people, will be increasingly exposed in these days. God will allow this demonic spirit and all its extremes to run its course in situations, as with Saul and David. Circumstances like this will bring a sifting of the flesh from the spirit, including the refining of your own life. This was part of the preparation of shaping David as a ruler. God also allowed the devil to sift and test Job, bringing him down to nothing. Your own weaknesses will be exposed in the sifting; they then can become your strengths in Christ. True apostolic governing authority will break the deep roots of Jezebel's influence in these times. Influence that could cause far greater damage in the future if allowed to continue - as with Saul if he had stayed in leadership for too long.

Space to Repent

The Lord Jesus gives time for repentance so a controlling Jezebel spirit can be delivered from a person, or the life of a church. If repentance is not heeded there will be great trouble, sicknesses, and even things will begin to die. Ministries birthed may wither, or cease to be effective. Facilities or buildings may be lost, or taken away when not expected. If there is no repentance, hearts will harden, people are scattered, and spiritual blindness can set in. For many reasons people will not face the Jezebel spirit; pride is often at the root, however, the good, from the bad and the ugly, will become obvious.

If you are willingly, and knowingly yoked to a Jezebel situation, you need to repent and turn away (Revelation 2:20-23). Jezebel hates repentance, and the grace and mercy of God it gives to the believer. It is clear that God will judge this demonic influence in churches and *'all the churches shall know that I am he'* (Revelation 2:23). In other words the truth will be revealed.

Jezebel Causes Great Distress

This spirit can cause great distress and havoc in people's lives. It can even become too much for some to handle; David experienced this with the enemy. *'For the enemy has **persecuted my soul**; He has **crushed my life** in the ground; He has made me **dwell in darkness**, like those who have long been dead. Therefore my spirit is **overwhelmed** within me; my heart within me is **distressed**'* (Psalm 143:3-4).

David was in a very heavy place within himself - have you ever felt like that? Nonetheless even in the most hopeless of situations, we can thank the Lord that he can deliver us and change things. *'He **delivered me** from my strong enemy, from those who hated me, for they were too strong for me. They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but the Lord was **my support**. He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because **he delighted in me**.*

The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me. For I have kept the ways of the Lord... (Psalms 18:17-21).

Jezebel may be vehement, but David goes on to say, ‘...Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the **strength** of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?’ (Psalm 27:1). ‘...What can man do to me?’ (Psalm 56:11b). Man can do nothing of lasting detriment, for all things work out for good - if we keep faith, and our eyes are fixed on the Lord. In some churches it is not acceptable to be seen as negative in anyway at all, or express anything that is a contrary to a positive life and a good image. This can generate a subtle fear, and it may hold people back in their spiritual life where they are unknowingly controlled by this mindset. David, however, poured out much of his pain and negativity through his heart, as we have seen, and it was ok with God. The Lord even used the words of his languishing as sacred songs. You may have distress, depression, and anxiety of all kinds; despite these things God is ultimately your strength. Your faith is tested in the process, and you will see where you really are at in your life. If your heart is true to Christ, you will want to be stronger in Him. You will also learn the ways of your enemy in this journey, and as a result, will mature into a mighty over-comer.

The Prophetic Roots Out Jezebel

*Jezebel guns for the prophets - Charismatic grin and batting eyes
A tarpaulin over a den of control - Jealousy envy insecurity the toll -
Pruning any blossom*

It is the job of the prophetic to root this spirit out (Jeremiah 1:10). This is the reason why the antichrist devil of Jezebel has hammered effective prophetic people so hard. The prophetic anointing prepares the way for the apostolic to be released into a rightful place of authority and relationship, and to build and plant as David. Jezebel has to be rooted out, however its

presence is not always obvious to the untrained. In recent times God has been training many in His Church to discern this spirit. The roots of this spirit are hidden in various soils of subtlety and disguise. In the following areas of music in churches, you may find this spirit present.

Where there is over controlling music leadership that does not release others. Where there is no clear prophetic music ministry, or songs of the Lord, or no genuine powerful prophetic flow with the flexibility of time for it to be expressed. Some of the elements of the principality of Jezebel may be at work in this atmosphere, trying to control and divert away from what God wants to establish. I am not referring to a ministry of a few personal prophecies given now and then by one individual, but a genuine powerful prophetic ministry functioning fully in the church - especially in the music department.

The Jezebel spirit attempts to attach itself to the work of the Lord, it loves being in the Church. It can be seductive even with a guise to being prophetic, apostolic, wise, and all-embracing using all the relevant spiritual language. It seeks to make inroads in the Church wherever it can. Its fruit will ultimately bring dilution of spiritual authority, and relational strength. It will reduce you to having religious church, even contemporary, but not to enter into governing authority.

Jezebel causes confusion, divisions, cliques, miscommunication, wrongful self-promotion, selfishness, exclusivity, over-emphasis on image and performance, strange tensions, false accusations, manipulations, fear, intimidation, control, cold heartedness, pride, lies, flatteries, and various other manifestations of flesh and strife. You cannot always attribute these things to a Jezebel spirit, but they are often symptomatic. This can be in an environment where there is a real lack of defined committed vision, and genuine Christian care and love amongst the team. It

can also be where the vision is excessively driving people in its endless goals of achievement and pushing the limits. Areas always attacked by this spirit are spiritual authority, resource, and provision; the variables are many, however the signs will be there. This spirit will need to be prayerfully named, confronted, exposed and rooted out for things to move forward. This spirit flies in the face of God's word, however subtle or obvious. It is always disastrous to the lives of people and God hates it. It is false authority, wickedness in disguise, producing ugly results.

David said, *'For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, Nor shall evil dwell with You. The **boastful** shall not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of **iniquity**... For there is **no faithfulness** in their mouth; their inward part is **destruction**; their throat is an open tomb; They **flatter** with their tongue'* (Psalms 5:4). *'I see the treacherous and am **disgusted**, because they do not keep **Your word**'* (Psalm 119:158).

Samuel Forsakes False Authority

Samuel the prophet had a major rooting out job with King Saul. Toward the end of Saul's reign, Samuel decreed rejection to Saul and refused to be associated with him anymore. In doing this Samuel had pulled down the false authority that ultimately was Saul. *'And as Samuel turned around to go away, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore. So Samuel said to him, "The Lord has **torn the kingdom** of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is **better than you**"'* (1 Samuel 15:27-28). That neighbor was David, and Saul did not even know it then. Samuel just prophesied into his face. When the prophetic finally confronts false immature authority, exposing and pulling down the spirits that control it, they will respond like Saul, by wanting to rip and tear pieces off you. They will want to cut you off from your life, work, community, support, and the call of God. The prophetic stirs the flesh of man, and the demon spirits that are at work, that may have been not been discerned. (Again I highly recommend you read the Jezebel books mentioned at the back of this book).

When you stand up to the Jezebel spirit, and say “no,” naming it, and exposing it (as Samuel), the devil will want to pull your life apart. There will be contentions, sometimes very vehement and painful. Suddenly you may find that friends, even in ministry, become adversaries. Suddenly things do not make any sense, and lives can be uprooted overnight. Pain and heartache ensues through the isolation it can bring. David’s heart of love needs to be alive and well in you, for you must remember your wrestle is a spiritual one (Ephesians 6:12). Saul reacted in the flesh to the confrontation of Samuel; Saul *touched Gods anointed* and his future was decreed doomed.

Jezebel’s Works through Saul

‘He will take your sons, and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen and some will run before his chariots ... he will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks and bakers... he will take the best of your fields... give them to his servants... he will take a tenth of your grain... give it to his officers... he will take your menservants... your finest young men... and put them to work... he will take a tenth of your sheep and you will be his servants... and you will cry out in that day’ (1 Samuel 8:11-18).

Samuel forewarned the people of Israel what sort of behavior King Saul would exercise over them, because they had chosen false authority. Saul lived and operated in the sin of witchcraft, he was a type of the flesh, and demonized Jezebel leadership. The Jezebel spirit is a taker not a giver. It will drive you, and claim ownership of every hour of your day - 24/7. It will make you run at abnormal pace and wear you out, so you become vulnerable. Chronic fatigue could be your symptom, unshakeable sickness, or at worse backsliding and doubting your faith. It will put you to work where you will pay the price for a vision, yet have nothing to show for it at the end. There is nothing wrong with being put to work for God, or serving a vision, however, when the motivating spirit behind it is wrong,

the end result can be damaging. It will take the best you have, be it gift, anointing, your finest years, energy and spirit, or money. It will use you for its own ends, but will often turn its back on you. You will be its servants, as the eunuchs of Jezebel, feeling enslaved, not having a life. Finding what it really means to be a true son or daughter to your Heavenly Father will elude you. This spirit will eventually cause you to cry out to God for help.

The spirit of Saul is a classic taker. The Jezebel spirit can often move the goal posts when it has you, as Saul did with David. Promises and agreements can be made, and then changed to your detriment, especially where money and security is concerned. The spirit behind it can bring upset, stress, and affect your whole life. Jealousy, envy and insecurity in a person, or leader, can be Jezebel's vehicles of entry. For example Saul promised David his eldest daughter Merab (1 Samuel 18:17); he then turned on his word. Instead he gave David his youngest daughter Michal to be a snare to him. Saul's heart was not for David, and in his cold insecurity he was even prepared to sacrifice his daughter. The goal posts were moved; instead of a beautiful godly marriage she was a trap set in place. David never found any real intimacy with her as a mate and she was also barren. This can be a devastating stress to a called, anointed man of God.

This undoubtedly set him up for temptation further down the track, contributing to him being vulnerable, and consequently mesmerized by Bathsheba. In David's state of dysfunction, he eventually ordered Bathsheba's husband to be murdered so he could have her for himself. Saul's original promised daughter Merab bore five sons to a wealthy man called Adriel, sons that could have been David's fruit and inheritance. Michal - the devil's trap - eventually left David. Beware of the snares of Jezebel - be wise.

Not Confronting Jezebel

There will be some church leadership who won't understand about Jezebel and all it represents. You may find they won't talk about it, or at worse, even acknowledge it. They may give lip service to it, yet at heart they really don't want to confront it, as they are comfortable, and most likely under its controlling influence in some way. That is why the Lord says, *'Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you **allow** that woman Jezebel'*.

In being neutral and safe, churches can allow this spirit, and all its subtleties, to permeate a work and not even be aware of it. It's one of the reasons why a church work can end up having a reputation of being alive - promoted or otherwise - yet is actually dead, or dying on the inside (Revelation 3:1). Perhaps totally driven in a vision, however, lacking in genuine heart - serving a vision, but not God. The Lord requires strong repentance of such a heart. We cannot be ignorant of the devil's devices in this hour - for the sake of the Church. We cannot allow this spirit and its seductions into either our personal lives or our families. In all we do, we must walk in purity and holiness, in the fear and love of God. We must confront this spirit in our own lives, repenting of anything allowing its entrance.

Contentions will Come

Singers and musicians who have governing gifts in music and song will come up against Jezebel, because of the power that apostolic prophetic music has to root out and pull down. This happens so the true can be built and planted - the result of the chronology of Jeremiah 1:10. This spiritual aspect in the power of music and its affect is little understood today. Now you may understand why the power of God is being restored in the present apostolic move, is often devoid in many churches. Apostolic power should be in our music - the devil doesn't want it there, neither does religion.

Resistance to governing authority is very real. David went through much pain and contention at times, however, he always kept faith and confidence in God, and his enemies were turned away from him. He said, *'I am weary with my groaning; all night I make my bed swim; I drench my couch with my tears. My eye wastes away because of grief; it grows old because of all my enemies. Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity; for the Lord has heard the voice of my weeping. The Lord has heard my supplication; the Lord will receive my prayer. Let all my enemies be ashamed and greatly troubled; Let them turn back and be ashamed suddenly'* (Psalms 6:6-10).

Some contemporary ministers may respond to this by saying, *'stop moaning and get a life'* – and we must, nonetheless this is David and his battles were real. His positive resolve was drawing close to the God he loved. David said, *'But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; in fear of you I will worship toward Your holy temple. Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make Your way straight before my face'* (Psalms 5:7-8). David's heart-cry for righteousness, and right living, came from his contentions with the enemy. He desired to be led in righteousness because the devil wanted to lead him away from it.

Trying to live it isolated on your own is hard - we need God and each other. We need to understand the awesome gift of God's righteousness, and the freedom it gives us as believers in Christ the Anointed One.

The contentions that are faced through the ugly vehemence of our enemies often take us deeper into God, releasing a new song in our heart. *'...You shall surround me with songs of deliverance'* (Psalm 32:7b). God pours governing power into a soul that comes through it all. God does not despise a *'broken and contrite heart'* (Psalm 51:17). There are dark nights of the soul - it happens - even for the greatest like David, but blessed is he that overcomes.

Jezebel's Works in the Pharisees

When you are flowing in governmental spirit, and God's glory and presence is manifest in what you accomplish, the spiritual impact of Jezebel can manifest against you through any kind of religiosity. Jesus Christ experienced this constantly. Looking through the fourteenth chapter of the gospel of Mark, we can see some clear examples of how this demonic spirit operated through religiosity (Mark 14:1-38).

1. Seeks to take you out with trickery. This spirit just wants to ultimately kill you, and take your authority and platform of ministry, as they did with the Lord. It will not initially want to do it clearly and publicly, or during services, or other Christian activities. This spirit operates in fear and intimidation behind the scenes. It is a man-pleaser, and will not want to upset the status quo. You can be made to look like the one with all the problems, or a situation can be clearly turned around against you suddenly, leaving you totally bewildered. This spirit will often require all accountability, sometimes at extreme levels, nonetheless, having no real responsibility, commitment, or love and compassion for you, or your family. It is a spirit of lying and death. Its author is the devil (Mark 14:1-2). They may also seek testimony against you from others to bolster their position at a later date (V55).

2. Sees your gift as a means to end. A woman anointed Jesus with very costly oil but religion only saw its merchandising value. Jezebel will criticize you for just wanting to wait on the Lord, or waste your time ministering to Him, when you should be busy doing other things (V3-5). Your gift has a worldly value to it and a use by date - if you do not conform, or be as religious as they are.

3. Beware of those who are closest. Those closest to you, whom you love and serve, can often be the ones that betray and deny

you. Jesus even sent this warning. They may even be ones that share the deepest communion with you, or a common vision - as with Judas (Mark 14:10,20-25). Even those you may consider your best and closest friends, may deny you when under the pressure and deception of Jezebel. Peter and the other disciples did the same with Jesus (V29-31). The enemy can come with a kiss of worship, but behind him is a hoard of demons to take you out of your ministry - as Judas caused with Jesus (V44-46). Your worst enemy can be those that are in the House of God with you daily (especially when things are out of order), this can be very bewildering and disorienting (V49).

4. Lucrative promises. The promise of money and the security it brings is often a carrot dangled by a Jezebel spirit - especially when you are vulnerable. This can however, be a promise for convenient betrayal (Mark 14:11).

In the case of Judas, what the priests did was wrong, yet religiosity can turn and conveniently make itself look good; as if they had done all they can for you in whatever was discussed (as with the 30 pieces of silver). Yet you end up being the only bad guy like Judas; religion has to keep going but you are dispensable - even to the point of death. Of course Judas was not good, and in him there was obvious ground for the enemy to use him - yet the principle is there. The goal posts of promises can often change with Jezebel after it has lured you, just as Saul did with David. Judas of course paid the ultimate price with his life for entering into such a liaison.

5. Scatter you and all you build. The ultimate aim of the Jezebel spirit is to strike at authority and scatter whatever is being built under that authority, rendering it useless and ineffective (Mark 14:27). The main leader of a church maybe evicted, or controlling, Jezebel influenced leadership, does away with true ministries under their authority.

6. Jesus' answer. As believers, Jesus said, we must *'watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation...'* (Mark 14:38). It is important to not be blindly naïve, but to be prayerful, and alert with wisdom, understanding the authority to which you submit.

The Prophetic Destroys Enemies Others Can't

The prophet Samuel's conclusion to rooting out the false authority of Saul was to finish what Saul should have. He did this with kingdom violence, proceeding to hack to pieces the enemy - king Agag of the Amelekites. *'But Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women." And Samuel hacked Agag in pieces before the Lord in Gilgal. Then Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul went up to his house at Gibeah of Saul. And Samuel went no more to see Saul until the day of his death'* (1 Samuel 15:33-35).

The Lord had ordered Saul to kill this devil king in a previous battle. Saul compromised and spared him after defeating them. Agag also represents an enemy that cuts vision short that should have been birthed. Samuel the prophet was hacked off! The prophet's anger at falseness was at its peak.

The hacking took place at Gilgal - the place of circumcision. The killing of Agag represents the complete spiritual surgery and rooting out that should have been done in King Saul a long time before, except now it was too late. Saul's disobedience had ultimately cost his kingship and position of authority, as he did not root out the authority of the devil when he had the opportunity. Saul in his fear of man gave into it and was nice and compromising. This is the tendency of the flesh and religion. If you don't deal with false authorities it may cost some their ministry or position; the prophet Samuel rectified that. The power of apostolic music will do the same in the enemy's camp, whether in churches, cities, or whole nations. Samuel had the prophetic ministry of hacking. Years later, on Mt Carmel, that

ministry would also come upon Elijah the prophet as he lopped off hundreds of heads from the false prophets of Jezebel. It was a very messy, violent, bloody affair.

The prophetic ministry is not just for nice, ear tickling personal prophecies, or just to be comforting and positive. Personal prophecy is very important to the Body of Christ, but this dimension of the prophetic is just a small part of the prophetic ministry and its ministrations. The prophetic is to be in synergy with the apostolic government of leadership in the Church, for the rooting out and destroying of the devil's works. The reason is that people can ultimately find the Lord and be whole. This is also part of the result of the prophetic being a ministry that edifies, comforts, and builds up (1 Corinthians 14:3). You will see miracles when you carry that authority in your home, work, or music ministry - creating a governing atmosphere for God's glory.

Don't Let the Devil Kill Your Heritage

Samuel said that Agag's *'sword has made women childless'*. *'Children are a heritage from the Lord'* (Psalm 127:3). We must be prepared to walk the ways of the Lord completely in these days. Not fearing the enemy, otherwise the devil's strategies will continue making the fruit of religious labors childless. Your vision and call may be cut short, and you will not have the spiritual children that should be birthed from that vision. We must stay truly faithful to the Lord and his word, seeking a heart after him; otherwise a false spirit can be at work, and the will of God may be held back for a season, or even prematurely shut down. The devil and his Jezebels will fight against the heritage you have in Christ.

David prophesied, *'O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your*

enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger' (Psalm 8:1-2 NIV).

With the tools of sound, we can expose and silence Jezebel and every other demonic foe from robbing us. Pick up that instrument and sing your head off in your room!

God Laughs at the Devil

At the end of the day the Lord God is Lord of all. *'The wicked plots against the just, and gnashes at him with his teeth. The Lord laughs at him, for He sees that his day is coming'* (Psalm 37:12-13).

Saul's day came and the Lord was laughing. The Lord laughs at the devil with all his efforts to thwart God's people, however, it may be very painful, with a heavy price at times when you go through trials. As you stay faithful and prayerful to God, vindication will come from the Lord. The last laugh is on the devil; you will eventually win. *'In return for my love they are my accusers, but I give myself to prayer'* (Psalm 109:4). If you truly know the Lord and are not ignorant of your enemy the devil, you will eventually experience the joy of the Lord as your confidence. You will be an over-comer, a person of fervent prayer, and intimate in the knowledge of God by the word. There is a price in the process of being an over-comer, yet in that journey you will mature with the character of Christ to have true authority.

You may have poured your life into a vision, or church, and loved with great measure, yet those you served may have turned against you. Give yourself to prayer like David. You will find the strength to overcome, with new understanding of your journey, and not become shipwrecked on the spiritual reject heap.

False Authority Commits Suicide

Saul eventually committed suicide by the old Japanese way of Hari-Kari - he fell on his sword. The irony was he had been severely wounded by the Amalekites, an enemy he should have dealt with long before. They pursued Saul and his three sons in

the battle and killed them. This included Jonathan whom David loved deeply. Samuel's prophetic hacking ministry had effectively sealed the final death warrant of Saul. The enemy was not very happy at what Samuel did, but it was Saul's unfaithfulness to God that gave ground to the devil. This ultimately cost him everything, including the death of his children (1 Samuel 31:2-6).

All the men of Israel scattered after Saul's death. This is always the end result of the devil's strategy with false authority (Zechariah 13:7) - smite the authority and people scatter, becoming ineffective. Don't be discouraged if you are a scattered one in your battles with the Jezebel spirit, God does have a hope and a future for you. Your gift has not gone away, perhaps you just need to be re-planted in fresh church soil; walking a new way, in a new wineskin.

The ultimate end of Saul when he died, was when his body was fastened to the wall of Beth Shan. This was his final resting place - pinned to a wall like he tried to do with David. His armor was put in the Temple of the Ashtoreths (1 Samuel 31:19). The warring armor of false authority ended up in Jezebel's temple (a testimony of his spiritual state).

Be Blessed - Overcome!

In the boxing movie *Ali* there is a great picture of what it can take to be an over-comer. In Christ we are champions, but you can lose that strength through the knocks of life. You can be up against the ropes (like George Forman with Muhammad Ali all those years ago), and the devil comes at you pounding, round after round.

Despite it all you stand; perhaps bruised and bashed, but you stay focused on the prize, with your faith intact. Then you rise in your faith in a definitive moment, at the right strategic time.

You gain momentum in Christ and by His word you deliver the knockout punch to the enemy. The big lug falls down on the canvass having worn him-self out - you win! I found it an inspiring movie, with a great soundtrack. Like the tenacity in the movie *Brave-heart*, you will find “freedom” in being an over-comer when your trust is completely in God. Seek the Lord, trust emphatically in Him, be led of the Holy Spirit and take the steps you need.

David prayed, ‘*But my eyes are upon you O God the Lord; in You I take refuge*’ (Psalm 141:8). ‘*Cause me to know **the way** in which I should walk. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of **uprightness***’. (Psalm 143:8b,10). ‘*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God*’ (Romans 8:14).

Jesus said, ‘*but **hold fast** what you have till I come. And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations*’ (Revelation 2:25). To have governing power in the nations as a singer or musician, you need to be an over-comer. You will have situations that will certainly provide you with opportunities. There is an end coming on earth. With all that is happening today in the world, it seems even closer than ever. In maturely dealing with Jezebel, and adverse circumstances, you are fashioned as a man or woman of God. In these last days, you will have the character to carry governing anointing and power. You become a person that holds fast - regardless. Holding fast tells us we will have to, as we could lose it in the pressures of these days. Trials are normal. David was fashioned this way through his trials and times in the wilderness; yet he still became a king. It was part of the process. Rise up in true authority and see the false brought down. Go for it - you win.

The final score in the premier league - You 1 v Jezebel 0.

16

Love and True Authority

“Dei amore Dei - the manner of loving God is to love Him without measure”.

The devoted and intelligent 12th century Cistercian monk,

St Bernard of Clairvaux.

David pondered Saul’s death for many days; staring at walls, and sometimes curled up in a ball unable to get off his resting mat. He had loved and honored Saul deeply, and despite everything had some treasured memories. He remembered little things, like cracking up with laughter as he tried on Saul’s oversized armor before he killed Goliath. It was a special moment that certainly broke the tension in the camp. David sighed, wishing a while for what might have been. The idealist in him wanted everything just perfect and loving with no stress, but he knew he wouldn’t be what he was if his journey had all been easy. Things were simply just out of order with Saul and it was beyond his control. The force of David’s own destiny was too great, and he knew he just had to ride the wave and fulfill it. After Saul’s death the way was paved for David’s elevation to be King of Israel, however, he still had to wait a long while, as his appointed time for national ruler-ship had not come. After years in the wilderness, he was anointed first as King of the region of Judah (2 Samuel 2:4). There he reigned in the city of Hebron ruling for 7_ years before going to Jerusalem and taking it over. At 30 years old he had reigned over Judah and then he became king of Israel for 33 years (2 Samuel 5:5).

Continued War with the Old Order

David was anointed to rule; yet after Saul died, David had to endure much civil warfare before having influential national

authority. There is always a war for your ultimate authority in God. *'Now there was a **long** war between the house of Saul and the House of David. But David grew **stronger and stronger** and the house of Saul grew **weaker and weaker**'* (2 Samuel 3:1). This is also a great picture of how we grow stronger, learning to walk in the spirit through our battles in life. Then our fleshly old order and the things that hinder us in walking in governing authority become weaker.

Ishbosheth was Saul's surviving son. After Saul's death he was installed as King of Israel by Abner the commander of Saul's army (2 Samuel 2:8). He reigned for 2 years (V10). Ishbosheth means son of shame. He was a last remnant of Saul, and a living statement of Saul's leadership legacy. Ishbosheth was really only a puppet king of the warrior Abner who had a *'hold on the House of Saul'* (2 Samuel 3:6). The military were really in charge. If you are a weak leader you will end up controlled by some sort of warfare.

Around the same time, God established David in his own house of authority - Judah. There was still a battle with the residue of the old religious order of false authority as it desperately hung on. David had been in the wilderness of Engedi in the cave of Adullam (probably thinking he would never do much in ministry again), now however, in the journey of David's growth as a leader, God gave him a greater platform of authority to fight and deal with the old. David was anointed as King of Judah, which means praise. His greatest warfare was not from an expected enemy, but continued from those whom he loved. Some of the greatest contention you will have is with those in the House. It is always a test of love, character, and of your true authority in Christ.

The Davidic order of progressive, apostolic restoration will grow stronger and stronger today, and expose and weaken false

authority. The roots of true Davidic authority are fashioned in the Judah anointing; that is the powerful apostolic praises of God, in all they represent in having governing influence in a nation. You have got to be a praising and a worshipping lover of God to carry authentic ruling authority in your music. Remember, *'Judah will plow'* (Hosea 10:11). The power of the praises of God, make a way where ground has not been plowed before. Music has carved a big track toward the release of governing authority in the earth through the Church and will continue to do so.

Maintaining Love

In the midst of changes and all the battles, David still maintained integrity, love and respect for others. He also felt deeply the genuine pain of loss for God's anointed - Saul whom he loved and served. Maintaining your heart with integrity is an imperative quality needed by those who are in music leadership, and on music teams. Sensitive artists all need to *'keep your heart with all diligence'* (Proverbs 4:23). Uprightness of character will enable you to travel through the disappointments and pain you will sometimes go through. This is maturity, and reflects love and true authority. David said, *'... deal with me for your names sake; because your mercy is good'* (Psalm 109:21). David always wanted to keep his heart right for the sake of upholding the name of the Lord. He knew the dealings of God were ultimately good, for the tender mercies of God always saw him through.

Keeping Your Heart Sweet Toward Authority

When King Saul had died, an enemy Amalekite came from the battlefield to David. He told him what he did to Saul and Jonathan, but his motive was selfish, thinking that he may get a reward. David then said, *"How was it you were not afraid to put forth your hand to destroy the Lord's anointed?"* (2 Samuel 1:14). Regardless of the real truth about Saul, David promptly had the Amalekite killed because of principle. Why? The man had killed

God's anointed with no fear. David just couldn't believe that this arrogant son of an A'kite could do that. The devil has no fear in killing God's anointed - remember that!

David did the same thing when Ishbosheth was murdered in his bed by two of his captains (2 Samuel 4:6). The captains thought they would get a reward and favor from David. Even though Ishbosheth was a weak leader he was still Saul's son and David *honored* that fact. He promptly killed the captains (V12), David called them, '*wicked men (who) have killed a righteous person...*' - what a great attitude! When those in authority are under attack, our response should always be to cover and war for our leaders regardless - this is not always easy. It is important to stay prayerful and loving, moving in the spirit, and not the flesh, as being in leadership is not a comfortable place to live in for anybody. It can be tough maintaining a good attitude, especially if you are under attack in the battle as well. This is agape love, or the love of God in action. God is love. Jesus said we must love even our enemies. We cannot literally hack them up today like brother Samuel did, even though you may feel like it!

David had a wonderful heart toward authority and the whole concept of obedience and reverence for the position. It is a real key to progressing on with God into your own genuine authority that is capable of carrying governing power. Author and speaker John Bevere wrote, '*The Highest form of worship is obedience*' (read John's awesome book *Under Cover – the promise of protection under His authority*, www.johnbevere.org).

People with unhealed wounds of the heart cannot function properly in their gifts. We all need to be quick to forgive, repent if need be, and move on – this was David's nature. It is hard sometimes and can take time, but Jesus did promise you a few trials. David prayed, '*... Judge me, O Lord, according to my righteousness, and according to my integrity within me. Oh, let the*

wickedness of the wicked come to an end, but **establish the just**; for the righteous God **tests the hearts and minds**. My defense is of God, who **saves the upright in heart**'... 'I will praise the Lord according to his righteousness, and will **sing praise** to the name of the Lord Most High' (Psalms 7:8-10,17).

Do Not Touch God's Anointed

"Do not touch My anointed ones, and do My prophets no harm." Sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples' (1 Chronicles 16:22-24).

After the ark came back to Jerusalem, David brought forth a Psalm (1 Chronicles 16:7-36). This Psalm reflects much of God's heart. The lyrics are what I call *The Ark Psalm* (also found in Psalms 96,105,106). They show how our attitude should be to authority in general, and also ones attitude to the prophets. God is very protective of His prophets as they have a propensity to be harmed, because of their God given sensitivity of gifting, and the establishing foundation ministry they have alongside the apostle. God reproved kings and people in government for the sake of his people, saying '*Do not touch My anointed ones, and do My prophets no harm*' (Psalm 105:15). God is saying the same thing today, as these gifts to the Church are also related to the release of song going throughout the earth on a daily basis, and the glory coming to the nations. The governing gifts in the Church are sacred to God, and he will protect them as with his people Israel - '*My anointed ones*'.

Being able to effectively declare songs of the Lord among nations, in the glory and presence of God, is also linked to the way we treat people and exercise authority. To *not touch* God's anointed means - do not strike them, or come against anyone with your actions or words, who genuinely carry the Messiah's purposes in their lives and calling. Do not do anything bad, evil,

displeasing or injurious. Do not make sad, shatter, or cause a breaking, or broken-ness, with anything in the lives of God's prophets. We must learn at leadership level, that the gifts placed around our lives must be held dearly, with great love, commitment, mature understanding, and reverence. Ministers should be genuinely honored and looked after. The prophetic ministry, that is prevalent in music, should not be harmed in anyway - they, or their families. It is an anathema of sin in God's eyes, which will be judged by Him. David understood the importance of love and keeping a right heart in true authority, so must we all. Yes, the bible does have do's and don'ts!

God is Ultimately the Authority in Control

*'So Saul died for his **unfaithfulness** which he had committed against the Lord, because he did not **keep the word** of the Lord, and also because he **consulted a medium** for guidance. But he did not inquire of the Lord; therefore He killed him, and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse'* (1 Chronicles 10:13). Not inquiring of God can kill your spirit and life. Imagine the bondage people expose themselves to, when they seek guidance from Tarot readers, astrologers, trendy modern TV mediums, and other spiritualists!

At the end of the day it was God who killed Saul, ending his ministry. Saul was never to see the fulfillment of the incredible things the Lord was preparing in David. What a tragedy! It was the Lord who also killed Moses on Mt Nebo. He would not let him go into the Promised Land because of his disobedience to the word of the Lord (Deuteronomy 34:5). Praise God for His New Covenant grace today! Phew - how we need it! We also need to learn that authority in God is not to be taken lightly. God is passionate and jealous, for our love and faithfulness to be for Him alone. He will still kill off ministries that walk down the path of Saul today, and hand it to a David that is waiting in the wings of preparation.

Love and Pain Brought New Song

David lamented deeply over the loss of Saul and his son Jonathan. The pain of lost genuine love and affection brought forth the *Song of the Bow* (2 Samuel 1:18). The lyrics reflect David's higher God given perspective of agape love, despite Saul's efforts to destroy him. This kind of love will bring forth songs that will last eternally, piercing any kind of darkness - God's power will be in them. In this case it became Holy Scripture. *'It's the power of love...da da hm hm'* - thanks Huey, good news!

David called Saul, and Saul's son Jonathan, *'The beauty of Israel'* (2 Samuel 1:18). *'Saul and Jonathan were beloved'* (V23). He had a rich extraordinary love and fellowship with Jonathan. This was the deepest male fellowship of the heart, man to man human intimacy, love that is probably rare to most men. *'You have been very pleasant to me; Your love to me was wonderful surpassing the love of women, how the mighty have fallen'* (V26). David was not gay (as some may misread this), but a deep and passionate man. Many insensitive and religious people do not like this godly level of genuine passion, but it is Gods character to be expressive in that way. David naturally lamented; he had experienced a one off, deep genuine friendship and fellowship. Something all real men need, but now David had lost this precious gift.

Pour Out an Open Heart

At the crossroad of loss, David did not cave in, but looked heavenward. David's response was not to be bitter, but to pour out his heart. His heart tap was in a continuous flow to the Lord. Some of your best songs can come from experiences that have had pain in the process. David had no hesitation in pouring out his heart before the Lord, be it negative, or positive. He exposed his heart to God in passionate abandon and the Lord poured His heart into him. That is why David prophesied so much about Christ, as in Psalm 22 - the thoughts of Jesus on the Cross. Much

of God's heart can be found in David's words. David kept accessing the eternal heart of heaven. So much of what he saw and heard was eternal. To prophesy was natural for him - let His heart be in yours. David exhorts you to *'trust in Him at all times you people; pour out your heart before Him...'* (Psalm 62:8).

Wise Conduct and Pure Attitude

With the demise of Saul and his sons, David's life was at a pivotal point before his next elevation of ministry. David's attitude was not an issue; his heart remained pure toward authority regardless. This is why he could be in such great authority. Jesus even identified himself with David's throne of authority and attitude.

It is a tough call sometimes, for the sensitive, creative person, to remain strong and pure in heart, yet, it is the road to becoming a powerful apostolic and prophetic singer and musician. When David served Saul, he always *'behaved wisely and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all...'* (1 Samuel 18:5). Wise conduct and pure attitude, will always make a way for you and give you favor. It will help give you true strong authority to lead the worship warriors God is raising up today. When you go through things, ask yourself, *'do I write and respond with bitterness, or love?'* David wrote the Song of the Bow before his second anointing to become the king of Judah. The sensitive song of love from your heart can take you forward to be a king in spirit - to rule, reign, and touch your city, or nation for God. It will also keep you longing, *'my soul thirsts for God, for the Living God'* (Psalm 42:2).

David's heart took him from playing for Saul, who he loved and served, to making him a king of praise; 7_ years later he was to become king of the nation in full apostolic power and authority. This national governing position prepared him to build into the proper order for music. David was then finally ready to begin

establishing God's dream of a free and liberated tent. 3000 years ago, God the eternal artist started to paint the picture of the future now, with the Tabernacle of David. It was a template for music's ultimate purpose in these end-times, with the re-building of the Tabernacle. Are you ready for God's divine order today?

Selah and love!

17

David the Leader

“What did I do?” said David exhaling. The quivering spear was embedded in the wall just inches from his head. Wide-eyed and nervous, sweat poured from the palm of his hand, sliding down the neck of his Lyre. He dropped it. Another moment passed. In a flash, he turned and fled through the royal curtain. He left behind that crazy regal love seething in his jealousy. As David ran away, a bad mouth pounded in his mind, yet he never dropped an unseemly word. Destiny chased him with its price tag. One day he would warm the throne and hold many hands. He didn’t want it, but he couldn’t avoid it.

David’s preparation to be an effective leader wasn’t cozy and safe. *‘Love, pain, and the whole damn thing’* was his journey. It tutors us in how to be effective leaders of singers, musicians, and artists, and staying sensitive in a ruling position with all its challenges. David was fashioned in his leadership, as the chiseled rock of a sculptor. He had to stand in the trials, and walk on the jagged stones of life - well before the Ark of the Covenant went back to Jerusalem where he set up the Tabernacle. He was an apostolic leader in the making; however, he needed a prophet to release him.

The Prophet’s Anointing and Release

David was King of Judah before he was anointed by the Prophet Samuel to be the King of Israel. *‘... Then they anointed David king over Israel, according to the word of the Lord by Samuel’* (I Chronicles 11:3b). The prophetic prepares the way, and releases apostolic leadership. *‘... David was thirty when he began to reign...’*

(2 Samuel 5:4). Jesus also started his ministry in governing authority at 30 years of age, as the apostle of our faith (Hebrews 3:1). The prophet, John the Baptist, proclaimed Jesus and baptized him. It was written of John, *'Behold, I send My messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you'* (Malachi 3:1 & Matthew 11:10). After His baptism and release by John, Jesus accomplished so much in a short time. The Church will also, when her governing, apostolic and prophetic foundations, are strong and in place. David reigned 33 years as king of Israel - one year for each of Jesus' years living on earth. Governing maturity as an apostolic music leader takes time to develop.

Rule with Love

The throne stayed warm, even when David was elsewhere. That night he sipped new wine as a blood red sunset lay to rest over Mount Zion. The crickets played their whistling song in the final shafts of daylight.

"Thank you" David said, as a servant took away the earthen vessel.

He glanced at a spear mounted on the wall. Smiles were easier to crack now. He reminisced of the bear and the Lion he had killed years before. He felt sorry for them in a boyish way.

Sweet melodies of praise interrupted his musing. They drifted up on a breeze from the finest of tents. The notes swam inside of him, speaking, and painting pictures; his eyes were fixed on future dreams. The pattern was now set, *'this is how it should be,'* he thought. His favorite instrument leaned against the wall. It was worn from deft hands, scratched, and dented; marked with over 20 years of memories, of the trials and tests that made him ready to be king.

David was a godly leader; he loved much, and he set God's standard with authority. He was called by God to, '*... shepherd my people Israel and be **ruler** over Israel...*' (2 Samuel 5:2). Leadership covers a nation, a church, and its people. It can release to prosper, or stifle and kill. God is love - those who minister in His spirit must minister with genuine love. The greater the love of a leader, he can then be entrusted with superior ruling authority and power. This spirit and anointing should be in apostolic music.

David spoke to God often; relationship was strong with him. Jesus said, '*Love your neighbor as yourself*' (Romans 13:9). Genuine authority is based on how we relate to Christ and others. David had many tests in his attitude toward authority. Saul threw his spears of jealousy and insecurity, but David still honored him. To have genuine spiritual authority in your own call to leadership, you will experience greater tests in your life. The true ministry of Jesus is about indisputable power, based in unfeigned love. God established authentic authority with David's leadership; a position the Lord could use as a pattern for us in the future.

David was a skilled musician as a boy. If he were a cool youth, if a fender were his axe, he may have blitzed MTV. Skill is important; however, not enough on its own for what God had in mind. David's quality was shaped in spirit, truth, character, and attitude, over a long time. Our patient God formed him to carry governing power, and to affect nations. Many gifted adults are still little boys and girls. They are not ready to carry governing authority. When you turn 21 years of age, it is a tradition to be given a key. Does it open the door to life, a city, or a nation? The party cake is tasty, but even so, it is just the beginning of adulthood. David cried out, '*Behold You desire truth in the inward parts and in the hidden part you will make me **know wisdom***' (Psalm 51:6). Growing up and maturing takes time to develop.

In his many conversations with God, David heard this important message. *'God has spoken once, twice I have heard this; that **power belongs to God**'* (Psalm 62:11). *'... He puts down one and exalts another'* (Psalm 75:6b). Power, or position bestowed, ultimately belongs to the Lord. By grace it is given, and must be held in great reverence. Great power rules well, with God's love.

David was Chosen

*'So David **knew** that the Lord had established him as king over Israel, and that He had exalted His kingdom for the sake of His people Israel'* (2 Samuel 5:12).

David had seven brothers: tall, handsome, talented, and gifted, but alas, not selected for royal purpose. God spurned them with surprising disdain (1 Samuel 16:7). Something in their hearts did not attract the Lord, but repelled Him.

Johnny the musician was young, talented, marketable, and fresh faced with rosy cheeks; he fitted in well with the created culture of the church he belonged to. Johnny was an automatic choice to be the face of the music - it was decided that he would look the best on the album covers. Johnny was sitting at his office desk doing a crossword, trying to figure out the word overseer. The modular shelf still had every book neatly placed in rows behind him. Johnny only ever read the attractive spines. Mary popped her head inside the door; she had a tight pretty white dress on, covered in a zany pattern of yellow question marks. Her hair was a dyed short black bob, and she wore glasses with lenses big enough to burn ants. She was also motherly, gregarious, and also hopelessly in doubt about many things; nevertheless she went to get Johnny's coffee.

Her world was changing. Keith had gone - it was all a bit quick really. The committee had decided he didn't fit anymore. His reward for faithfulness had bewildered him. It had felt like a

divorce for some people, like having the wrong limb cut off, nonetheless, it was very stressful. Keith had left all his music books behind as a gesture of good will, trying to be a good Christian. Mary missed Keith's strong presence. She couldn't understand why he was still at home wondering what to do. The smell of a hot brew filled the empty church. Mary banged a silver spoon on the side of Johnny's mug - the sound was comforting. In a filing cabinet a silver fish was nibbling at unconsidered resumes. One had a music degree and played in a few church bands, another, a songwriter in the secular music business. The next day they were food for the paper shredder, and the little fish became tiny fillets.

The model for music leadership in David's Tabernacle, was three prophet singers who were over fifty years old (see chapter 30 *Singers in the Proper Order*). Maturity to spiritually govern comes with time - older, experienced, wiser leaders, are often better suited for the overseeing task. If they are always fresh in the Lord, they should gain spiritual authority in their years, not lose it just because of age. Today's apostolic music leaders carry the responsibility and anointing, to father, mother, and train the young, into the same spiritual authority of leadership. David's kingdom, and the paradigm of music within it, was exalted for the sake of people. There are many music leaders who are being forged by God to be nurturing fathering leaders in these days. Some are in that role, yet many are hidden, either by God's design until they are ready, or without little choice, due to adverse church circumstances. They are apostolic gold, being prepared in the ground of patience.

Perhaps you have been faithful in a small church, pioneering a new work, or frustrated with waiting for the dream God clearly gave you - don't despair. David knew he was chosen, and that his destiny was inevitable. Your day of establishment will come to lead the children forward in this apostolic generation.

Love Integrity Skill

*'Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart and from a good conscience and from a sincere faith' (1 Timothy 1:5). 'The Love of Christ compels us' (2 Corinthians 5:14). 'So he shepherded them according to the **integrity** of his heart, And guided them by the **skillfulness** of his hands' (Psalms 78:72). God's motivation is always love. The Davidic music leader must also guide with integrity and skill - not just in music, but also spiritual and life skills. God's love is our compelling motivation and agenda. The character and heart that David represents is essential in apostolic authority. It is the character of Jesus.*

*'Let **integrity** and uprightness preserve me; for I **wait for you**' (Psalm 25:21). 'Examine me, O Lord and **prove** me: Try my mind and my heart' (Psalm 26:2). David had his mind made up. There was no desire for compromise, *'as for me I will walk in my integrity; my foot stands in an even place; in the congregations I will bless the Lord'* (Psalm 26:11-12). Standing in the congregation with integrity, are partners in having real power in your music and song. Integrity signifies living morally upright and honest, with an attitude of uncompromising wholeness toward everything you do. This is a life skill, with a continuing learning curve, important for anyone who plays on a music platform.*

For the Sake of People

Mature music leaders, will have the church and the heart of the people in their team as their priority. The desire to release people in their gift and call, is a joy and privilege. Authentic power in music comes from the right heart. If it is only about the music, or our image and success, then we have sorely missed the point. It is for the sake of the people that Davidic apostolic authority is established in our lives - we must never forget that. God loved the tribe of Judah very much. God selected David from Judah to be Israel's leader. When you are chosen and called you know it - *'But **chose** the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion which He **loved**. And He*

built His sanctuary like the heights, like the earth, which He has established forever. He also **chose** David His servant, and took him from the sheepfolds; from following the ewes that had young He brought him, to shepherd Jacob His people, and Israel His **inheritance**' (Psalms 78:68-71).

Sheep have beautiful big brown eyes, with eyelashes to die for. In the fields, many curiously watched David as he sang to the sky. They felt safe with him. He petted warm noses, scratched floppy ears, and stroked woolly backs. He was the mid-wife to their babies, and the warrior who guarded. He had names for each of his friends. In his favorite tree the Lord spoke; He gave him songs and amazing ideas, the occasional bleat was the only intrusion. This was David's peace, a welcome reprieve from his brothers. It wasn't easy being number 8. One day, instead of his woolly friends, a sea of people would stretch far beyond his cozy tree.

Faithfulness

The sons of Korah sang, '*Blessed is the man whose strength is in you, whose **heart is set on pilgrimage... they go from strength to strength***' (Psalm 84:5,7). Faithfulness in the journey of life is imperative to maturity. You may lead a small house group in worship; keeping momentum will require faithfulness week after week. Don't despise the little things, in them the Lord prepares you for greater things. Since his days jumping with lambs, David has profoundly touched generations for 3000 years. '*O God, You have **taught me** from my youth... Now also when I am old and gray-headed, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare **your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come***' (Psalm 71:17-18). This end-time generation is to bear the entire fruit of David's faithfulness, in all he achieved and has declared as a voice of God.

In Australia, little bits of poop that stick to the wool near a sheep's backside are called dags. David did a lot of faithful dag removal as he *followed the ewes* he loved and cared for. Loving and leadership is not nice and clean, or glamorous; occasionally you will have dung on your hands. Australians sometimes refer to people as dags, if they are silly, or do something stupid. Don't be a dag, do things God's way.

David Established in the Stronghold

Sheets of lightning cracked the twilight, illuminating Zion's hill with an eerie glow. Up on the turret David arched his back, opened his mouth wide, and drank the warm rain. The sword was still gripped in the vice of his hand, and his veins were popping with the rush of adrenaline. Splashes of mud and blood washed from his face; his exhilaration in victory was undeterred by the inclement weather. When he was a child, listening to the sound of falling rain was a comfort for David - especially as he curled up in the arms of his father Jesse. He opened his eyes; the warm rain fell like splatters of starlight, their cadence accented with thunderbolts. David breathed in deeply. He also remembered the warm silky oil falling from Samuel's horn; his hair had glistened as power filled his body. Today the stronghold was his. Blood danced with the rain, but he had won the war.

(Read 1 Chronicles 11:5-9) The stronghold of Jerusalem was won and established in warfare. David's anointing gave him the governing authority to possess the land. Jerusalem is a type of the Church. Many of your battles will be in this arena and you will need to be strong in heart.

"You can't come in here and rule," they screamed.

David grinned. For so long, many voices had said that to him. He relaxed the grip on his sword and his veins began to rest. The taunts of the Jebusites were now echoes in the washing of rain.

“Thank you Lord,” he whispered into the night.

He was the king now. It was his time and he had the authority to do this job. The stronghold became his home. He would stay put in Jerusalem, regardless of any attacks from his enemies. He was in a strong place, and there he would be established. When you have authority given by God you have to use it for God’s glory; there’s no holding back when the Lord gives you the right strategies.

Living in the Stronghold

If you are to carry governing authority in music, you must possess the land of your life with all its demands. To possess means to occupy with ownership. This comes with responsibility and a dogged determination to live in dominion. Don’t let the devil, people, or the sin of flesh rob you of your God given authority. The sensitive, creative spirit must learn to have mature strength wrapped around their sensibilities, you are not then easily shaken, tempted, or distracted. You must know His word, and who you are in Christ, living life to the best of your moment.

David’s leadership lifestyle was a stronghold position where he was always ready and prepared for a battle. Apostolic leadership will always have battles; they are inevitable. The battles do not always have to be intense affairs either, if things are in proper order. When David took the stronghold of Zion, he had the maturity of character to carry governing anointing, and the ability to execute it over a nation. He became great from that place of authority in Jerusalem, for the Lord was with him.

Greatness comes from being positioned right and seasoned through time. Character comes with a price, many battles, experiences and tests. Ouch! David tells us of his, *‘You, who have shown me great and severe troubles, shall revive me again, and bring*

me up again from the depths of the earth. You shall increase my greatness, and comfort me on every side' (Psalm 71:20-21). You may have experienced the greatest lows in life, even unexpectedly, nevertheless, the journey gives room for God's grace and favor to work; lifting you to a greatness and comfort you may have only dreamed about.

David's Throne of Authority

The angel said to Mary, that Jesus will be '*... great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David'* (Luke 1:32). David's heart for God was of such high value to the Lord, that the angel Gabriel included his name when he delivered his famous message to Mary about bearing of the Son of God. Jesus was a direct descendant from David; he had the authority, and the heart, God loves to abide in. David established a seat of authority, a throne of power; God thought it good enough for His Son Jesus to sit on. The throne is in our hearts, this is where the kingdom of God resides (Luke 17:21). The Lord will live in all power on the throne of a heart that has a passionate desire for Him alone.

David went through much as a growing man, with the rejection of Saul, and the dishonor and humiliations he experienced. David nonetheless, was always concerned about God's heart and keeping integrity. Your commissioning will take time if you are to carry apostolic authority as a music leader. You may affect cities and nations like David; however, your authority will be established in the fire of trials, not just because you put a good album out. Like David, the key to staying consistent and strong is being humble and teachable in the midst of testing. '*Show me your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on you I wait all the day... The humble He guides in justice and the humble He teaches His way'* (Psalm 25:4-5,9).

Humility for Authority

*Unsear my conscience burnt with iron cast - Blinded by the steam of seeing
In my weakness let your strength be - All your life to speak from me
Mine eyes be light and single - Unerrred by fear of men
That they may see less of me*

Apostolic authority in leadership develops in the crucible of humility, where you lay down any hindrances to your walk with God - this is not always easy. It takes time and maturity to set your personal boundaries, where you decree a loud 'no!' to sin, and the incessant cycles of the flesh wanting to override your spirit. In the process God becomes more important to you than any position, power, or opportunity - you lose your life for His sake. When you are appointed in leadership, you will carry your authority maturely, holding it wisely and lightly - leading without trying, striving, being stressed, driving people, or doing things out of a sense of insecurity. Gentleness and meekness are your clothing. God's undeniable joy is your strength in all you do, not religious superficial hype.

If you are wise, don't seek position just for the sake of being a leader. Don't seek to be in some spiritual rank of control, just for the endless striving of personal success. Position is not about getting up the ladder of a church hierarchy, or into an inner-circle. Churches that promote this sort of elitist thinking often harbor much deception. Having spiritual authority without God's agenda is an undesirable place to be in. God may want you in a senior leadership team, but not with wrong motives, or hidden impure agendas - if so you will fast become unstuck.

God's Severe Dealings

'Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God...' (Romans 11:22). The Lord is kind but he is also severe, not a popular viewpoint, nonetheless true. We must consider this truth, as you will experience His dealings in the preparations of life. Severity is

rigorous and straight forward; strict, harsh in discipline, vehement, extreme, and makes great demands on energy and skill. Many of us don't see God this way, however, as we move forward into apostolic authority this aspect of Gods love toward us, will allow us to be in a position where we are thoroughly tested to be truly ready for the masters use.

John the Baptist said of Jesus, '*... He will thoroughly purge His threshing floor, and gather wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire*' (Matthew 3:12). David knew of God's severity; like him, all of us need chaff and junk burnt out of our lives. Yet God is a loving Dad, and severity always passes as we turn to Him. When things are really tough our humanity tends to retreat into comforts that numb the pain. We start looking backwards, analyzing mistakes, or being regretful. We try to fill the hole inside of us with foods, drinks, or entertainment. Our momentum slips into first gear, or dissipates into nothingness. David did not stay silent in the midst of this; he understood the favor that came in walking through trial. David said, '*In return for my love they are my accusers, but I give myself to prayer*' (Psalm 109:4). He always looked to God, and he also resolved to keep on singing and dancing! '*For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning... You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, to the end that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to You forever*' (Psalm 30:5,11-12).

Making You an Ambassador

God will deal with you to make you His ambassador. He wants His glory singing out of you. God is jealous for his Church to carry governing authority that ambassadors who He really is; this is important, especially today. Leadership, and being an ambassador for God, is rooted in love and relationship. Genuine

love unlocks the passion needed to be an effective godly leader. In that earnest momentum vision is born, and God's design for your life is unveiled. This passion and purpose comes from revelation by the Spirit of God.

David's deliverance song says, '*You have also delivered me from the **strivings** of my people, You have kept me as the head of the nations'* (2 Samuel 22:44). Quit striving in your own strength or being driven by the fleshly striving of others - look at David's example of humility. Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord, for it is God that keeps you in authority. David was a '*man raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the **sweet psalmist of Israel***' (2 Samuel 23:1). David was a pre-Christian, true ambassador of Jesus: pleasant, delightful, agreeable, sweet, and lovely. He was a physically beautiful person, who sang with a luscious sound. Hmm...David seems like candyfloss in an idealistic stained-glass world, but there is another side to him.

Lead on.

18

David the Imperfect Leader

The newspaper stand tempted passers-by with the latest glossy magazines. On her way to the office, Melody Lithe stopped dead in mid-stride. Winsome women in long jackets never looked so flawless. The large Starbucks coffee made her replete. Without warning, a giant silver hook embedded itself in her left cheek. She felt no pain. The bait: sultry eyes, high cheekbones, and full wanting lips. The gorgeous vogue male on the front cover reeled her in like a fish. He stood in the Disney perfection of a lime green field, dressed in designer black, surrounded by airbrushed white woolly sheep. He looked cool with his guitar: luscious, sweet, relaxed, and ideal. David to drool for, a must have model from another planet. Sipping her coffee, she gazed. He stared back pouting. She licked the coffee froth from her top lip. He was far removed from her daily routine of rush, stress, and grinding out greenbacks to pay bills. She fingered her purse, hesitated, turned, and then continued on to work. The gleaming hook fell to the sidewalk and slithered back into the page.

David was Dust

For some reason, angels and harp playing cherubic psalmists, recline on soft puffy clouds in the religious compartments of our minds. It all sounds a bit sweet, like the honey in the pot of Winnie the Poo. Now we will look at the other side of the shiny Davidic coin.

*'For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are **dust**' (Psalm 103:14). David had great attributes, but in reality, he was made like all of us; he was however, exceedingly anointed dust! The*

Bible clearly shows us he was also a liar, adulterer, and a murderer (2 Samuel 11). These are deeds of the flesh, and could be the sins and faults of anyone. David failed often, sinning many times, however, he was quick to confess sin and ask forgiveness. *'Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me'* (Psalm 51:7-10). David's repentance was real and pure, always expressing to God from the depths of his heart, even in his pain. He lived with great passion, as musicians and artists often do.

Repent - Forgiven

Our ears can be blocked to hearing from the Lord, or receiving any joy in life when we are unrepentant of sin. David knew the joy of God's forgiveness, even when he suffered on account of his actions. Sometimes David was brutal; he had Uriah killed (one of his men), so he could take his wife Bathsheba (2 Samuel 12:9). He was a murderer like the apostle Paul. Killers usually get life in jail, or the electric chair, yet these men have been the highest of God's generals. How great and unfathomable is the Lord's mercy. David was grieved to the core of his heart when he sinned against the Lord, and always poured out his heart. *'For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You'* (Psalm 86:5).

'You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance' (A prayer of Moses, Psalm 90:8). God observes everything closely in the light of His face; nothing is secret or unseen - David also knew this. God's word gives the answer to keep from sinning, *'your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against you'* (Psalm 119:11). Living in God's word, is something we must all learn.

Despite Imperfection

Despite his immense failures at times, David was honored and respected for his heart towards the Lord, but having a heart for God doesn't give a license for one to sin. We may not have David's eminence, but we can identify with his humanity. David's life shows us we don't have to be perfect to be significant, we just have to keep our hearts and lives separated to Jesus, living as over-comers in all the challenges of life. In our calling, we move forward in the matchless grace and mercy of God; being ourselves in what we do. David had a key that will open doors for you and change your life. '*A man after my own heart, that shall fulfill all my will*' (Acts 13:22). In this time of apostolic reformation, we must fulfill all God determines for our lives, despite our imperfections. If you keep in the heartbeat of God it is possible, and you will overcome anything. David was a type of Jesus Christ; we are called to be like the Lord.

Jesus the Son of God was tempted in all manner of sin - as a human being He could have been a liar, or an adulterer, but he never sinned. The Lord '*sympathizes with our weaknesses*' - He has been there (Hebrews 4:15). He will make a way of change for you, to be all He desires. God will always see your heart after Him, no matter what you have been in the past, what you are going through, or the inadequacies and perceived imperfections you think you may have.

Man after God's Heart

'But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought for Himself a man after his own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you' (1 Samuel 13:14). Samuel said, '*Saul, you are on the way out baby, you have been singing the song, I did it My Way, far too long*' (my emphasis). David was chosen for his heart. The Lord passionately seeks that in men and women, where His kingdom works through His righteousness. Such a heart is an

open window for God's glory to pour into the earth. In the re-building of the Tabernacle of David, that heart will carry apostolic power. God demands, and requires hearts after Him to fulfill His purposes.

Gods Grace is Sufficient

The apostle Paul said, *'and He said to me, "My **grace** is **sufficient** for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."* Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the **power of Christ** may rest upon me' (2 Corinthians 12:9).

David's leadership represents what true authority is - grace. David had weaknesses like all of us, yet he was strong in power and God's grace. If we are to carry true apostolic authority in music, we must learn to walk in grace and mercy. Maturing through life, makes one realize, the more you know, the less you know, and how much more we need God in absolutely everything. *'Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom'* (Matthew 5:3). The blessed, are those who know they need total reliance upon Christ. You cannot learn this only in a bible school - you have to live it. In times of realizing your own weaknesses and limitations, you will often be totally captivated by God. This is a humbling process, where you learn to yield to Him in His sufficient grace. God's strength and power will rest upon you, and will be manifest in your songs - you won't have to strive for this, or try to make it happen.

The Broken Road

Every leader in apostolic authority will walk a broken road of some degree. In this journey you learn to handle things like rejection, pain, and hurt, where you may end up feeling totally hopeless, or even useless. It is important to be filled with God's word and have consistent positive faith, for in real life there is much to overcome. *'The sacrifices of God are a **broken spirit**, a broken and a contrite heart - these, O God, You will not despise'*

(Psalm 51:17). Figuratively, a contrite, or broken heart, is one that is ground to powder. David got to a place where he was very aware of his imperfections, and could only look to God's strength, not his own.

The apostle Paul said, *'Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am **weak**, then I am **strong**'* (2 Corinthians 12:10). A paradox of wisdom is seeing our weaknesses as a positive - for His strength to be within us, not relying on our own. It is part of fashioning your leadership in your walk with God. In that place the power of Christ can descend on your life. You increase as a tabernacle for God with Christ working through you, giving you all the help you need - it is God's heart, He does not want you to do it all on your own. The broken road provides a doorway for the Lord to infiltrate every facet of our lives, so we can experience His full Lordship, authority, and power.

The grace on David's life and leadership often became a revelation to him through his extreme trials. The grace he found in the contriteness of his heart found its way into his music - good enough to become Holy Scripture. David hurt, and felt things very deeply, and regardless of what he went through, he kept praising and making music. *'How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? How long shall I take counsel in my soul, **having sorrow in my heart daily**? How long will my enemy be exalted over me? Consider and hear me, O Lord my God; enlighten my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed against him"; lest those who trouble me rejoice when I am moved. But I have **trusted** in Your mercy; my heart shall **rejoice** in Your salvation. I will **sing to the Lord**, because He has **dealt bountifully with me**'* (Psalm 13:1-6). *'The Lord **is near** to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit'* (Psalm 34:18). In the fashioning of our lives as leaders, we find identification in David and all those who penned the Psalms.

In receiving the word of God, we find grace for everything. *'My soul melts from heaviness; strengthen me according to Your word'* (Psalm 119:28). *'Your statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage'* (Psalm 119:54). Apostolic song and sound will be released by the grace of His word that is active and alive in you as you walk the journey.

In Rejection David fought for the Enemy

One day David had enough of Saul's constant persecution, he had no choice but to go; it was obvious the senior minister would eventually kill him - as they say in England, *'it was doing his head in'*. David ran away with his 2 wives, 600 men, and their families. He joined with the Philistines, and fought against their enemies for sixteen months (1 Samuel 27). He learned much about his enemy and how they operated. David aligned himself with Achish the Philistine, and even then he kept an attitude of a servant. Achish in turn released David to be a chief in his army. It was sad that David had to go into the world to find kindness and relative safety (1 Samuel 28:1-2). Achish, however, thought he would control him forever, but David had a destiny from God.

In changing sides David made many of his *'people utterly abhor him'* (1 Samuel 27:12). Narrow-minded religious people perceived he had gone back into the world, or was a failure not flying with the eagles anymore. It will be clear who your true friends are if this happens to you. David may have seemed washed up and a failure to some, however, it was also part of God's plan in David's journey to greatness. Sometimes in the battles, you just have to go into the world for a season to survive. There are many singers and musicians who have been driven back into the world from their call in the House of God. They play in pubs and club gigs to make ends meet, or whatever other transitional work they have to do in looking after themselves or their families. They are judged for being worldly, a backslider, or

a failure, when in fact the opposite is true. In their church, the understanding and proper apostolic structure was just not there to facilitate their gifts. Their calling, passion, and vision, is disenfranchised and isolated from the church, often by fleshly and false leadership; as with David they have no choice.

David went through much anxiety, which is revealed in the Psalms. Spiritual warfare becomes tiring, emotions are rung out, there are no resources, and those who walk the road with you are suffering. You feel like a castaway on an island, on the edge of insanity, wanting to die. The pastoral Sauls have thrown their spears. The people you love are driving you away through their own blindness and pride. David was in this place, and at one point through his reproach, he became *'the song of the drunkards'* (Psalm 69:12b). Nehemiah's restored singers and musicians went through the same thing (Nehemiah 13:10). The prophet Nehemiah went away for a time, and all hell broke loose in the proper order he had established. All the singers and musicians who should have been provided for in the church, *'had gone back to his field'* because their provision was ripped off. If you are in this position don't lose heart, the Lord will turn things around for you. The Philistines of this world can't control you forever; God is bigger than that.

The Lord's vision and destiny for your life will come to pass - as you trust Him and don't lose faith in the trials. It may be a great test, but walk it through. This is an hour in Church history when the Lord is gathering and restoring His people for rich fulfillment. Consider this, *'For You, O God, have **tested us**; You have **refined us** as silver is refined. You brought us into the net; You laid affliction on our backs. **You have caused men to ride over our heads**; we went through fire and through water (Ouch! Please no more!); but you brought us out to rich fulfillment'* (Psalm 66:10-12). Also, *'**Many** are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of **them all**'* (Psalm 34:19).

Restitution Comes

Saul was hardly adequate as a model of leadership, or as a mentor for David. His poor leadership would have contributed to David's own imperfect leadership. David had to learn mostly on the fly as he battled through. He was paying the price of birthing a new paradigm, and there was no other David to draw on for experience. Despite everything, the Lord was with him in every trial because of his heart toward God. It is the same in this era as we emerge into the apostolic paradigm of Church, as there are few true established models to follow. In due time, false leadership like Saul's (even though God allowed it) will come down, and the Lord will redeem his real governing purposes. The eyes of people will be opened, and they will see where God is moving.

Abner, the chief commanding officer of Saul's army, helped bring about the change that David needed. Not every one wanted David as king, but God opened the eyes of Abner, even though he was an enemy. *'Now Abner had communicated with the elders of Israel, saying, "In time past you were seeking for David to be king over you. "Now then, do it! For the Lord has spoken of David, saying, 'By the hand of My servant David, I will save My people Israel from the hand of the Philistines and the **hand of all their enemies.**"'* (2 Samuel 3:17).

Abner knew about the word of prophecy concerning David's destiny. Even though he hated David he eventually shifted his loyalties to him. He was the one who had political clout to persuade all the elders of Israel too eventually make David king. Abner had a control on Saul's house as he could see his leadership was coming to an end; Abner was eventually compelled to help David. Restitution came from the powerful and the unlikely. Abner, however, was killed prematurely by David's commanding officer Joab because Abner had killed Joab's brother Asahel (2 Samuel 2:23, 3:27). David's attitude of

heart shines again, *'Do you know what a great prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel? And I am weak today, though anointed king'* (2 Samuel 3:38). The war just went on and on for David, but he stayed sensitive and honoring in his heart; even the death of a former enemy made him feel weak. It was a genuine loss for him, which he felt deeply. He was not fearful of exposing how he felt and being real; it was a great quality of his. David was an imperfect leader, because the fact is every leader is imperfect in some way, but he was the right leader, and in God's eyes he was perfect for what the Lord intended.

Authority Tested

Why did David go through things? Why are we tested? Tests are part of God's design for advancement. The most painful is dealing with rejection. It happens in various ways to everyone. These tests and trials are spread out over years at different levels in life. We learn how to react to them in a godly manner, and in the process identify with Jesus. We grow more Christ-like and become vessels for God's glory and power. We learn to love more and forgive easier. The narrow road walking with Jesus then gets even narrower. It leaves us no choice but to move forward in life, for there is no looking back when we have taken the plow (Luke 9:62). Inside our hearts, we are broken open. Being tested and broken is a positive thing, not a negative. It doesn't mean we stay there, or go looking for it constantly, but we learn and advance. The rich alabaster oil flows from our spirit - soaking Jesus, the Head of our government (Mark 14:3). Things that hinder us moving on in life are removed (Proverbs 25:4). We are delivered from pride, hidden selfish agendas, and other unhealed areas. True power and authority pours into our lives as fresh anointing oil from God, then we are able to lead with His compassion and character. God sees imperfection as opportunity and perfection as a heart beaming toward Him.

'It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn your statutes' (Psalm 119:71). To have genuine ruling authority in your music, testing will be part of you getting there. It is a paradox, but it will do us good. We learn to keep on loving, having faith, not staying offended, identifying with others, forgiving, growing, keeping integrity, and not to give up in the midst of it all - this is spiritual maturity. Many do not pass through these testing times, and spend years going around in circles. They stay on the outer edge of life: bitter, jealous, critical, and holding on to what they should let go of. If we have genuine humility we can move forward, experiencing great breakthroughs and victory. *'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble'* (James 4:6). It is hard sometimes, but we must learn to *'count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete lacking nothing'* (James 1:2-4).

Lord Create in us Clean Hearts

David said, *'create in me a clean heart, renew a steadfast spirit in me ...the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart, these O God you will not despise'* (Psalm 51:10,17). Keith Green (who was a great modern Davidic musician) wrote a wonderful song about this verse that cried out with passion to the Body of Christ. David's cry is the desire for a heart that is morally and ethically pure in its motive. God's road to having that heart is through broken-ness, as mirrored in David's life. Our making is often found in our breaking. We become healed and whole so we may carry God's governing Spirit. God pummels us on His potter's wheel of creating and redeeming. In His love, He makes us vessels for His use. This affects the strength of our music and song, causing it to be released in a most powerful way. Heaven's sounds and songs can easily pass through a contrite, broken heart. We all go through contrition in some season of our lives, for the Lord will deal with us first before His glory is revealed through us.

Broken means, to be quenched, shattered, or in pieces. Blah! Did you say, *'help'*? David went through this in a big way, *'I am feeble and severely broken, I groan because of the turmoil of my heart'* (Psalm 38:8). It was part of what made Him a great leader, for in contrition and humility, he learned to trust God, repented, and moved on. We ultimately become strong in Christ, through our weaknesses. This is vital to understand for sensitive artists. It gives strength of character to your sensibilities, so your creative sensitivity can function in the governing manner it's designed for.

The Making of You

In his broken-ness, David found the New Covenant revelation of grace and mercy, as opposed to the strict law of trying to get it all right. This was hundreds of years before the fullness of grace came to earth through Jesus. You maybe in a broken place now, look to God and ask what He is doing in you. Many are being prepared in this journey. It could be the making of you - to bring forth songs that open the heavens in your city and nation.

David knew his confession would keep him away from the enemy so he prayed, *'You have tested my heart; You have visited me in the night; You have tried me and have found nothing; I have purposed that my mouth shall not transgress. Concerning the works of men, by the word of Your lips, I have kept away from the paths of the destroyer. Uphold my steps in Your paths, that my footsteps may not slip'* (Psalm 17:3-5).

Jesus Christ in His almighty position as the Son of God, laid down His divine authority to give His life for others - there is power found in humility. If we are to be truly apostolic as musical leaders, we must also take up our cross daily so our footsteps in life do not slip. *'Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth'* (Matthew 5:5). Leave the imperfection of self-promotion and self-seeking behind. Have a heart of genuine humility in the midst of human imperfection, and be like David

with a heart after God. Allow the Lord to make you; rise up you David's and Davidesses! His faithfulness is with you. Say out loud, *'forever O Lord, your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness endures to all generations'* (Psalm 119:89-90).

Faith is.

19

David and his Team

David loved his new cell phone. Taking pictures with it was his current fascination and amusement. Flipping it open, and stretching out his arm, he shouted, “Smile!” Jashobeam dutifully obliged. David stood on tiptoes just to put his arm around Jashobeam’s shoulder. They relaxed and laughed loudly at the little picture of them on the screen. Jash was a colossal guy from the Hachmoni clan, renowned for their wisdom and toughness. David felt safe with this kindly man, who once killed three hundred guys with a spear. David went and sat on a nearby rock, scrolling happily through the digipics of all his mighty men like a kid with a Gameboy. He loved their craziness and praised God for them all. They were strong fearless killers, beyond being mortal at times.

As the faces flicked before him, David wandered through some of his memories, as he talked to the little video camera above the screen. *“The wild old lion stalked us on that freezing winter day. Benajah waited patiently buried in the snowdrift. Like a Jack in the box he scared the living daylight out of the Lion; besides his wild nature he was ugly as a bag of spanners anyway! He wrestled that beast until he was covered from head to foot in snow and blood. Ben let out a mighty raspy roar, sliced its head off, and held it high by its beautiful mane - we all cheered for our crazy lifesaver in the wilderness (I remembered how good it felt, when years before I had saved my dad’s lambs from the lion and the bear). We rewarded Ben with a big draft of hot broth from the campfire to warm him up. He was a man of honor from that day - a trusted patriot. My men love to out do each other, it’s a bloke thing you know, however, it certainly divides my key leaders from the wannabe’s.*

Later Ben chased down a giant Egyptian. It was like Goliath revisited, except it was Ben running with the speed of a gazelle, waving a broom handle and screaming blue murder. The big guy freaked at my wild man of God. Mr Egypt just stood there with his head bobbing back and forth; holding a spear that had a shaft over 12 inches thick. Hootin' and hollerin', we all broke into song; yep, you guessed it - 'Walk like an Egyptian'. Ben brandished his broom handle similar to a Ninja shouting "Oohwa". Somehow he got hold of Mr Egypt's spear and killed him with it. It was the funniest thing you have ever seen."

The battles they all shared over the years were immense. None of David's team ever flinched, or thought about giving up - they just enjoyed a good fight. It was a tight unit, capable of almost anything. David continued to scroll the digipics on the screen.

"These guys are nutters - I love them," he said to himself.

"David we have a surprise for you," Jash's voice broke his train of thought.

David looked up; Eleazar had a crate of Vichy Beth, David's favorite no-bubbles mineral water. Three of his main men had risked their lives in enemy territory just to quench his thirst from the battle. *"They are mad,"* he thought to himself. He didn't really mean for them to actually get it, he was just speaking his heart out loud. He smiled warmly - how he loved them (see 1 Chronicles 11:10-47).

These quality men made David the king he was. Their faithfulness astounded him at times. The strength they had together unlocked his heart to be an effective ruler. He knew many of them would make even better leaders, yet they loved and honored him so much. He was God's choice and they all knew it. At times he felt like a vulnerable child, however, most of the time he had a very deep feeling of fatherhood toward them.

David's team loved him because he was not arrogant, illusive, or manipulative, but a great communicator and genuine lover of people above himself. He led them strongly and they responded with incredible resiliency and strength.

The years of David building relationships with his men (before the Tabernacle was established), give us keys and insight into how to bring a team to a governing apostolic place of authority. The Tabernacle of David, and the powerful authority it represents in music, has relationship at its heart. Great relationships carry the capacity for great spiritual authority. Genuine relationships with people are foundational to being truly apostolic. We must always guard and cherish them, as the enemy knows the importance of this, and will vehemently attack divine connected relationships. David and his mighty team were bonded and built over years, strengthening themselves together.

David winked and smiled at Jashobeam. Jash watched with mouth agape as David poured 12 perfectly good expensive bottles of Vichy Beth into the desert dust. He honored the Lord and they were all humbled. The presence of God was beautiful.

Strengthening with the Leader

'Now these were the heads of the mighty men whom David had, who strengthened themselves with him in his kingdom, with all Israel, to make him king, according to the word of the Lord concerning Israel' (1 Chronicles 11:10).

Music teams in this apostolic reformation will have to be mighty to be truly effective - in character, skills, and having a genuine heart for Christ and one another. Quality, apostolic prophetic leadership, will reproduce Davidic qualities in music teams. Music leaders must release teams in their gifts, working happily together with vision, and to see them ruling in their own lives. It is not just to have them just turn up on Sunday and play the

service gig rota. When you love and nurture people, they will desire to bless your life. As music leaders this helps keep you strong and leading effectively. Hearts are knitted in a sense of community, belonging, and purpose. Lives are entwined together being part of something bigger than ourselves. People connected like this will want to be together for the long haul. Continuity of strength can then be built, resulting in great power released through the music you do. Quality builds over time.

Do you want a Mighty Team?

David's mighty men had traveled the journey with him. They were faithful, earning their honor and positions of authority over time, with a staunch commitment in the many battles they faced together. They were incredible warriors, not wimps; their names were revered, for they had '*strengthened themselves with him*'.

They had caught David's strong spirit and infused it in themselves. The relationships forged would have been deep and lasting. There was bonding, respect, and a seasoning of lives together. They did anything for David and undoubtedly also for each other. Some even risked their lives to get special water he liked. Mighty men serve and love - even getting the refreshments occasionally (1 Chronicles 11:17).

David was a gatherer of worshipping warriors, spiritual fighters who stick together in the face of the greatest mountains. Singers and musicians who are to carry apostolic anointing must be seasoned spiritual warriors. Church leaders cannot just employ any music leader to a professional church job position and expect instant apostolic authority; it has to be nurtured with love and relationship in the House of the Lord over time. Occasionally someone may be divinely appointed by God to come from elsewhere to a church to serve. The foundation of that connection should always be with relationship. It is not just about money, position, or a personal agenda to get ahead, but to

have a heart to bless the House of God they are committing to. Church leadership should also be committed to genuinely developing this relationship, otherwise nothing of lasting value can be built, and it will all eventually come unstuck.

The Gathered Army in your Team

*'If you have come peaceably to me to **help me**, my heart will be united with you'* (1 Chronicles 12:17). Peaceable people, with hearts that are united to help, are likely to be sent to a church as that work increases in apostolic authority. An apostolic church will also attract called warriors sent by the Lord. These people know how to deal with demonic raiders against a church, for without doubt, you will have spiritual warfare in a music department. They must have a heart to help the church and its people; there will always be a period of assimilation with new music warriors - again this takes time. They have personal valor and sound character, with strong qualities of leadership. This can be threatening, or intimidating to some, and it often sifts out bad attitudes and insecure areas. So - *'set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth'* (Colossians 3:2).

*'And they helped David against the bands of raiders, for they were all mighty men of valor, and they were captains in the army. For at that time they came to David **day by day** to help him, until it was a great army, like the army of God'* (1 Chronicles 12:21-22).

Highly gifted people may turn up in your church. Initially you may not know them well; it is always wise to let them sit in the congregation for a while to settle in. Their assimilation will be easier if they come from a strong apostolic church work with experience and understanding. If not, it may take longer for them to settle into the life and anointing of a church. For any major ministry appointment, time should be taken before a decision is made and a platform is given. I have known highly gifted people to wait a whole year until the time was right for

them to be involved. This period may also be a few short weeks. If a gifted person comes into a church, perhaps young in their faith, do not think, '*oh we could use them*'. Never do that. Don't use people.

It is better they get strong in the Lord and their personal relationships, before they are given a position of responsibility on a platform where they can be vulnerable (Hebrews 5:13). They will be used in time, but some individuals can totally backslide when exalted too early in their walk. Promotion too early can be very dangerous to an unprepared soul. You must use wisdom; a singer and musician is an appointed position, this comes with responsibility and maturity (see chapter 29 *Appointed for the Proper Order*).

The Growing Army

A growing apostolic church will be increase day by day, relationship by relationship, slowly becoming a great army. This is a sign that the Lord is preparing the church for something great - the rebuilding of the Tabernacle of David. Jesus said, '*I will build my Church*' (Matthew 16:18). We are in an era when His Church will become the great army prophesied in scripture. There will be valiant help for the David's of the earth today. One day you may have three singers and a guitarist; eventually you may have a choir, and great choice of awesome musicians who will want to be there with you for good. Some may stay, some will be sent and planted out to other churches, some will go forward, even beyond you the leader, maybe to even change the world.

'Blow the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; for the day of the Lord is coming, for it is at hand' (Joel 2:1). The ruling anointing David's life represents will gather the army of the Lord. Zion is the army of the Lord, a type of the Church. This also represents a prophetic and governing apostolic sound in the last days, where

people will be affected on a national level, and many walls and barriers will break down. It also represents music that prophesies in the restoration of the Tabernacle of David, heralding the gathering of a great ruling army. Music speaking to the spirit breath of God over cities and nations. Ezekiel prophesied to the breath and the dry bones became a great army (Ezekiel 37). When your music teams are playing with this kind of revelation, God will see to it that gifted people will come from far and wide to help. In these days singers and musicians will play and proclaim to the Spirit wind with apostolic authority.

*'The Lord gives voice before His army, for His camp is **very great**; for strong is the One who **executes His word**. For the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; who can endure it?'* (Joel 2:11). The Lord will give increasing voice to a church, when you are effective executors of His word. We are heading toward the day of the Lord's return. We will have to be strong in Him to endure that day of visitation. It is the time of the glorious Church, but also a time of great fear and reverence of God in the earth where we will stand in awe of Him. People who don't really know the Lord will be terrified in these end days. The Church will be there for them to bring comfort and wisdom. The Church will be awesome in this new millennium. The world will turn for one last time to the Desire of the Nations (Jesus), for there will be no better choice.

An Army of Skill and Relationship

*'The sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel **ought to do**, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command'* (1 Chronicles 12:32). A growing army of Davidic singers and musicians will understand the hour in which we live and prepare accordingly. There will be prophetic insight and strategy in music. They are skilled in their craft, and attitude of heart, *'expert in all weapons of war, stouthearted men who could keep ranks'* (1 Chronicles 12:33). They may be sensitive and talented, but they have strong warriors

hearts fashioned by God - understanding the ways of the spirit, and the devices of the enemy. They are people of the word of God, skilled in the protocols of church life. When things get tough, rather than run off to the next church, or sever relationships, they are resilient in faith, loyal to leadership, reaping the rewards in the journey of battles. These artists are single-minded, understanding what it takes to rule and reign in helping to keep the appointed apostolic authority strong in the church. Their heart is for the glory of God and the building up of the Church. They are people who exalt Jesus, not their own self-glory.

Singers and musicians should also be encouraged by their leadership to reach the fullness of their potential and skill. Singers and musicians are born to create, developing various expressions in their gifting, or ministries, such as recording. It is also healthy to travel on occasion, as a variety of ministry experience broadens ones life and skills. This should positively reciprocate back to the House of the Lord where they are called. Leaders should rejoice in their creativity and successes, however influential, and not feel threatened.

Leaders should also be totally committed to their singers and musicians who are called to help them. Relationship should be highly valued and developed. Some of the most effective, senior minister, music leader relationships, have been nurtured over years. Sometimes seasons do end, but relationships that have given much over time should never be dishonored, discarded, or cut off, just because that relationship is deemed no longer important to a vision. Church vision has to continue, but there are too many people that are left on the side of the road as the price of a vision. The Church is a family of love and should be there for each other above all circumstances (John 13:35, 8:31). This is difficult in some situations; nevertheless, relationship is at the heart of apostolic strength and must be so for a strong team. Not just on a platform in Christian meetings, but also socially.

There should be healthy, normal interaction with one another and with families, also helping in all the cares and needs of daily life.

An Army of Loyalty and Relationship

David had a big cave. He knew every inch of it. There was a semi-hidden section, almost a natural room, about 100 meters into the cave. He had one last look. Many nights he had slept there, listening to the scurry of rodents and the echoing drips of water down the walls. He shrugged, and mumbled a brief goodbye to 7 years of hidden dreams. Adullam was home but now it was over. He could not quite believe it until he walked outside.

He stood at the cave entrance, greeted by the eerie silence of the Engedi wilderness. Before him were 340,800 men, their wives, children, animals and sundry possessions. They waited respectfully. A warm gentle wind blew a small swirl of sand around his feet; his eyes smarted in the sun. For a moment he suddenly felt faint, it all seemed surreal. His life, his aspirations, the calling inside of him, was it real, was he going mad, what are all these people waiting for. A small voice spoke to the right of his ear, *'remember - ease the pain'*. He seemed to float into the sky. Looking down, he saw himself in another time a few years before. Around him were 400 people, they were the turkeys of life, outcasts of society, in debt, and ready to give up. David was suddenly on the ground looking at them. All he saw, was the stunning majesty of eagles - beautiful people, full of potential, love, and passion he had never seen in the courts of softness. Behind his puffy eyes he was hurting deeply from his rejection from King Saul. His emotions were rampant; he thought he was at the end and it was all over. The voice came and said, *'ease the pain'*. Right there he made a choice to love, pouring his life into the hopeless. Love responded, and it was there in the wilderness, an army grew all on its own around him.

He opened his eyes as the swirl of wind passed. His mind was clear and sharp again. He raised his arm and shouted, "To Hebron!" A loud roar passed through the plains of Engedi, and over half a million people began to move, all talking at once.

*'All these men of war, who could keep ranks, came to **Hebron with a loyal heart**, to make David king over all Israel; and all the rest of Israel were of one mind to make David king' (1 Chronicles 12:38).*

David ruled the region of Judah from Hebron, before Jerusalem was made the capital. Hebron means the place of association or alliance; it was a city of refuge. Judah means praise, or the tribe of the uplifted hand. Before David was governing as king of the larger territory of all Israel from Jerusalem, he first ruled in the house of praise for 7_ years. The roots of governing authority in David's team were fashioned in the relationships and loyalty initially formed in the wilderness places. When David was appointed King of Judah, these associations and relationships were further cemented in Hebron for when he would rule a nation. Relationships are strongly established in a church over time before apostolic authority is released in music, as relationship is at the root of its strength. *'Behold, how **good** and how **pleasant** it is for brethren **to dwell together in unity**' (Psalm 133:1).* The devil knows this, and will always seek to sever and divide relationships more than anything else. Music leaders and ministry leadership must guard their hearts, and their relationships. If you are destined to touch the world with a big territorial anointing in music, then like David, you first need to learn to rule and serve in your own house of praise at home.

An Army of Joy

*'Moreover those who were near to them, from as far away as Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, were bringing food on donkeys and camels, on mules and oxen--**provisions** of flour and cakes of figs and cakes of raisins, wine and oil and oxen and sheep **abundantly**, for there was **joy** in Israel' (1 Chronicles 12:40).*

When relationships with God and each other are strong, those around a leader grow into people of great joy. They are abundant minded thinkers, who desire to live that way, and have a good time doing things together for the Lord. Singers and musicians in ministry will have great joy when they are looked after and provided for abundantly. This releases them to be what they are meant to be; without getting caught up, and stressed out, by the entanglements, distractions, and affairs of this life (see chapter 26 *Provided for in the Proper Order*). In an environment where there is proper order, no one would want to leave a church. It is what singers and musicians are made for in the Davidic pattern - to build in a family. Most music departments, however, are not in an idealistic place, and you will have to work at it all. There is a spiritual war on folks and it is heating up, that is why we have to have apostolic and prophetic revelation today.

David rejoiced greatly out of his love and relationship with God. *'But let all those **rejoice** who put their **trust** in You; Let them ever **shout for joy**, because You defend them; Let those also who love your name be joyful in You. For You, O Lord, will **ble**ss the righteous; with **favor** You will surround him as with a shield'* (Psalm 5:11-12).

Ethan declared, *'Blessed are the people who know the **joyful sound!** They walk, O Lord, in the light of Your countenance'* (Psalm 89:15). Stay in God's face and you will hear the sounds of heaven and you will be blessing here on the earth. Have faith, be prayerful, be forgiving, have grace and love. All things must work together for good, if you love God and are called according to His purposes in where you are (Romans 8:28). Being a part of a great team is an awesome privilege. If you don't have it, be a part of the answer and bring joyful, powerful sound into the earth.

Joy to the world.

20

Re-building the Tabernacle of David

'After this I will return and will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down. I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up, So that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord who does all these things' (Acts 15:16-17). In this scripture, God promises that the Holy Spirit will be active in turning things upside down in these end-times, with the earnest re-building of what King David established 3000 years ago.

The Falling Down

In the course of history, the prototype of what David established in music and song fell down. Over the years, it went into decline from its *prosperous high place of governing authority* in David. It was cast down from the original state of *power, distinction and uprightness*. The full spiritual force of the sounds of David were abandoned. The majesty and glory were no longer. The Lord yearned for the heart of David He loved so much. The devil knows our job is to pull and throw him down. Over the centuries and the dark ages of history, he has tried to do the same thing against the Church and her music. God, however, always had a plan of redemption for powerful music that releases His glory and glorifies Him.

Silly Theories

If you were a Christian in the 1980's, you may remember some of the silly theories about music in the Church. They were like something from Star Trek - trying to *cling on*, and hold back the restoration enterprise of God's music. It was, however, the

decade of prophetic restoration, and they were promptly rooted out in most quarters.

'Beat, drums, and rock music is of the devil'. 'Don't use minor chords, sixth's, and thirteenth's, they are evil'. 'You can't have loud up beat music in the church'. 'Don't be too passionate because it is showy'. 'Dancing in church is not of God' etc.

Believe it or not, these few remnants of distortion are still around in some places. There was even a plethora of books and tapes, all of which seems foolish now. In the 1980's, God was actually doing the opposite to many of these religious opinions. In view of the praise and worship prevalent today, they were silly issues. It was only up until recent history, that the organ was still considered the sole instrument to use in church. The falling down of the Tabernacle has been a long process since David's era 3000 years ago. The major reasons for the perishing process, have been the devil's works, and the religious ways of men. The devil will always try to chop down what the Lord desires to build. It is also easy for man to fall away from the right path; religious tradition can be created in a few weeks, let alone a century. The Lord, however, has also allowed the falling down to happen. All along God intended to reap back music in these end-times, resurrecting a multitude of music through David's original seed.

Asaph (a prophet musician, and one of the main leaders in the Tabernacle of David) prayed for the Church. *'Remember **your congregation**, which you have purchased of old ... the enemy, has damaged everything (including music) in the **sanctuary**. Your enemies **roar** in the midst of **your meeting place**. They seem like men who lift axes among thick trees...'* (Psalm 74:2-5). *'Arise, O God, plead your own **cause**'* (Psalm 74:22).

Re-Building Now

There is a global cause, and now is the time that the Lord is bringing His re-building to a conclusion. Over 6 billion people are on the planet, a third of which have never heard the gospel; a huge harvest waits for reaping. Jesus will return soon and the day is approaching when we will break the appointment with death! We must understand why music (more than anytime in Church history) has come of age so much in the last 10-20 years. We must realize the awesome and amazing time we are in. There has clearly been a cycle of restoration over the last 2000 years, in what is defined as the Church. This cycle has rapidly accelerated in recent history, moving us forward into the proper pattern of God's design for His glorious Church. The Lord says He will re-build, making straight what has been distorted from the truth. It is His final end-time strategy. He will raise it up, to set it in place again on the earth, however, it will be far beyond the power and majesty of the ancient days. It will be the Church repaired of imbalance and dysfunction; empowered with glory to embrace the nations.

All in heaven strain to look through the portals, watching the unfolding story of this re-building of the Tabernacle of David. After all, they saw the first movie 3000 years ago, and the sequel has been a long time coming! They stand amazed, and in awe of the songs and sounds the Lord has been raising up on the earth in recent times, '*... and His truth endures to all generations*' (Psalm 100:5b). As an old grandfather muso, maybe King David observes all this today from heaven, with a glint in his eye and glee in his heart, sipping a heavenaccino in the new Tehillah Café. He also knows everyone who has borrowed his lyrics, and how much you have made with your name on them. Watch out, heaven's copyright and cloud nine mechanical society will be after you for some Dave credits. Kidding! But...you never know!

The scripture in Acts 15:16-17, is an echo of prophecy in the Old Testament 760B.C, given by Amos, the prophet of righteousness. *“On that day I will **raise up** The Tabernacle of David, which has **fallen down**, and **repair** its damages; I will raise up its **ruins**, and **rebuild** it as in the **days of old**; that they may possess the remnant of Edom’* (Amos 9:11-12). In context, the Tabernacle of David also relates to the restoration of Israel in the last days. A time when the rest of the Gentile world will turn to God, and be major partakers of the restoration. For the last 2000 years God has been raising up, fixing, repairing and building. We will see the completion of this miraculous work today.

God the Builder

‘Can He fix it, Yes He can’ (Bob the Builder on kids TV - gotta be a dad!). God is closing up the breaches and filling in the gaps of our understanding right now.

Nehemiah did the same, when he cleared the rubbish, and bricked up the gaps in the re-building of the walls of Jerusalem (Nehemiah 4). It takes stones to fix a wall. When all the living stones of the Church are in their place, we will have a complete wall to stand on. We will sing and play in our rightful position, fulfilling the destiny of the Church. The Lord is rebuilding and restoring music for its ultimate purpose. He is repairing the damage done by religiosity, and reclaiming the harvest of sound from the world; music that belongs to the Church. In the midst, he will secure singers, musicians, and artists of all kinds, where they are meant to be. *‘I was **glad** when they said to me, ‘Let us go into the House of the Lord’* (Psalm 122:1).

As in the Days of Old

It is important to note that the Lord is re-establishing as in the days of old. It doesn't mean we have to play lyres and harps, as we have guitars and keyboards that would blow the Levites away. What David set up was an everlasting model, to be fully

understood by revelation in today's context. God set up the seed of the Tabernacle, knowing it would take almost 3000 years for us to get to the place we are now. This foresight is staggering; for to God '*... a thousand years in Your sight is like yesterday when it is past, and like a watch in the night*' (Psalm 90:4). Time is not a big deal to the Lord; David's era was like three God days ago!

We must re-visit the David model today, and prayerfully discover the *modus operandi* for our music leadership, our teams, music and song - if we are going to have the national impact through music we see played out in scripture. It will cause us to dispossess the enemy, and possess the nations. They are our inheritance in Christ. God desires that all humanity seeks Him, and finds Him (Acts 15:17). In 2003 we have still not seen that complete fulfillment, however, this is a Church era in history where it is possible. God will restore something glorious, affecting civilization in such a way, that all humanity will want to seek Jesus. We must be in line with God and His word in all we do. '*The works of the Lord are great, studied by all who have pleasure in them*' (Psalm 111:2).

Restoration

In the kids movie *Bugs Life* (great movie), the ants defeated Hopper (a type of devil). When the ants realized they were actually supposed to be an army, working together properly, they could defeat the enemy who robbed them blind year after year. At the movies end they all locked arms, and all the fears thrown at them by Hopper and his small band of demon grasshoppers dissolved into victory. We need to flick what doesn't work and do things God's way. It took one brave visionary ant to change things; being bold and standing up to the enemy. The devil Hopper then became a meal for the birds. A great movie! God did say, '*consider the ant*' (Proverbs 6:6).

The restoration of the Tabernacle of David also relates to the restoration of the natural nation of Israel. *'I will plant them in their land, and **no longer** shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them'* (Amos 9:15). The terrorists have not read the prophetic scriptures.

Israel was re-planted, and established again as a bona-fide nation in 1948. There has been unbelievable war in the contention for her land and heritage ever since. This is also a mirror of what is happening in the spirit realm in the battle between good and evil. It is why strategic spiritual warfare has come to the fore in recent Church history, and why you will have vehement warfare in the areas of music. God has re-planted the ultimate purposes for music into this modern era. We will not be up-rooted from our musical land if we do things God's way. *'God stands in the congregation of the **mighty**'* (Psalm 82:1) - the Church today, where the Lord desires to stand in the fullness of His stature.

Strategic Global Influence

The re-building of the Tabernacle of David, and the power of apostolic music and song within it, has an important role in unlocking the nations to God. The apostolic Church is globally minded; the apostolic singer and musician has the same spirit. It is as the apostolic Antioch Church (Acts 13). There is no divisiveness, or prejudices; the only agenda is Jesus. The goal is for the lost in the cities and nations to know God. The heart and love, is for the Body of Christ: one Body, one Lord, and one faith. The whole city, the whole nation is your congregation.

*'After this I will return and will **rebuild the Tabernacle of David**, which has fallen down. I will rebuild its ruins, and I will **set it up**, so that the **rest of mankind may seek the Lord**, even all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord who does all these things'* (Acts 15:16-17). The Prophet Amos prophesied about these last

days. James the Apostle re-iterated it in a meeting of the Jerusalem Council of apostles, elders, and the Church. James testified (as did the Apostle Peter), that the miracles and wonders Apostle Paul and Barnabus had been seeing among the Gentiles, were a part of the beginning of fulfillment of this prophecy. Their challenge to the council was not to test and resist this significant move of God.

This ongoing move of God, now in these end times, speaks of massive, global, governing influence for change. God has been preparing this for over 2000 years - it must be important. David's Tabernacle speaks of divine order, structure, liberty, and restoration of the Church, and particularly of music. It is only in recent history, that the ruined fallen down tabernacle, and all it represents for the Church, is being significantly rebuilt. To fully understand this, we need a revelation of the scriptures in an apostolic mindset.

God is fixing what is broken down. Man has marred it, destroying it over centuries, making it look like something it shouldn't. God comes again to make it new. You may be in a place where you think there are no possibilities left, however, God is reforming His Church into His original intention for great and awesome influence. The hundreds of years of the Dark ages of the Church are long over. Martin Luther's time, and the era of the great old historical revivalists are gone. What we have today is because of them, and thousands of others faithful to Christ; we honor what we have learnt from their great journey. The old revivalists and reformers had a glimpse of now, perhaps in the great by and by we can have a cup of manna tea with them and talk about it all.

History - The Descent and The Ascent

Let this quick snapshot of the world that was, and the world that is, encourage you in the re-building of the Tabernacle of David.

The descent - David's desire handed down:

David desired to build God a house of worship.

The Lord said, *"No Dave, you shed too much blood, Your son will do that."*

God actually meant his own Son Jesus, not Solomon. Even though Solomon built a temple and had some powerful music, his kingdom was a type of false kingdom. He did what kings should not do (Deuteronomy 17:15-18). Solomon made himself fat with horses, military power, women, and gold (666 shekels a year from his people - billions of dollars today). Many foreign women were given to him after making compromise treaties for peace with other kings. Old Solomon, the wisest of all, was eventually corrupted by the gold, the glory, and the girls. He died. Israel went into decline and Babylonian captivity. Israel never had the fullness of Levitical power in music again, as in the Tabernacle of David.

Tastes and templates of the future prophetic vision:

Israel cried out to God in their Babylonian captivity. Around 500 B.C, Ezra had God's heart to re-build the temple, a short blast of powerful sound trumpeted into the air - God was still on the job. It was short lived. After Ezra, came Nehemiah - a pre-Christian apostolic prophetic ministry. He had vision for re-building Jerusalem, so the remnant of Israel from the captivity could return - a few did. He also restored singers and musicians, a great biblical example for us today as a template for the modern era. Prophet Nehemiah, however, was around 2500 years too early for the final apostolic fulfillment.

Jesus time:

The Jews were by and large a divided people by this time. In 70 A.D, Jerusalem was totally destroyed. By 100 A.D, all the original Apostles had died. God's big Church seed was buried in

the ground ready for persecution. The full Bible was finally completed.

Rome to Reformation:

The Church was persecuted for over 200 years. Killed, tortured, or eaten by Lions. In 313 A.D, however, Rome embraced Christianity. The Christians kept growing in numbers despite persecution.

The devil said, *“Can’t beat them, so I’ll join them.”*

Religion set in, and serious decline resulted for over 1000 years, into what is commonly known as the Dark Ages. God’s word and revelation was taken from the common people until the Catholic priest Martin Luther confronted false Church authority in the 1500’s. He also wrote some great new warring hymns. Through one man, a reformation began with a revelation of justification by faith. The plan of re-building was still active; the historical tide was now turning after many centuries.

The ascent begins:

Reformation in the 1500’s escalated into the Twentieth Century and has not stopped. Great increase of missionary activity, and the printing of bibles. The word of God, and sound bible doctrine was being restored. In the 1700’s the Wesley Brothers preached everywhere in England on holiness and spiritual life. Charles Wesley wrote 3000 new Christian songs, or hymns. New Christian denominational movements developed, along with outpourings of the Holy Spirit. The world was expanding with discovery. New inventions and the industrial revolution. New lands for spiritual freedom were founded. America was established, and Australia discovered, the *‘Great Southland of the Holy Spirit’*. African slaves carried their sounds to America, and the fusion of those sounds and rhythms in the land, laid foundations for much of the popular music of the 20th Century.

Twentieth century:

1904 The great Welsh revival with Evan Roberts, who encouraged the leaders of the Pentecostal outpouring in the USA two years later.

1906 Pentecostal outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Azusa street California U.S.A. This outpouring had far reaching effects throughout the Church world.

1914 -1945 the two great world wars were in this period. The devil tried to destroy all Jewish people in World War Two through the Nazis. New devastating weapons of warfare were invented. The world moves on from biplanes to jet planes. Contemporary foundations of popular music developing, and solidifying, with the Blues and Jazz in the 1920's and 1930's, with Swing, Boogie-woogie and Be Bop evolving in the 1940's, that eventually spawned what was to be termed Rock and Roll.

1948 Ancient prophecy's fulfilled, as the miracle of the nation Israel is restored. The Jews continued coming back to their land. Wars and contentions over Israel have never stopped since.

1950's The exponential restoration of the five-fold ministry gifts for the building of the Church to grow into full stature - particularly the gifts of the evangelist at this time. New rock music unleashed in the world - shaking, rattling, rocking and rolling the nations, ala Elvis. More war and death - war in Korea. New inventions escalate. The world wants new convenient things to make a better life since the war. Traditional values challenged.

1960's World crying out for something new. Enlightenment declared - the Age of Aquarius. Remember the song! People experiment with everything - religions, drugs, sex and rock and roll. Beatles, Rolling Stones et al. 1967 the Charismatic church

movement. The Jesus People revival explodes in the U.S.A, thousands born again. New free contemporary worship music becomes more acceptable in the West. More false religions, false prophets, and cults rise rapidly. Jesus warned us. More wars and death – devastating war in Vietnam. The Israeli Yom Kippur war in 1967 heralded the end of the time of the Gentiles treading down Jerusalem. Political superpowers, cold war, and fear of antichrist communism taking over the world. Presidential assassinations, nuclear threats, and space trips all happen throughout this era. Prayer in schools outlawed in America. Christian foundations increasingly undermined in western society.

1970's Music continues to explode on the planet, heavy rock, disco, funk, U2 et al. Musicians and their music summed up the younger generation's ideals of changing the world. Cry's for peace, and the world is increasingly lost in all the spiraling change. Flower power and the psychedelic drug era. The experimenting goes deeper, new technologies rapidly increase, old values breaking down, bringing more disillusionment. The angels ascending and descending. Life in the world speeds up even more. There are famines, earthquakes and terrorism. By the end of the 70's we see the evangelist, teacher and pastor ministries firmly established in fresh growing churches and movements. The incredible change of the last crazy three decades now needs the fullness of the Lord's five-fold gifts to make sense of it all.

1980's Prophetic restoration emerging, with increasing powerful proclamation in music coming from the Church. Crazy spiraling prices in all sectors. An entrepreneurial decade of success and excellence emphasized. Humanism and materialism cover the real pain in people's hearts. Computers change the way the world functions. Sexual diseases increase, the price for the previous liberated decades. All over the planet more

earthquakes, wars and famines. The Anti-Christ government of Communism brought down - a prophetic foreshadow of the devil's future defeat in this world by a glorious apostolic church. The stock market crashes. Star-wars, hi-tech computer technology for war. 1988 God judges and exposes many Christian leaders and ministers, cleansing Christ's Body in an obvious way, exposed in all the media.

1990's Apostolic ministries coming forth. Times of spiritual refreshing. Amazing revivals and salvation's break out in many parts of the world. Mature governing churches emerge, with strategic, organized global prayer and intercession for cities and nations. Spiritual warfare increasing along with warring and more spiritually aggressive music. First attempt of a global alliance of nations gathering in the Middle East for a Gulf war. Shadows of Armageddon. Ethnic wars and conflicts continue, such as the Bosnia atrocities. The disease of Aids explodes round the world. Many false prophets rise and splashed again over the media. Confusion and stress increases in the world. Multiple choice adds to this in a world escalating in a week to week, rapidly changing society. Weather patterns going crazy. The multi-media digital world takes over. Accessibility to all music is greater than ever before in history, with music more diverse than ever. Digital communication explodes on the Internet in an ever-increasing one-world economy of thought and business. The Internet creates awesome opportunities to communicate the Gospel. Huge churches grow throughout the world.

1995 - 2000 The most rapid, significant, release and development of Christian music ever. More people coming to Christ in this period than in all of Church history in the past 2000 years.

2001 The heralding of a new level of fear, warfare and terrorism rocking the nations - a new chapter in world history. Islamic terrorists destroy the World Trade Center Towers in New York - a natural mirror of the escalating warfare in the spirit world.

A new level of shaking and tearing down of foundations has begun.

World economy de-stabilized through one single strategic terrorist action. The U.S.A calls for a global alliance of nations to strategically and carefully war against this enemy, rooting it out. Much Christian and Islamic debate results, exposed globally in the media. A prophetic announcement of a holy war - Holy Jihad declared against America and all those that help her. Many repeated Islamic suicide bombings in Israel continue, killing hundreds of innocent lives. People questioning life more and more, with many around the world turning to the Lord Jesus.

2002 The world continues, with fear and terror on the rise. 50,000 earthquakes a year recorded. Airlines go broke. Bombings are almost an everyday occurrence. Bali bombing of nearly 200 Australians. Nowhere is safe anymore – international security on the increase. Escalating tensions in Israel in the news everyday. More attempts at peace settlements. Paving the way for the anti-Christ. Matured five-fold ministries releasing the Church for the end-time reaping of the harvest. More Christian musicians and artists working in the secular arena than ever before. The army of God is rising.

2003 The gulf war in Iraq - a short strategic war unlike any fought in history. The enemy rooted out in the region of ancient Babylon. The world watches war on TV like a soap series. Rumors of more war - Korea, Syria. SARS respiratory disease sweeps the world. Post war Iraq - American soldiers killed daily. Bombings, fear and terrorism continue. The world is at war in a different way. Many ask, "*What's next?*"

2004 Depression and stress in modern culture at its highest levels in recent history. Apostolic transition still in progress in the Body of Christ. Christian music poised and positioned to

release great glory in the coming years. Mel Gibson lifts the bar and makes the most genuine, and graphic movie of Christ's love for us in going to the cross ever made – the one many Christian artists have dreamed of making. The world goes to watch it mainstream. Passion – a word we all need to get a hold of. Terrorism in Spain, 1200 killed and wounded – times of sorrows increasing in many lives on earth.

Beyond - Apostolic revelation increasing in the Church - releasing the full restoration of all that the Tabernacle of David represents. The awesome glory of God in music and song emerges unlike anything heard before on earth. The cultures of the world, at all levels of society, invaded for Christ by the glorious Church. Millions in the nations are born again, from house to house, business to business, city to city. Stadiums and buildings are not big enough for the increasing gatherings of people. Great trouble and darkness on the Earth - Jesus is getting ready to come back.

'... Says the Lord **who does all these things**', '... Says the Lord **who does all these things**', '... Says the Lord **who does all these things**', (Acts 15:17).

The Church is to be mighty now; apostolic, prophetic, governing, ruling, and world changing - get ready! '*Your people shall be volunteers in the day of **Your power***' (Psalm 110:3). If we open our eyes we will see what God's plans are now (Isaiah 60:4). We will then do it with great intent, pouring ourselves into it as a freewill offering. We are to be volunteers in a purity of heart for God; an active part of the day of his power which will have global influence.

We are on the cusp of great glory to be released in the Church and the world; we cannot underestimate these days. It is a time of great challenge and increasing darkness so we have to be a

sober, diligent, studied, and prayerful people - if we are going to be strong and endure these times. In what David set up in the music of the Tabernacle, there are apostolic patterns that God is re-building now to facilitate and look after singers and musicians. We will discover this further in the final opus - *The Proper Order*.

Selah food for thought and prayer, food for thought and prayer, food for thought and prayer...!

OPUS 5

THE PROPER
ORDER

21

Seeking the Proper Order

'And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh that you would bless me indeed and enlarge my territory that your hand would be with me, and that you would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" So God granted him what he requested (Prayer of Jabez, 1 Chronicles 4:10).

The church today is in an era of great apostolic restoration. The apostolic does not only apply to the ascension gift ministry of the apostle being established in the Church. It embraces apostolic order, structure, and anointing emerging in every facet of Church life - this includes music. Before David established the Tabernacle he said, *'we did not **consult** Him about **the proper order**'* (1 Chronicles 15:13b). Divine apostolic order in the Church releases every area of the Church to be governing in power, functioning in dominion, moving forward, and growing in tremendous influence. God wants apostolic prophetic anointing to be released in full force through music in the Church. This will require change, and a more mature understanding of God's divine order in music. David eventually realized this, and set his heart to seek the Lord for the proper order. The result was the structure of the Tabernacle of David and the awesome music that has set an apostolic pattern for the Church now. The fulfillment of that pattern, the re-building of the Tabernacle of David, will emerge in this end-time apostolic restoration of the Church.

Many church music departments today, are not functioning as they should, and there are various reasons why. They may be maintaining, just getting by, or having a measure of success, yet fundamental things in structure and facilitation are often neglected, or not even understood. This ultimately stunts the

growth and potential of the music, people involved suffer, may feel unsettled, their gifts are not fully released, and consequently frustration abounds. This is often in the midst of church structures that just maintain, yet never really develop and go forward - the end result is a form of mediocrity. We must remember that the Body of Christ is still in a time of re-building and preparation by God. There is much grace needed, but we must change to move onward today, to become a Church of glory, seeing the nations turn to the Lord. This change will lead us to what the bible terms the proper order. God required this of David for the Tabernacle. This order is apostolic, and will release the power of music in an apostolic dimension, bringing great healing and deliverance to cities and nations.

Basic Deficiency

In our busy world where time is a premium, the music model in many churches, often just takes cues from what others are doing, what seems popular, or what is happening in the world. In our many travels and visits to churches over the years, common basic deficits were apparent in church singers, musicians, and sound teams - even if they appeared successful. First, a general lack of understanding of how singers and musicians should function in the Church; second, a surprising lack of knowledge of the word of God. Third, knowing how to function well with an effective administrative structure based on a clear music vision. Problems also may arise due to church leadership's inadequate understanding, or focused attention in these areas. *'For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe'* (Hebrews 5:13).

You can be a Christian a long time, go to every meeting, be a great doer - yet still be a spiritual babe in Christ. If you are unskilled, unknowledgeable and unexercised in God's word, you may also end up with spiritually immature music. Sound that only has goo goo, ga ga, entertainment power, instead of

mature governing power that influences the spirit. *'But solid food belongs to those who are full of age, and by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil'* (Hebrews 5:14a). Solid food is the steadfast word of God working strong in those who are spiritually adult; knowing right from wrong, what God says, and what He is actually doing in these days. Spiritual adults learn to feed themselves, not just relying on one meal for half an hour on a Sunday morning (important as that meal is in our local churches). The apostolic dimension in music is not for spiritual babies. They need to be nurtured in the apostolic pattern of church by spiritually mature adults.

Seek the Counsel of God

'Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper. The ungodly are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away, therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish' (Psalms 1:6).

In our attempts to be current, it is easy to be distracted, and overly influenced by everything in the world. Before we realize it, worldliness ends up in the Church, and we get over-focused on self. We need to be far more word conscious in this pressured world system. Unbelieving consumers are guided and consumed by the world. Christians should be guided and consumed by the word. David's example is that he never ceased to meditate on the word. This means to ruminate and to mutter, getting it inside of you so it becomes your life. Joshua's way to possess the land successfully, was to know, and talk the word of God (see Joshua 1:8).

God's ways are deep. Some people think it is not cool to be deep, however, God's word is quite clear on His character. *'O Lord, how great are Your works! Your thoughts are **very deep**. A **senseless** man does not know, nor does a **fool** understand this'*(Psalm 92:5-6). Let us not be senseless, or foolish people, but very deep gold diggers in the word. Jesus used the word of God all the time; it is our heritage to sing it and proclaim it. Truth will kill a lie. It is a key to opening and closing doors in the spirit. If we are to be truly apostolic in our churches, it is time now where we must seek, ask, and consult the Lord for the proper order of His ways. In so doing, we are enabled to function properly as governing singers and musicians in the power of apostolic music. *'**Blessed** are those who keep His testimonies, who **seek** Him with the **whole heart**'* (Psalm 119:2).

Leadership Established

Stable and secure leadership was in existence before the establishing of the Tabernacle of David. Many had been prepared over years to work with King David. He consulted strongly with his leaders right down the various ranks. They were a mighty team and he drew from their lives, love, and expertise. Communication was excellent. David loved them. He was a gatherer, not one who scattered. David did not create unhealthy tensions, confusion, or behave in a threatened manner. He was not controlling, intimidating, or illusive like a Hollywood star may be. His leadership was dependable and earthy. It was understood, and the ranks of his men were clear and respected. David got things done.

It was in this atmosphere of emerging governing order, that the Lord put a desire into David's heart to bring back the manifest presence of God - the Ark of the Covenant. The maturity and structure was being prepared, as it was the time for God's proper divine order. Today, you may have sensed for a long time, that there has to be more to your Christian life. There is, and we

are meant to press into that apostolic high calling and see it developed and released now. Many ministers, leaders, singers and musicians, have been prepared over the years to lead the apostolic fulfillment of the Church in these end-times. This will be one of the most exciting eras in history to be an artist, singer and musician in the House of the Lord.

Gather Together there is More

"More, more, more Lord!" This utterance was often echoed in many church meetings, especially in the early to late 1990's. Sometimes you would be weary of hearing it. In fact, as simple as it was, this was a clear prophetic word. The outpouring of the Spirit in the Toronto Blessing (as it was known in Canada) was a good example. God was saying, *'there is so much more to come for my people, this blessing and refreshing is just a beginning'*. As we move forward in the new millennium this has proven to be true.

*'And David said to all the assembly of Israel, "If it seems good to you, and if it is of the Lord our God, let us send out to our brethren everywhere who are left in all the land of Israel, and with them to the priests and Levites who are in their cities and their common-lands, that they may **gather together** to us; "and let us bring the **ark** of our God back to us, for we have not inquired at it since the days of Saul." Then all the assembly said that they would do so, for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people. So David **gathered** all Israel together, from Shihor in Egypt too as far as the entrance of Hamath, to bring the ark of God from Kirjath Jearim' (1 Chronicles 13:2).*

David was clearly a gathering, prophetic, and apostolic shepherd. These qualities modeled by David must be in today's apostolic music leaders. Today God is gathering His singers and musicians to be in their rightful place. He is gathering the Church together to be glorious. As we release the ark of God's presence and glory into our midst, with governing apostolic authority, we will cause a great gathering. In David's time there was a witness, and a consensus in the hearts of all the people,

that the time was right to bring the ark back. Structure and leadership was in place, but people knew there was more to be found in the enquiry of God.

That witness is in the Spirit, here in the new millennium. The heart for bringing the presence and glory of God forth, can, and will gather a nation. *'Again David gathered all the **choice** men of Israel, thirty thousand'* (2 Samuel 6:1). The best were chosen for the task. These were appointed, excellent people; this was needed and required to bring forth the ark. They were a separated band of men: of superior quality and character, fit for the task, handpicked for the Masters use. The Lord will send the best to you, from anywhere necessary to fulfill his apostolic purpose in your region.

The Proper Order Needed

Good things were taking place, but the proper order was still not established for what God wanted to do with the ark of His glory. Many churches do not even understand this as yet, even though they may have an apostolic call. In David's first attempt to return the ark of glory back to its rightful place, he had great music. He knew how to rock, and what worked with music, he just did what he knew at that point in time.

*'Then David and all Israel played music before God with **all their might**, with singing, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on cymbals, and with trumpets'* (1 Chronicles 13:8).

If this were today, they were playing music before God with all their own might and strength, singing in every conceivable way with it all looking just right. They had the sound systems, the clothes, the moves, the arrangements, the songs were good, the albums were selling, and the instruments were in abundance. They tried however, to bring the ark of God's manifest presence and glory into the House, by copying the Philistines of the world. They did not understand the proper ways of God, and

someone died. There will always be a decline, and dying of some kind when God's ways of order are ignored, even though it may look right. This can happen gradually over a period of time, inasmuch as you can fail to see it happening.

The Wrong Carrier

"Let's bring back the ark of God!" was the new buzz going around. David the leader had a great idea from God, as many leaders do. He knew the formulas, and how to do it, he knew how to make it happen - decide and do. It's all about the dream, the intoxication of success and achieving the goals. Even so, with his heart and wisdom he still didn't ask God about it.

David bought a new fresh cart from the cart shop. He thought God would like it. It's what everyone does when you bring back an ark to a church. It was the latest thing; it must be the right way, he had seen it on TV, it was advertised in the full gloss magazine. It's what you do, copy what everyone else does. He also needed a wagon man to drive the cows. David grabbed his friend Uzza; he was loyal, had never been any trouble, was never negative, and besides, he had a degree in cow management - sounds impressive (1 Chronicles 13:7).

In David's naivete, he put a man in a position that did not have true authority to touch the ark. David thought all would be ok, but he was wrong, sincere, but wrong. The new cart may be a new Christian trend, or the latest musical sound to blow around. When taken on board, it may seem to help, and the influence and inspiration it can give may even be great, however, it won't necessarily be what the Lord requires for you.

The cart David used was a copy of the Philistines, and is symbolic of the worldly way they did things. The cart's design was actually a way advised by the equivalent of occult diviners (1 Samuel 6:2-7). David's men, Uzza and Ahio, were driving the ark with oxen. These beasts represent carnal strength and

worldliness. David did this with the music, they played with all *'their might'*; it was good, yet it was not right.

At Chidon's threshing floor, God threw his javelin of judgement at the driven flesh trying to carry him. The Oxen stumbled; it all had become an obstacle for repeated mistakes of the flesh. In the symbolism of threshing, the flesh had to be destroyed. You cannot bring forth the genuine glory of God in a driven, controlling atmosphere. Uzza reached out his arm to stop the ark from falling; he was just being faithful, it was his job, he was getting paid. God killed him nonetheless. David, his leader, had given him the wrong job. Many leaders put people in positions they should not be in just to get a vision done; these people suffer, get frustrated, backslide, become spiritually inept, and wear themselves out. David was responsible for Uzza's death (1 Chronicles 13:9-11).

Trying to bring forth God's glory in your own strength and in a worldly manner is absolute presumption before God. You cannot control God's presence with overly contrived programs, just being contemporary, or even with fifteen-minute music interlude slots in church services. It can end up being like Saturday Night Live, with a feeling of entertainment. Churches obviously need structure in meetings with necessary time constraints, as people have families and lives to lead. The point is, however, that Church worship times can also end up being a driven experience to just get through it, and may result in being devoid of the real power of God's presence, even though it may look good from a platform. On the long term this can be stressful, unfulfilling and ultimately detrimental for those involved.

In all his probable sincerity, Uzza was killed because at the end of the day he was not appointed, or called for the task. The cart job position needed filling, as is often the case in busy church organizations, and Uzza was available. He may have looked

right, but he was unholy, in error, and unprepared in God's purposes - wrong man, in the wrong place, at the wrong time. God was angry, David was angry and resentful - after all he was only trying to do the right thing. God does not need to be steadied by the arm of the flesh; He can take care of himself. In the Tabernacle pattern, it requires and takes more than one appointed individual to carry the weight of the ark, in all that the ark represents in the presence and glory of God. That is why the proper order of oversight in music leadership of the tabernacle, was not confined to just one person (see chapter 30 *Singers in the Proper Order*). Of course as Christians we are all to carry the presence of God in our lives. Singers and musicians however, have a governing role to play in the Church that is specific, and appointed, in releasing His presence and glory through the gift of music and song.

Time Out

God wants the whole world to taste what is in His glorious Church, and there is a way to do it in God's power, and not our own. In David's presumptive effort to bring back the ark, and his sincere mistake that cost life, he had to have a three-month season of time out to understand what was right. The Lord had David leave the ark in the world again, at Obed-Edom's house. That house was extremely blessed by His majesty's presence (1 Chronicles 13:14).

Obed-Edom was from Gath, which is the place of the giants. The Lord will leave the fullness of the ark of His presence in the world and redeem it later, if we do not do things in the Church with obedience to His ways. It is God's desire that the world be blessed through the House of God. Much of the Church has tried for so long to do it other than the right way - with all of man's religious ways, traditions, and modern formulas. The apostolic reformation will bring all things together in order, for it is time for the world to see that the real Lord is truly good.

The Fear of the Lord

When Uzza died, David was first angry, then became scared (1 Chronicles 13:9-11). *'The **fear** of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who **do** His commandments. His **praise** endures forever'* (Psalms 111:10). These are Tehillah high praises (Psalm 149). Warring sounds that affect the nations. This music is enduring, and is effective in bringing the wisdom of God's ways - when it is rooted in the fear of the Lord. David was too casual and presumptuous the first time, which anyone can be even with a heart after God. The fear of the Lord came upon David, even though he was upset at losing his friend Uzza. David may have said *"Oh my God, this is terrible. How can I do this after what has happened?"* (1 Chronicles 13:12). Not doing things God's way can make us lose hope, and think our future is impossible. David was on the cusp of his destiny and he found the answer, *'we did not **consult** Him about the **proper order**'* (1 Chronicles 15:13b). David needed to come up to another level of wisdom; he needed to change and adjust, for God's ways are higher than ours.

The time is now for many churches to take this to heart to seek the proper order for their music and put things right. This is part of the process of re-building the Tabernacle of David. David did not give up after one blunder, even though a big one and tragic. True holy fear of God is when we don't fear anything else on this earth. This is the revelation that hit David's heart. David declares, *'the fear of the Lord is **clean, enduring forever...**'* (Psalm 19:9). *'Who is the man that fears the Lord? Him shall He teach in the way he chooses. He himself shall **dwell in prosperity**, and his descendants **shall inherit the earth**. The **secret** of the Lord is with those who **fear him...**'* (Psalm 25:12-14). Prospering, and inheriting the earth, is rooted in the fear of the Lord, and His ways of achieving things; not just success formulas in regard to music, finances, or anything else.

The Governing Pattern

There was more to bringing forth God's glory than David realized, even with all his preparation over the years. David thought they would play music like they had always done. He was learning the hard way, that there was a cost in doing it the wrong way - people suffered. There was something new that God wanted to restore and establish. The Lord did not want people to suffer for the ministry, but to mature in it and function in their proper role. To do this, a correct pattern was required. All of this happened to David as an example for us. To have this today in the Church, we must understand the apostolic paradigm. It is a governing pattern required by God, mirrored for us in the Tabernacle of David. There are varying degrees in outworking this, depending on the size of the church, and the revelation they have in regard to music. Many music directors think that only being musically skilled, excellent like the world, or having some gig experience, is enough qualification to lead, or be in a team - not so.

Real Weight of His Presence

We cannot take the presence of God lightly, yet so many do. God is restoring to the Church the weight of true reverence for Him. The glory and manifest presence of God has tangible weight and splendor, requiring honor, and great veneration. The habit, familiarity, and sometimes the hype in a church meeting may say, *"the presence of God is here, can you feel it?"* In many cases it isn't, because you would really know it, if indeed God's manifest presence was there. You wouldn't have time to answer the question. An awful lot can be done in the flesh to pump things up, however, when God really shows up in a corporate meeting there is a massive difference. The anointing is extremely powerful and it will break any yoke, bondage, or oppression in people's lives.

The Second Chance

Obed-Edom opened the front door of his house. David stood there with a machete in his hand.

"Hi Oby, I've come for my ark, I know what to do now," David said smiling.

Obed was happy to see him, but he had gotten used to the incredible difference David's God box had made around the house. Obed peered outside over David's shoulder. There was no cart, but a sea of cows and sheep. David smiled again and held up the machete. Obed didn't even ask. Just behind David were a group of official looking men with poles, humming a song. They came to the front door, wiped their feet, and went inside to where the ark had been resting for 12 weeks in a corner of the room. They proceeded to pick it up by the poles, lifted it onto their shoulders, and walked six long paces. One pace from the front door they stopped - what happened next, left Obed totally gob smacked. Before he knew it, a cow had poked its head through the front entrance and David had slashed its throat with the shiny machete. Its eyeballs popped, and blood went everywhere.

"My new carpet!" Obed screamed.

The walls, the lounge, the dining suite, and everything Obed had bought recently - due to God prospering him - was covered in thick, smelly, red blood. The cow's bladder also dropped its load on the porch; the mess was big. It looked like a murder scene. *"My wife will freak,"* said Obed, as his knees began to wobble.

"Sorry. The cleaner's outside, he will follow up," said David, in a kindly but firm tone that drew no response from Obed.

There were six other cows in the front garden eating the pink and orange flowers, and by the time the official looking men had arrived at the front gate carrying the ark, there were dead cows everywhere. Everything was red, and the smell was awful. David looked like the serial killer from the movie *Silence of the Oxen*. Obed's wife arrived home from work. One look at David she feared the worst, and promptly fainted into the manure pile of her vegetable patch. Oblivious to his wife's dilemma, Obed just stood in his once lovely Smallville styled garden, staring with wide eyes at the unusual procession moving away from his house. A man with overalls, blank expression, brown rimmed glasses and carrying a large silver box, walked briskly into Mr and Mrs Edom's front lounge and went to work. Outside, the atmosphere around the bloody proceedings was quite relaxed, as the entourage made its way slowly down the street. No one was in a hurry; people were singing to God, talking to one another, smiling, some danced, and others just enjoyed one another's company.

Instead of driving them, David sacrificed the oxen every six paces (2 Samuel 6:13). Big mess, loads of blood and guts - like dying to self. Seven bulls and seven rams were sacrificed (1 Chronicles 15:26). The number seven is the biblical number of perfection. The sacrifice of the oxen symbolizes David's revelation, "*Lord its your way, the **right** way this time, not mine, your strength not my own. We will **take our time** to do it right!*" It was a lot longer to bring forth the ark the second time round. A lot longer than a quick music slot before announcements.

After the sacrificing of oxen and sheep, blood was not shed in sacrifice for 40 years. The only sacrifice was the sacrifice of praise (Psalm 27:6). The fruit of worshippers lips, confessing His name continuously through song and sound. Back in Jerusalem on Mt Zion, David put the ark on a rock, and covered it with a tent. It was simple, and everybody could see the ark. God's people did not die in the presence of glory (as the High Priest may have in

the Holy of Holies), but sang and danced with liberty 24/7. They came and went as they pleased. In Jesus our Rock we don't literally die, because the veil of the temple is torn in two for our free access to the Lord. David had a revelation of worship and proper order that was futuristic. David foreshadowed the New Testament Church, and the end-time order for the power of apostolic music. '*... Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne*' (Psalm 97:2b); God's justice is His proper order.

Prepared For Proper Order

The proper order was for the Levites to bear the ark. They were called, it was their portfolio, and they got paid well for undertaking the task. David prepared a place for that ark of God and pitched a tent for it (1 Chronicles 15:1).

David firmly established what was needed before the ark was finally brought in - he was too afraid not to. He wanted to get it right. Unknown to David, his heart for God's ways was setting an apostolic template and prophetic tone for the next 3000 years - it had to be right. God is doing this re-building and establishing work in the Church, before he can pour the fullness of His apostolic glory and majesty into Her. It has taken centuries, but it is quickening in these days. If resisted, or not enacted, people may literally die like Uzza, or their ministry could be cut off. Families may suffer in some manner, or become disillusioned, or weary, because God's ways are ignored. Among the many reasons that this happens, is pride, tradition, or controlling demonic spirits at work. At worse an established church platform can break down. It may even be totally removed by the Lord until proper order is secured, or even re-established elsewhere in a new work. Today many church buildings are now bingo halls, restaurants, mosques, or shops. There are thousands of ministers leaving professional ministry in various denominations, and many are disillusioned with formularized Christianity - perhaps it is time to re-evaluate.

There is a long time of preparation for God's proper order. The place that David established for his tabernacle means - a standing place, a station, a post, and an office of authority. This place is also where humans are, or where they live, in a city, land, or region. The place also represents Christ, the heart, and the Church. There has been a definite preparation by God, for His eternal presence and glory to abide in the nations through a governing Church. It has taken many years, but we are now in that hour today.

The ark of God's presence (as with Uzza), has been touched by the wrong hands for centuries. Religion has killed millions of men and women in the process. The Church has been through many deaths and resurrection's over hundreds of years, it's mind boggling. Now, the musical David's of this modern world are being raised up, to bring forth great glory, power, and majesty. It is through a governing tent, spread out over the earth by God - the Church - resting on the rock of Jesus.

The bible tells us not to *'be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ'* (2 Corinthians 11:3). That simplicity is free of pretence, and is uncomplicated. It is now time to just seek God, and do what He says to do. David stretched out a tent for the presence of God; it was a simple nomad's tent, symbolic of wilderness life and transience. God's sacred mobile home, *'don't fence me in'* - there must be a song there. The tent could be moved anytime, as God moved. It was not constrained to short rigid time periods, stifling programs, and modern religiosity. This can be stretching for any deeply entrenched tent pegs in the status quo of a church, however, the biblical fact remains, God is re-building His tabernacle so all mankind may come and seek Him - a great reason to change if ever there was one.

Selah, place your order.

22

Jesus gave Gifts for the Proper Order

In the frosty French window, Christmas lights blink with a warm invitation, insinuating that untold treasure was nearby. Inside the grand house, warm gentle hands stoke a crackling log fire as golden sparks dance up the chimney into the night; a thick sheep skin rug cushions her needed rest. In the same room, a tall well-dressed pine tree, stood guard with its big star and lilac tinsel; it waited patiently for the happy children who were sleeping. Perfectly still figurines from China, gathered around a statuette of baby Jesus, who was comfortably nestled in his porcelain manger. Roast dinners, family gatherings, snow fights, and laughter will pass him by for yet another year – before he is packed away in his box. The real Christ of Christmas celebration aches to give, but for some in the doorways of the city, the time for gifts is sad. In the corner of the room, a real angel, curled up tight in her wings, squats precariously on a child's three-legged stool. Unheard, she hums an ancient hymn of peace and good will for all men.

The morning brought the Saviors day, where the children are wide-eyed before the dawn. Dappled in amber from the early hues of the rising sun, virgin white blankets snuggle the lawn outside in the garden. Red Robins hop and twitter, leaving little stick foot marks in the snow. Inside the house, excited expectation eats at little hearts; beating rapidly with the innocence of receiving everything. The stockings have already been raided for chocolate and surprises, but the door is closed to

the big ones. There is that moment however, the appointed time, when Dad and Mom come down in gowns, and tiny hands veil the wonder in their sparkling eyes.

"Are you ready?" says Dad.

In they go in a flash; dad opens the door. Piled high around the pointy tree, in neat and tidy rows, are the presents. Gleaming gold, piercing silver, and all the colors of celebration. The tradition of absolute fun begins.

"What is in them, can I feel them, can I shake and listen," the little voices echo.

The steady cam pulls back through the window, up over the house, and higher and higher. Somewhere a poet recites, *"It's that time now our Father, when we know you celebrate with angels, when your white horse is being brushed, and you wrap your gifts in final bows, for an eternity of kiss, under heavens mistletoes."*

*'But to each one of us **grace was given** according to the measure of Christ's gift. And He Himself gave some to be **apostles**, some **prophets**, some **evangelists**, and some **pastors and teachers**, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the **Body of Christ**'* (Ephesians 4:7,11-12).

Jesus gave gifts to men. They were the last big ones with giant red bows, hidden under the tree of the cross; the building gifts that would take 2000 years to completely unwrap. When his children finally do, when they allow it, when they embrace them all, they will see their glorious purpose in all the communion of dinners and families.

'A mans gift makes room for him' (Proverbs 18:16). Jesus' gifts will make a place for His presence in these last days, bringing

proper order to His house – the gifts are His divine configuration, releasing His glory to a world in need of His divine love. We all remember gifts given - remember these. The grace for them has been laid at our table in great measure. Now is the hour to take off all the bows and glitter, casting away the wrap; setting the presents to their full use, before the celebration passes.

The presents Jesus gives are better used when out of the box. Tents are better when they are taut, stretched and well oiled. Jesus stretched himself across the heavens for our sake, that we might experience the fullness He has for us in the end-times. He gave us the satellite picture from far above - through His word. It is time for us to ascend higher into His power, and extend ourselves to do things God's way. There is an apostolic proper order for the Body of Christ. Now is the time to look through the sparkle of heaven's eyes, and take away our hands that veil the child of glory in all of us. Flick the remote and watch this little movie.

Buzz Light Jesus to Infinity and Beyond

*'Therefore He says: "When He **ascended on high**, He led captivity captive, and **gave gifts to men.**" (Now this, "He ascended" - what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended **far above all the heavens**, that he might **fill all things.**)'* (Ephesians 4:8-10).

Thomas Woody, the disciple, switched on the little yellow Rhema TV. The program called *Presents*, crackled into life with interstellar pictures and a deep voice over.

Buzz Light Jesus ascended to heaven after his resurrection, but first he descended into Hades to the crescendo of burning guitars. Inside the earth, Hell felt the beating of His resurrection authority. BLJ was the sent one. He had come to destroy the

works of the devil once and for all. Apostle Savior BLJ, had a very brief battle with the devil, amidst some perplexed sulfuric hissing. The guitars wailed in crunching tones, as He stood on the old hairy devil's head, inflicting the bruise. Grabbing the keys of hell and death from between the flames of torment, he unlocked the imprisoned captives, threw open the bars and gates, and said, *'follow me'*. Their chains fell to the molten floor, and their ragged clothes morphed white. BLJ dragged the devil up into the sky with His new captive audience in tow. BLJ was down and up in the spin of a yo-yo. For a while he dragged the hairy one around, showing him off to all the gawking principalities. The captives huddled together watching the show, as the guitars wailed louder and louder.

"Serve this guy if you want, but from this day, he's a loser," said BLJ.

Tiring of the squealing, and the sulphurous smell, he cast the devil down a black hole in a great flash of light. On his arm pack, he pressed a red button marked elevation. With ex-captives in tow, He zoomed upward - superior than any Superman. BLJ had ascended, where to, and why?

Music broke out among the singing stars, *"up up and away in my beautiful...."* The voice of BLJ could be heard echoing off the planets, *"to infinity and beyond, beyond, beyond..."* BLJ disappeared, far above everything that existed, physical, or spiritual. Like a comet, he went beyond his heavenly throne. His Father waved as he flashed by, creating a tail of luminescence a million miles long. In His excitement, he went further than the expansion of light, into every spread of the sky. He hit the *Truman* borders of every starry starry night and milky highway - higher than all omnipotence. Suddenly he stopped.

He glowed like the sun, in the fullness of His rank, that heaven now bestowed. He was BLJ, the resurrected Son of God. He

turned his head to survey all he now inherited. It was His buzz world on a beautiful day. BLJ could see all things visible in His creation. It was a moment of awesome clarity - the planets, the stars and universes, all framed and held together by his own words (Hebrews 11:3). He was pumped, and buzzing with resurrection power. Overwhelmed with joy, he hummed a favorite tune, *When I look at the World*. His ex-Hades, flame-licked captives, freaked out with amazement and joy. They were all hanging together in aeons of space, like little diamond Kite's on the ride of their life. London Planetarium, and all the colors of Willy Wonka's chocolate factory, could not compete with their grandstand view.

"Why did we not believe whilst we were alive?" one shouted.

"Well, this is a journey we just can't leave behind," said another happy traveler.

BLJ smiled broadly; he had accomplished his task. He was alone filling the heavens, but not alone. Sharing the moment, He turned to them, and gave an oration.

"I brought my dear prophet Ezekiel, up between the heavens and the earth, holding him by the lock of his hair (Ezekiel 8:3); you should have seen his face. I brought him into my vision, and my glory, now I bring you much further this historic day. You think his eyes were bulging out of his head? Now watch this. It is with great joy, that I decree into the heavens, and bestow these gifts to men. They will bless my special little marble called earth, the planet I made for my purposes - now light years away from us. I would love, a no expense spared party with all the trimmings at this moment, but as a celebration of my resurrection, I want to give these presents to men, so they will be enabled to do what I did on earth. Behold my captives - my glory! My glorious Church in the future days!"

"Where are the presents?" said one to another, suddenly covering her eyes.

There was a bamm of great light; power was unleashed unlike anything seen on the earth. In unison, the captives gasped in amazement, rocking back and forth in their starry suspension. But none said a word, as none could describe the wonderful glory they saw.

In a little while, BLJ continued, *"During the next two millennia, man will experience some great darkness, as the old hairy one is extremely upset. He thought he had me! Ha ha, wait and see what is going to really hit him. I will cause my dear people, to trample his government of demons under their feet. They will destroy Satan's works as I have done, releasing billions of people to my joy that have been captive like you. I sow these gifts now, for it is part of the plan, and the best thing I can do.*

My dangling friends, we will all be patient and save the party until much later, for by then it will be way bigger. These gifts that I seed will bear fruit, they will emerge again to fully function together in the third millennium from now."

"Where are the presents?" whispered one again, a little exasperated.

BLJ was now in full presidential speech mode, *"I stretch myself across the heavens and decree my giving, just as the beautiful blue sky declares me and stretches over my earth. Before you this day, and on the earth, I now fill all things with me. I have ascended with you today my dear captives, to make all things full, to cause men to abound. Listen! Satanus is a kumquat to my little toe - do not ever fear. I declare that I supply liberally, for I am liberally supplied. I make complete, and fill everything to the top in full measure, so that no one shall be wanting. There is nothing lacking down on my little blue earth marble, they just have to believe it, and walk on.*

Like the wedding of Cana, I fill the wine to the brim with my vintage best. Here they are, presents for my lovely Church - with them I consummate this resurrection day. I render perfect, all that is needed for them to accomplish my plans on the earth. They will bring it all to realization, and complete my purposes for my Church. I will make her wild honey, sweet to the world. They will perform all matters of duty, of all my sayings, all my promises, and all my prophecies. I bring it all to pass today. It is an accomplished fact! I am the fulfillment spoken of through my prophets. To cause our great and marvelous dream to be completed, and that my Father's will is obeyed."

By this time, BLJ had turned his face in the direction of the earth's galaxy. He was now giving his speech to the whole universe. The captives stared, bobbing in some eternal breeze, occasionally looking at each other, shrugging, and wondering what he was really going on about.

"As your King, I grant you the gift of my government that I bear on my own shoulders. By it, you will furnish my House with all things necessary. Here! I write it in the stars with rays of flashing light from my fingertips. Through these gifts, you will care for all of those to come. I am reaching out to you all; I love you."

BLJ painted the sky with laser lights from his fingers; every jaw dropped, in every captive head. It certainly wasn't the Adonai they had been taught about in the synagogue, however, they were not complaining.

BLJ shouted into the cosmos, *"Hey, I am stuck in this moment, you can't get out of it, I am forever with you, I trust you, and commit my gifts to you, administrate them with love. It is my reward to you oh men of the earth. I appoint these offices, to cause my glorious Church to come forth! As the sea, death, and Hell will give up the dead who have been engulfed in them, I give these gifts up to you. Sing O barren, shout and praise high, for as I am resurrected, so now are my beautiful presents that I have prepared before time."*

"I can't see the presents, where are they?" whispered one again, to another.

Turning slowly, BLJ glanced at His new friends, then finished His oratory to the planets, "*Listen, all of you who hear my voice, these gifts are my saving care and grace, follow them on earth that know me. They will truly care for my interests. They are commissioned now. Be glorious my Church! Sing, and never stop singing... !*"

He stopped, and seemed to listen to something the captives could not hear. Smiling, BLJ swayed back and forth with his eyes shut. Somewhere in the expanding heavens, classical music was playing. It was a new symphony, an eternal opus of such beauty, written and prepared for this day.

"Did anyone see the presents? Do you remember what He said?" one asked again. The final frame was a close up of a perplexed, but exhilarated captive. As the program faded to black, a super appeared on the screen - *to be continued.*

"Wow," said Thomas Woody the disciple. "...Who wants to live in a glass case in a foreign land?" he said to himself thoughtfully. He decided Rhema TV was great, but it was time to go home and live where he was supposed to.

Good movie! Who's going to make it?

The Governing Gifts

What were the presents? Were they wrapped in beautiful paper and tinsel bows, to be cracked open only at Christmas, Easter, or Barmitzvahs? No, Jesus gave some that will truly '*be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers*' (Ephesians 4:11). In the last fifty years we have seen these gifts restored in the Church like never before. We have had moves of music throughout that time, reflecting all those gifts. Now is

when the purposes of the Church will all come together - to be governing and apostolic. 2000 years hence, the fruit of these gift's that Jesus gave, is now to be reaped from the good soil of the House of the Lord. What an awesome day to live.

'And God appointed these in the Church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues' (1 Corinthians 12:28).

As the apostolic is restored, there will be great power and miracles in the Church, with the proper structure of help and organization to facilitate it. Jesus' gifts to men are to build and release you, to do the work of the ministry. The following is self-explanatory.

'Till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head - Christ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the Body for the edifying of itself in love' (Ephesians 4:13-16).

Singers and musicians, it's now time to do our share as governing gifts to the Church. Rise up and be sons and daughters of thunder. Rend the heavens in the nations, and draw people to Jesus. The gifts have been given, and the apostolic reformation is here to facilitate them. Get out of the trees - now is the time for proper order. These great ministry presents from the Lord Jesus Christ will help us see clearly, and get us there.

Among the Rebellious

King David prophesied and declared in song, *'You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive; You have received gifts among men, even among the rebellious, that the Lord God might dwell there'* (Psalm 68:18). When Jesus ascended into heaven after his resurrection he gave gifts to all men - not just believers. Over the past 2000 years, many of His gifts have dwelt with the rebellious; those who would be considered the lost and unsaved.

There are apostles who are running corporations, armies, and governments; prophets sing on the charts, or make movies, and design our advertising; teachers are in our schools, universities, and the parents of many families. There are pastors who care in a myriad of professions; they fight for causes, or host chat shows. Evangelists sell cola, or football, a cacophony of other products, or raise millions, or plan corporate takeovers. Gifts of helps, administrations, miracles and healing, are all over the world in the innumerable fields of skill. God, however, has had a purpose in it all - that He might live among men. In this present apostolic reformation, and in the restoration of music, God is placing the gifts He gave to the Body of Christ, into their rightful place. The Church has an extraordinary job to do now and a great responsibility in these end days.

To infinity and beyond!

23

Out of the Woods into Proper Order

Silver Beard, as they called the old man, sat cross-legged under the tree chanting, *“you can’t see the wood from the trees.”* Silver was a prophet in Judah, one of the annoying ones. He said things that made you go away and think hard. Nick the priest saw him every day. At night Nick would lay in his scant bed and churn over Silver’s words. The chant was his dream sheep, jumping over the many religious fences in his mind. Nick could not sleep well, as the prophet’s voice gave him no rest. Nick tried very hard to do things right, but he knew many things were completely out of order in his religion. His vows of scant living and passionate allegiance seemed pointless now. He even wrote a long list of all that was untrue, the intention was to pin it up on the Right Venerable Holy Reverends office door; then everyone could see it. Nonetheless, for months, the parchment stayed neatly rolled up in his desk draw. He was feeling depressed.

One night, Nick had a vivid, full color dream. He was a little boy, running exasperated through a dark green forest like a maze - he could not find a way out. In the second part of the dream, he was floating on a little puffy cloud, looking down at an immaculate building with a tall pointed roof - the likes of which he had never seen before. Everything was in its proper place, and there was a beautiful sense of peace; it seemed to him, way off into the future. In part three, he was leaning against a wall, looking at a tent with no sides. There were musicians and singers everywhere, the noise was deafening, yet pleasant. He had never seen or felt such emotion, and was quickly drawn to it; leaving the wall, he began to walk towards the tent. Suddenly he was

back in the forest standing frozen still, darkness was pressing hard on his little soul; then indescribable fear gripped him, as if the talons of hell had ripped open his heart. From somewhere in the silence a calm voice spoke, *"come out of the woods."* Then Nick awoke with a big gasp of air, and sat bolt upright. Sweaty, and breathing heavily, he groggily dressed and disappeared outside into the cool early morning. He prayed as he walked, *"Aranaher atar anav gernay fur dannan..."* Wracked in a conflict of doubt and faith, he hoped the Lord heard his prayer. All day, he sat cross-legged hanging on the words of Silver.

Kirjath Jearim

Kirjath Jearim was a city located 8.3 miles north of Jerusalem on the northwestern boundary of Judah. The name means The City of Woods. It was a high place, a fortified city, and an old Canaanite place of worship also called Kirjath Baal, or Baale Judah. The Ark of the Covenant was brought there to reside in Abinadab's house. This happened after the Philistines had enough of its overwhelming power and gave it back to Israel. Abinadab's name means the father of liberality. He was also the father of a son called Eleazer, which means God's helper, a common name among the Hebrews (1 Samuel 7:1).

The Ark stayed in this city for 20 years amongst the woods of the world. God's ark of presence and glory had left the Tabernacle of Moses at Shiloh. God had declared a shout of war directly amongst the Philistines, and was waiting for David to grow-up and become His appointed king.

It was from Abinadab's place that David first attempted to bring back the Ark to Jerusalem before he put it into his tabernacle. He had to bring it *'out of the woods'* of Kirjath Jearim, and into the proper order.

The Ark of the Covenant represents a key to having genuine worship with apostolic authority that was to come into the Tabernacle of David. Before the Tabernacle was ready, God's design was to leave the key of the Ark out in the woods – as it were - of Kirjath Jearim, bound in the worldly places of worship. The Ark was waiting to be redeemed fully back to Jerusalem (a type of the Church), however the timing for that restoration had to be right. The Lord had taken a twenty-year break from the corrupt religion of Eli and was getting ready for the real thing. He waited patiently out in the woods amongst the rockin' Baal praisers of the world. God does this in biblical history. He loves to redeem things that actually belong to Him, from out of the Egypt's of this world. We can see this pattern even in the life of Jesus. The Ark of agreement was redeemed back to its proper place in the Tabernacle when the time was right for the proper order. The heavenly call eventually came from out of that old ancient acacia wooden box, *'get me out of the woods, this is not where I am meant to be'*! This is a picture of now and the days of glory that are ahead of us.

Liberality with Great Power

The period of time when the Ark was in the world at Kirjath Jearim, is a great biblical picture of the last 20 to 50 years of the 20th century, especially in terms of music. A time past where liberating music and song has been more in the world of MTV Baale Judah, than in the Judah praises of the Church. This was before we had the acceptance of modern music and worship, with the freedom of expression we have now in much of the Church. The current spirit of liberty in Christian music is growing, and has been building in governing authority in the last 20 years. Since the mid-nineties this has been rapid. We have been slowly coming out of the woods. The Church now, in the apostolic move, is about to come out of Abinadab's house, and move into phenomenal end-time liberty and power, into a place prepared in Jerusalem, David's Tabernacle - the Church.

Today, in all the re-building and restoration, the Church is getting ready to be in full apostolic flight.

The David's, and Davidesess of recent Church history, have been redeeming sounds and music that belong to God. Modern music history in the Church shows this clearly. The ease of computer recording and digital technology over the last 15 years has also helped to accelerate this process. It is no coincidence that this technology has happened in the midst of the information revolution.

Church going through the Motions

It is amazing, that even when the ark was in Abinadab's house, the priesthood of the tabernacle of Moses was still functioning, even though the Tabernacle in Shiloh was very much in decline after Eli's death. There was a ministry of religious priest hood still perpetuating in Israel, yet no ark, and no glory. God was not there - amazing! The priests were just going through all the religious motions, like many of what are called churches today.

The unfaithful King Saul never inquired at the Ark of God. Samuel the prophet knew that Saul would be irreverent and worldly toward the presence of God - he made sure the ark stayed at Abinadab's house away from him. Samuel could see down the corridors of time that Saul's reign was short. Samuel knew David was the man after God's own heart, and David's leadership and destiny would ultimately bring the presence of God right into the heart of human community and life. In that place, the liberty of the Spirit could be lived in a daily life of worship, as well as expressed through music that releases God's glory.

Melchizedek Power

Saul's life represents the flesh, and is a type of the world, and demonic influenced leadership. David is a type of the spirit, and

of Jesus. David's reign, and his Tabernacle, represents a new order of king - the order of Melchizedek *'the king of righteousness'* (Hebrews 7:2). David was a forerunner of apostolic priesthood, as was Jesus as our High priest Melchizedek (Hebrews 6:20). The bible tells us that Jesus came in the likeness of Melchizedek *'according to the power of an endless life'* (Hebrews 7:16). Also prophesied by David in Psalm 110:4. Melchizedek is the priest that Abraham met, and tithed a tenth of his spoils 400 years before the law was ever written (Genesis 14:18-20). The endless life of Christ spoken of in Hebrews, is the indestructible dunamis power of God. It is the fullness of zoe life found in the Holy Spirit, in all of God's glory and manifest presence. Jesus always comes in power and endless possibility - that is his government. This is what David's life represented and foreshadowed. This awesome governmental power was in David's Tabernacle, and will be in the music of the Church in the end-times.

New Things Declared

*'I am the Lord, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to carved images. Behold, the former things have come to pass, and **new things I declare**; before they spring forth I tell you of them. "Sing to the Lord a new song, and His praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you coastlands and you inhabitants of them'* (Isaiah 42:8-10).

The Lord is doing a new thing today, and his praises will not stay enslaved in the woods of the world. This acceleration of change has been very evident through the nineties into the new millennium. God has shown this clearly and prophetically - by declaration and accompanied by new song from the Church. God is coming out of the woods.

Redeeming from Egypt

When you look at contemporary music in the past century, we can see God's hand mightily in control of the music redemption,

Judah redeeming process. There have been singers and musicians of great liberty in the world in that period, that had a powerful touch of God on their lives. They had a key of the ark, a presence and talent that affected the whole world through music. Like Eleazer the helper (in Abinadab's house), they have been God's helpers whether they realized it or not. Their gifts were ultimately given by the Lord to contribute toward preparing a way for what we have today in music and song in the Church.

Elvis Presley, for example, had a very powerful touch of the ark of God in his life. This fact cannot be argued away by saying he was just worldly. His parents were Assembly of God believers, and he was brought up around an atmosphere of faith, and black gospel music that has always been fresh and vibrant, music where basic modern rock originated in the twelve bar blues. Much of this came from black Church influenced musicians in the early 1900's, particularly in the 1920's and 1930's, some of who were totally blind and highly gifted. It has been said, Elvis always thought his true calling was to preach - he did through his music. His greatest legacy was the 500+ gospel songs he recorded, more than even his secular work. He won only three Grammy's in total, for the albums *How Great Thou Art* and *He Touched Me*, which were very anointed albums. He had a key in his life that the world grasped for in an unusual way, and still does. His gift touched and changed the world. He lived and died with controversy, but it is said, he died very much a believer, albeit in a sad way.

In the explosion of music from the 1950's, many of God's music gifts were in artists who were working in the world of Baale Judah. Many of them had some church influence in their heritage, or associations. The Tabernacle of David (as it is understood in the Church today in the apostolic paradigm), was not well established back then as it is now, so where else could

all that new sound go that Christendom ironically uses so much today? Out into the worldly woods, until the time of proper order! Now it is all coming back for the glory of God. The artists may have ended up rock stars, but Jesus the Rock has had purpose in it all.

Around the same time (particularly in the Charismatic Church move in the 1960's), there were the contemporary stirrings of Davidic revelation in worship emerging in the broader Body of Christ. It happened particularly in the hippie *Jesus People* movement in the USA, where many new musicians were birthed into the kingdom, helping shape what became known as CCM (Contemporary Christian Music). In those early days, however, the ark of liberty with music, was very much considered to be more in the world, and there was still much resistance to new music coming alive in the Church. This is actually nothing new. In the history of classical music, the composer Bach was considered too radical for his church. Musical reformers like Bach, Beethoven, and Mozart, to name a few, were also very gifted and touched by God in their era. Their music has had astounding influence over the centuries. In every genre of music down through history, you will see the Lord's hand of redemption.

Sounds in Symphony

As in the days of the prophet Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, used '*sounds of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music,*' to cause the world to bow down and worship idols (Daniel 3:4-7). Babylon (which is modern Iraq) is a type of the world, and Nebuchadnezzar is a type of the devil. King Neb had a dream concerning the latter days that prophet Daniel interpreted. The dream was of a great gold image (like Oscar from the Academy awards!). This image represented kings and kingdoms that will be dashed to pieces by the rock of Christ - Jesus, the '*rolling stone*' that was cut out of the mountain

without hands (Daniel 2:44-45). This was the Rock of the Kingdom of God that will *'consume all these kingdoms'* (V44).

It was the governing authority of Christ that would bring false and temporary authority down. After Daniel's prophetic interpretation, King Neb set up an idol and suddenly used the power of music to get everyone to bow down to the statue.

Why did the King Nebuchadnezzar devil, immediately go and use music and worship to cause people to bow down in idolatry? The prophet Daniel had released his voice to the enemy kingdom, and gave the true prophetic decree about the demise of Babylon. In reaction, the devil gave him-self away in this biblical scenario. He was stirred up by the prophetic decree, and gave away the clue to the great end-time tool that will root out the enemy - music and its power. The restoration of the Tabernacle of David in the apostolic reformation, will see sounds *'in symphony with all kinds of music'*, used by King Jesus to cause the nations to come and worship Him. The recent ousting and demise of Saddam's government in the Babylon of Iraq, is also a prophetic sign of the imminent restoration of this truth about music.

Why Should the Devil have all the Good Music?

Back at the ranch of Eleazer's house in the worldly City of Woods, Eleazer was helping his father Abinadab protect the ark of the presence of God. For 20 years, their house was being blessed, as was Obededom's house, when David left the ark there for three months after Uzza died (1 Chronicles 13:14). Obededom means servant of Edom. Obed also means worshipper. It was quite possible that he was a musician and a bodyguard to David. Edom means red - the name given to Esau. The Edomites were an ancient people who were enemies of Israel. Edom, like Egypt, is a biblical type of the world, and reminds me of a cheese I really like. Cheese and bickies - sounds good to me!

The world loves music, and like the houses of Abinadab and Obededom, the world has been blessed for a long time with God given gifts in men and women. The Lord has been more involved in the world than we realize - where else do you go when the Church is not ready?

Christian musician Larry Norman said years ago, "*why should the devil have all the good music.*" This statement, be it casual or otherwise, was like a prophetic decree, in a time of redemption of sound back into the Church. Those words became a famous catch cry in Christendom. The music in the world was, and is, often inspiring and liberating, even though sometimes fueled with a lot of worldly motives, morals, and ethics. Larry Norman's famous comment was right. Why should the devil have all this good stuff, its time to get it back.

The end-time harvest will be gathered by the unspeakable joy found in the governing celebrations and high praises of God's people. It is time for the whole world to really taste the true power that should be resident in the House of God - the living Body of Christ. God is coming out of the woods.

Everything is the Lord's

Music in the modern era has affected and changed the world in many ways. In these last days it has been loosened up with many songs and sounds belonging to God's purposes. Today, as in King Nebuchadnezzar's time, there is no doubt that a lot of music in its spirit, lyric, and moral ineptitude, has drawn people away from God. The Lord, however, is in the redeeming business, and Larry Norman was right.

David tells us, '*the earth is the Lords, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein*' (Psalm 24:1). In the Hebrew, the fullness means the entire contents. Everything belongs to God, and all of its purposes are rooted in the Lord. '*Oh Lord how*

manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions' (Psalm 104:24). Our job is to possess the possessions of our awesome God - they are everywhere. We must bring our music and song out of the woods, and into the proper order of governing power. This is what the Lord is saying and doing today in the apostolic paradigm.

In the last days Jesus will re-build the Tabernacle of David that has fallen down. The Old Testament wooden box, called the ark, speaks of God's agreement and promises to His people. David had a heart to build a house of worship, so that God's presence and glory could dwell extraordinarily in God's people. This was a revelation in David of the New Covenant promise, and the music and worship to eventually be released in these last of the last days. We are in an apostolic reformation that will see the fullness of God's presence and glory released in the earth. It all belongs to Him and the time for the proper order for all God's worship and sound is now. The ark is out of the woods of Abinadab's territory, and no longer in Obededom's house. The Tabernacle of the Church is now being stretched out over all the earth. Are you ready for the end-time glory?

Hey! Come out of the woods of religious blindness, traditions and worldly paradigms, into the fullness of the liberty of God's Spirit.

What a star, is our God! The *'bright and morning star'* (Revelation 22:16). The one who *'counts the number of the stars; He calls them by name. Great is our Lord and mighty in power'* (Psalm 147:4-5).

He is calling you out of your tree!

24

Warfare for the Proper Order

Gleaming with royal splendor, the golden crown was placed upon his beautiful head. He looked very cool. A massive dome of light, at least a mile wide, covered the whole area of the coronation. Beyond the light was a congregation of thousands of hideous demons; they couldn't see anything that was going on. Sitting on a ragged, portable cathedra of his own, the devil scratched his ugly chin with a dirty claw tip. He was intoxicated with rabid thoughts of destruction toward the new king; his huge efforts to oppress and destroy David over the years had been foiled. Having national control was going to be much harder for him now that Saul was dead, and chained up in Hades. In the glare of heaven's light shielding the ceremony, the hairy ones yellow pupils shrank to a mean slit.

After David was anointed king of Israel, severe contention arose against his authority being established in its rightful place. In the sequence of events leading up to the proper order (that David set up in the Tabernacle), there was a long period of warfare with the Philistines of the world. It was imperative for the new king to have specific strategy to win the battles - it came from David's inquiring of God (1 Chronicles 14:10).

David had captured the stronghold of Zion, and was living in the city of Jerusalem. The response from David's enemy was vehement. When you are living in a spiritually strong position in life, the inevitable battles must be understood to win them. In moving forward with governing authority in their music, many churches, singers, and musicians have experienced vehement

demonic attacks upon their lives. The Philistines launched an immense attack against David before the Ark returned to Jerusalem, however, it was God's mighty hand in the battle that got him through.

It is important to be acutely aware of the governing, demonic, strongman that comes wickedly against the prophetic and apostolic being established. In keeping the strongman bound you maintain ruling apostolic power and authority. The liberty and glory of God can then be released consistently. There is a very real war raging as this is being released in the earth - especially through music. One of David's early contenders was the strongman of Goliath.

Goliath

The devil had his claws in five Philistine giants who were all related, one was Goliath. His name means exile or soothsayer; he was from one of the five royal Philistine cities called Gath - the place of the winepress. These five demonic royal strongholds wanted to pummel and destroy what the Lord was building in David, and what was yet to come with music in the Tabernacle. The pummeling ministry is about as much grace as you will ever get from the devil. God builds, the devil kills and destroys. Goliath was one of Satan's apostolic champions of governing leadership; however, it was a teenage David that was going to take out this outlaw of demonic divination.

The crystal waters in the brook washed the feet of David. He bent down, scooped up a refreshing mouthful, splashed his face, and combed his hair back with his fingers. He glanced back at the dusty valley; the marauding, loud mouth monster was still taunting the people he loved. The brook was beautiful, a little bird looked at him, blinked, and flew off. David was gazing at the rippling water, he was in that mode where all you can hear is a song, a poem, an inspiration, or a picture. Just under the

surface of the water was a row of stones; a little shaft of light projected a name onto each one. He gasped in excitement as he felt the warmth and presence of the Lord. Bending down, David picked up the five smooth stones from the brook and placed them in his Shepherds bag (1 Samuel 17:40). One stone for the big mouth Goliath, and four more for the rest of the devil's giant governing leaders. He ran his guitar picking fingers over the skimming stones; it was a prophecy au naturel - he knew, that one day, the other four would die by his hand (2 Samuel 21:19-22). David walked away from the brook to face Goliath. He decided he wanted to make a real mess of Goliath's head, this first stone would sink straight in. "*Blood, brains, yeah!*" he said smiling to himself. Before long he was running at full pelt toward that loud voice of intimidation.

It is the Davidic order that breaks the back of the enemy. God gives us the grace, with the simplest of tools, to bring down the biggest of giants. It is in the order of David that we will hurl our musical stones and beat our Goliath's - no matter how big the situation, you will be able to have victory. David started doing it as a lad with faith, and it worked; that's why he praised the God of love, war and protection. *'Blessed be the Lord my Rock, Who trains my **hands for war**, and my **fingers for battle** my loving kindness and my fortress, my high tower and my deliverer, my shield and the One in whom I take refuge...'* (Psalm 144:1-2).

It is the simplicity of the Davidic paradigm that binds and destroys the strong man. The New Testament, five-fold ministry gifts, are God's giants; they are the answer to the devil's deceptions and counterfeits of spiritual government. Without apostolic authority and power in the Davidic pattern, we will not possess the cities and nations for which we are destined. The five-fold ministry gifts are God's grace to the Church, to help her become victorious and glorious in winning the battles for the cities and nations of earth. David said, *'For by You I can **run***

against a troop, by my God I can leap over a wall. As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him' (Psalms 18:29-30).

The Goliath devil said to David, *'Am I a dog that you come to me with sticks... Come to me and I will give your flesh to the birds...'* (1 Samuel 17:43,44). Or it could be said, *"... Hey! Cool looking musician with the stupid guitar, who the hell do you think you are? Do you think your lump of wood and your sweet worshipping voice can beat me? Hah! I'm gonna make mince meat out of you, you're dead, you will never make it, you will never survive."* The devil always attacks your thinking, as he did with David, and also with Jesus. He questions your faith, ability, power, provision, everything. Sound familiar? Goliath said to Israel, as the devil says to the Church today, *'I defy the armies of Israel give me a man that we may fight together'* (1 Samuel 17:10). The devil makes a lot of intimidating noise, and prowls around like a lion looking for those man enough to stand up to him.

The Jezebel spirit, from the *'depths of Satan'* (Revelation 2:24) is the same; it intimidates, causes fear, depression, and challenges you in that contention to rise up and fight. This spirit wants to see if your faith is for real. Goliath and his family of giants represent a type of challenge. When you do stand up and fight, when you say, *"No! I've had enough,"* that is when you will experience the devil's vehement aggression. It will test you, and show you where you're really at, and where you may need to change. You will have Goliath's in your life, but don't turn away from them. Your Goliath's are like the one David fought; they are there in your testing to wake up the giant in you. Conquering them will make you grow up, and prepare you for your future.

The prophet Joel echoes this for us today, *'proclaim this among the nations: Prepare war! Wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near...'* (Joel 3:9). We must be awake to the reality of the

day in which we live. It is a spiritually warring time that will require people of immense courage, faith and maturity in the Lord. *'Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered'* (Psalm 68:1). Adult Christians will defy the devil's principalities of authority. To do that, you have to be governmental in spirit, ruling and reigning like David in an apostolic dimension of living. The strategies you will need to win your battles may be unexpected, as the smooth stones were for David. The Lord has music for you from His waters of life - sounds that will slay every giant. Listen to the river, the melodies are there.

*'It is God who **arms me with strength**, and makes my way perfect. He makes my feet like the feet of deer, and sets me on my high places. He teaches my hands to **make war**, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze... I have **pursued** my enemies and overtaken them; neither did I turn back again till they were **destroyed**... Then I **beat them as fine as the dust** before the wind; I cast them out like dirt in the streets'* (Psalms 18:32-34,37, 42).

Cut the Devil's Thumbs off

Adoni-Bezek threw off his red cloak with pontifical melodrama, and then lay down on his golden couch in the middle of the vast old church. If he had grapes and a chalice of wine, he would have made the perfect Roman. Tilting back his ugly head, he soaked in the sounds of praise from the few parishioners. The music was sweet yet powerless, however, in his mind the songs were played just for him. He referred to the church members as the others; he didn't care about them, besides they couldn't see him anyway. At the end of his claws, were little silver strings like the weavings of a spider - they were attached to all the others. One flick of an evil digit on either claw, and the music would rise or fall at his whim; from the corner of his eye, he was very aware of the messengers staring at him, yet he wasn't bothered. These angels watched him everyday, but they could do nothing; they had waited for so long to get this demonic lord they were

gathering cobwebs. Bezek was also known as the lord of lightning, for he had silenced many churches in the city.

Years later, the couch of gold was gone, and thousands of angels filled the area around the church with light. As they ascended and descended on a glowing blue ladder reaching up into heaven, the new Chief musician, Sangelise de Vanci, led the most majestic music anyone had ever heard - the place was packed.

The orchestra, rhythm section, 30 percussionists, and a choir of 4000, moved in a symphony of grand praises, as he played an enormous keyboard. The company of prophets roamed the stage singing with operatic majesty; hours seemed like minutes in waves of God's glory. Hundreds of people were healed and delivered, and had found peace with God. The vast building has been deserted for years, but was now known as *The Gate of Heaven* - oh how times had changed.

The demonic lord, Adoni-Bezok, had lived right amongst the praises of God's people in Judah (the tribe of uplifted hands of praise). The tribe of Judah pursued Bezok in their own land, and then cut off his thumbs and big toes (Judges 1:6-7). Ouch! Thumbody tell me why this is in scripture? Music and worship in the House of the Lord pursues, and is not meant to be just passive; it runs after God in powerful intimate worship, and runs after the enemy in great tehillah high praise warfare. This cannot, however, be boxed into a style, or lyric category; what makes the real difference to the pursuing power of music, is the apostolic, prophetic authority that rides in the song and sound. If music is devoid of that power in these days, you will have a thumb-less ministry in the Church.

The thumbs and big toes, on hands and feet, represent apostolic government as in the ascension grace (gift) of the apostle; without them you cannot walk, or handle things properly. Bezok,

the demonic king, had cut off the thumbs and big toes of seventy other kings. This devil had effectively cut off the governing power of these leaders in their regional areas - never again could they properly rule. Bezek was a type of controlling demon like Jezebel. These chopped kings just groveled under his table for whatever spiritual food they could manage to get under his control. They got by in the religious ineffective atmosphere that controlled them. Their own authority had become irrelevant. Some religions can have the outward look of correctness (whether in an old, or modern church structure), yet the real potential and power is under some obvious, or subtle form of demonic control.

Bezek Control

How many churches have had their spiritual thumbs and toes cut off? They cannot handle, or walk in the things of God effectively, because they are not in the proper order. Imagine the seventy kings, being seventy pastors in seventy churches in a city or region - leaders who should be ruling and reigning in Christ. This is a major group of God's potential government rendered useless in a city. Their identity consumed under the control of a religious spirit, just surviving in the various deceptive paradigms and distractions he supplied.

How many musicians and singers have been burnt out, used, squashed, ripped off by groups, or simply frustrated by companies, or religious organizations that did not function in the right way? Imagine it being 70 apostolic kings of music, all highly skilled and spiritually mature. Imagine the damage they would do to the kingdom of darkness. That would be a very serious music department of a major church of several thousands in a city. The work of only one demon strongman rendered all these kings powerless. This demonic king actually lived in Judah - incredible!

How many brothers and sisters don't realize that the enemy is out to take away all their power and strength? The worst enemy is actually right on your doorstep - he's a local.

In the power of apostolic music, Judah will cut off the government of the devil's influence. You won't have to go far because he is in your land. There are some fat, groveling demonic rulers, that need everything cut off - not just toes and thumbs. Come on singers and musicians if there is anything hangin', go tune up and lop it off. Devil you are defeated in Jesus name!

The destruction of demonic government was dealt with in Jerusalem (a type of the Church). The principality of religious demonic control that Adoni Bezek represents died there. The local church is the center of God's purposes. To destroy the works of the enemy, we must cut off his government. This is why apostolic authority is being restored to the music of the Church. Judah led the way, as music has today. Thumbs up!

Finish the Unfinished

The job God had for David was not just about praise and worship. David had been in civil war with the old order of Saul, when that was over, the Philistines were about to come against him. Once you bind a strongman you will have other disorder to clean up. David as king was anointed to conclude the unconcluded, and complete the business of previous kings and generations. This is what we are called to do, and have been prepared for today. Jesus said on the cross, *'it is finished'* (John 19:30) - He completed and fulfilled, what had been unfinished for thousands of years. We are at a point in history now, where the Church is about to deal with all the half-baked business, of all the demonic Philistine strongholds, in all the nations. As the proper order is set in place in the Church, we will win our cities and nations for God.

In David's day, there were still Philistines to destroy in the land. Joshua (long before David), had also not finished the huge task of destroying God's enemies in all he had set out to do in the Promised Land. The Lord is a man of war; the Church will be greatly governmental in these end days - it has to be, to finish the unfinished.

Dealing with the other Giants

The devil knew that the Ark was about to come into a powerful place that was being prepared by the Lord, and he threw all his available giant principalities into the fray to try and destroy this David of God. David was a man the enemy was well aware of; the enemy knew he could give David a good fight. The devil had some hearty little chats with Goliath who now was a shadow of a figure, curled up in a ball, rocking back and forth in the corner of his cell in Hades. If you carry genuine governing authority, anointing, and call, the enemy will be completely up to speed with your details.

Goliath's giant relatives, and the brothers from the five royal principalities, came with all the nations of the Philistines to hunt down David in the valley of Rephaim - this valley of the ancient tribes of old giants was just below Zion (1 Chronicles 14:9). David had unified north and south Israel, but he had not fortified the city in Zion as yet.

When you start to make governmental moves in the spirit, all the old giants of a territory will be dredged up from hell to try and stop you. These *Brave Heart* movie plots (just waiting to be filmed) are great examples for us to learn from.

You may be living in a strong place in Jesus, but the city of your whole life will need to be strong continually, especially when you start to move forward in music with apostolic authority. You will stir up the giant demons of the land, which have been

hanging around cities and nations for donkey's years. These are the old, smelly, wart ridden ones, who have been cutting off the thumbs and toes of authority from many ineffective Christians and churches. When spiritually adult men and women are proclaiming the cry of David, '*is there not a cause*' (1 Samuel 17:29), the alarm bells will be ringing in their demonic fire stations. You will stir up the heavens, and confront devils in their valleys. You will fight, and win, in apostolic power - as Mount Zion is over the Rephaim valley, you are seated with Christ far above all these principalities and powers (Ephesians 1:20-21).

War and Peace

The enemy is always ready to fight you, even if you are a person who tries to only have peace. Jesus said he did not come at first to bring peace, but a sword (Matthew 10:34). Jesus nonetheless, will return again as the Prince of Peace - but that is yet to come in the future. Today, real peace in this modern era of the world is a fallacy, for the devil is out to destroy everything. Only the Church, functioning in apostolic power through Christ, can bring genuine everlasting peace to people's lives. To have church that is just trying to be at peace with the world, non-threatening, consumer friendly, well imaged, professionally marketed, socially and politically acceptable and correct, a Church with entertaining music, all embracing, and all tolerant, will end up being totally horizontal, and spiritually lukewarm. It will breed a limp faith in people, who will not be able to stand up in the tribulation and trials that are ahead in these end-times. This can also be subtle deception, and will be disastrous for many in the long term. This is often the fruit and manifestation of Adoni-Bezek religious control. In light of our efforts to be at peace and acceptable with the world, it is written, and worth considering the following:

'Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets' (Luke 6:26).

*“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are **not of the world**, but I chose you out of the world, therefore **the world hates you**” (John 15:18-19).*

*‘And **do not** be conformed to this world...’ (Romans 12:2).*

*‘For the **wisdom of this world is foolishness with God**’
(1 Corinthians 3:19).*

*‘For Demas has forsaken me, having **loved this present world**’
(2 Timothy 4:10).*

*‘Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that **friendship with the world is enmity with God**? Whoever therefore wants to be a **friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God**’ (James 4:4).*

*‘Do not love the world or the **things** in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him’ (1 John 2:15).*

*‘And **the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever**’ (1 John 2:17).*

It is clear from God’s Word that now is not the time to be like the world, but to spiritually war by asserting authority by our faith - released from holy lives that carry governing apostolic authority. We need to unleash the songs of apostolic power; we cannot be vessels for glory in the Church until we have fortified it in the proper order. Everything is for God’s purposes of glory - so don’t despair. *‘For of Him and through Him and to Him are **all things**, to whom be glory forever. Amen’ (Romans 11:36).*

Praise must continually be in our mouth, yet we must remember, David had to fight the Philistines first, to bring forth the Ark and the tabernacle of governing praises. In the movie *The Lion King - Simba’s Pride*, the mother of Kovu, the son of Scar (who is a type of devil), screamed in fierce anger and utter bitterness at her dark lion family, that they would take Simba’s lion kingdom by force. Jesus said, *‘the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent **take it by force**’ (Matthew 11:12).* The devil has great wrath, and *‘walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may*

devour' (1 Peter 5:8); we are coming to a time in history when that wrath will be released in great force against the Church. The Body of Christ must be fully equipped to fight the full impact of the end time wrestle against principalities and powers of darkness (Ephesians 6:12). This is unfolding in the world in great measure right now.

Break Forth like Water

In David's battle with the Philistines, the enemy abandoned all their idols of worship. Many false idols were burned and brought down by David (1Chronicles 14:12), however, the breakthrough came from God, *'so they went up to Baal Perazim, and David defeated them there. Then David said, "God has broken through my enemies by my hand like a **breakthrough of water.**" Therefore they called the name of that place Baal Perazim'* (1 Chronicles 14:11). David and his army were like the gushing forth of water; it was easy to defeat the enemy. This has been happening with the Church in recent history, and the Church will continue to increase with breakthroughs in many areas. The Philistines of the nations of the world, and all that is holding back the nations from God, will be washed away in a torrent of the Holy Spirit, flooding the planet in God's glory. Even when you have this level of victory the enemy will come back again (1Chronicles 14:13). David's key for continued victory was always inquiring of the Lord for the plan to win the battles (1Chronicles 14:14). To constantly keep breaking through like water, we must be inquirers of God - for all of His songs, His sounds, and His ways for defeating the giants of the cities and nations of the earth.

In the preparation of the Church in recent history, there has been a rapid increase in strategic spiritual warfare, intercession, and powerful music. Spiritual contention has also escalated against the proper order of the Lord being established in the Church, however, in this apostolic reformation the Lord is bursting through like water.

In the 1990's the Church drank of His Spirit and was refreshed in spiritual outpourings that renewed millions of believers all over the world, yet the flood of the Holy Spirit in all His glory is still yet to come in this new millennium. David named the place of victory Baal Perazim, '*the Lord of the Breaks*' (1 Chronicles 14:11). Our God is giving His Church the biggest break in history in these days, to be what it is meant to be - a glorious Church. The Lord alone is the Master of the breakthrough, and He likes it that way - He gets the glory.

Hear the Sound of War

*'And it shall be, when you **hear a sound** of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees, then you shall go out to battle, for **God has gone out before you** to strike the camp of the Philistines'* (1 Chronicles 14:15). The Hebrew word for sound is *kole*; which means a sound of war, a proclamation, a voice, a thundering, and a sending out. This is governmental action by the Spirit of God that is also prophesied in the book of Joel. *Kole* sound is similar to the prophetic type of awesome governing music in the Day of the Lord, '*blow the trumpet in Zion, and **sound an alarm** in My holy mountain*' (Joel 2:1).

God's sign for David to go and fight, was when he heard the sound of marching in the tops of the trees. The Hebrew word for marching is *ts'adah*; this speaks of a voice and sound, even of instruments, or celebration. It is also a picture of the sound of anklet chains in a march of people. The Church has been celebrating in praise, and declaring in prophetic songs, and is also about to cast off all the old chains, that have enslaved her in religiosity and improper function. This rustling in the trees was a signal for war, but also a prophetic picture of today, as the warring sounds of God's praises have increased in recent years from the Church. The Lord has gone before us and it is time to pull down the strongest of demonic strongholds. It is evident from the media they are manifesting more and more in our troubled world.

In 1992 I recorded an album called *Hear the Sound*, many of the songs were penned through the prophetic eighties. With the luxury of hindsight, I now have a better understanding of what I was hearing in my spirit all those years ago. I began to write the title track (*The Sound*) of that album ten years before in 1982 - a time when the prophetic was just emerging in greater restoration. I was in prayer and I heard a sound in the spirit in the key of D - an electric guitar playing a warring chugging power chord rhythm. It shocked me at the time, as I wondered if the Lord had an electric guitar in heaven! In those days we were taught dumb things like minor chords, beat, loud rock and twelve bar blues (ala rock music) was still all from the devil. Behind this aggressive sound, was a big strings sound that emanated a spirit of readiness for a battle. I also heard a massive chorus of voices singing, "*we are children of the lamb going to war.*" Being only a young Christian, I simply put it down onto a cassette and forgot about it.

In 1990, eight years later, I was doing some scale practice on guitar, and I saw in the spirit a vision of a mighty white horse the size of an enormous room. Jesus was sitting on it preparing to come back. Blood was dripping onto the horse's hoof from the Lord's vesture.

Songwriting (as with the prophetic) is often visual for me. The verses literally flowed out from what I saw as I begun to write it down: kings, queens, and governments coming to the Lord, and powerful warring praises released into the nations. I realized I had written a big, prophetic, proclamation song of war, but I didn't have a chorus. The Holy Spirit reminded me of the old chorus on the tape from eight years previous. I found it in my archive and it fitted perfectly; by the Holy Spirit's leading the title track was completed. I had heard the sound of war - the marching in the treetops.

Proclaimed to the Principalities and Powers

Through the 1990's in particular, we have heard more of the '*rustling of the trees*' of spiritual warfare. The Church has been marching forward and increasing in its music militancy. There has been more understanding of its strategic, powerful purposes in these days; combating spiritual darkness through prophetic and apostolic proclamation. It is part of our job to do that, '*to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known **by the Church** to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places*' (Ephesians 3:19).

The wisdom of the Lord has a great variety of colors. God is resplendent with many hues and textures. One of those colors, with its many variables, is the powerful weapon of music as a spiritual warring tool of proclamation. Paul said to Timothy, '*... in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you **may fight the good fight***' (1 Timothy 1:18). The prophetic nature is warring - it fights a good fight. Spiritual war has been proclaimed into the earth more and more by the Church; no wonder the devil and all his Jezebels of control are mad as hell. That is why the prophetic has preceded the apostolic in restoration; it has fought, exposed, rooted out, pulled down, and destroyed. The apostolic dimension in the Church can then be restored for great building and planting into the earth.

The Shaking of the Trees

*'Marching in the **tops** of the mulberry trees...'* (1 Chronicles 14:15). The tops of the trees, is from the Hebrew word *roshe*; they speak of the head, the chiefs, the captains, rulers, the companies, the bands, the choicest, and the best. It speaks of high places, summits, the heights of the heavens, and the spiritual shaking in all these spheres of leadership, structures, and paradigms of Church operation. Trees speak in the bible of people. The prophet Isaiah said, '*the trees of the fields will clap their hands*'

(Isaiah 55:12). We have heard the warring sound in worship; we are rejoicing, proclaiming, and becoming louder, bolder, more intimate, more everything, in our sounds of expression. Don't hold it back to just be nice, or to please man and his comforts, for you will dilute God's best for His House. You can't take the kingdom of God sitting down trying to be sweet and peaceful, watching someone else do it for you from the front. We all have to be willing to take up the sword of the Spirit and the shield of faith. The Church will rise up in the proper order of spiritual government. In her will be the apostolic power of music.

Go when You Hear

The Mulberry trees in Israel grew up to thirty feet high, covered in red berries that made a refreshing drink. The Mulberry is also from the balsam family, and drips sap when cut. The balsam is a fragrant substance, a balm; this also speaks of the anointing and healing. The Church is becoming a refreshing drink, deep red with the blood of Jesus, anointed with the balm of healing for the nations.

God was saying to David, that when this sound is going forth, go out to battle - for then you will be ready. The Church is going forward with wise and mature purpose today, to bring healing and deliverance to the nations. Going forth for a clear strategic result, not just floundering in the dark of maybes. If *Elohim* God has gone before us, how can we possibly lose our battles when we are operating in His fullness? His greatness, divine government, and all His works are exceeding. How can we lose, with all the heavenly hosts of His angels ministering to us (His saints)? How can we fail, when we inherit all things with Christ? In the cities and nations of the world, the enemy camps will be struck, when we go forth in the proper order - it will be like sliding your hand through water. When David did this in the fear of the Lord, as He was commanded, infamy came on his name - not through worldly motives using aggressive marketing for success.

Dread of the Lord

*'Then the fame of David went out into all lands, and **the Lord** brought the fear of him upon all nations'* (1 Chronicles 14:17). There is a good dread that will come on the nations as the Church rises up in apostolic power. That dread will bring them to Jesus - the real Judge Dread - fun movie, but sorry Sly! The fame, and the real effectiveness of the Church, will be evident in the glory that will rise upon her people. The fear of the Lord will be in the spirit of our music, unlocking the heavens. *'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom'* (Proverbs 9:10). That wisdom we declare to the principalities and powers through governing music.

The nations still do not really fear the Lord; they are now being shaken like the tops of the trees, for the Lord is re-building the Tabernacle of David in proper order. Up until this present day, the Church has basically been dysfunctional in its true structure for centuries. The Lord is now restoring her in all her fullness. *'Arise, O God, judge the earth; for You **will inherit the nations**'* (Psalm 82:8).

I will Build My Church

Jesus is building great productive churches today. He said, *'I will build my Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it'* (Matthew 16:18). This is mirrored in type when David built houses for himself in the city of Jerusalem - after the battle with the Philistines in the valley of Rephaim (1Chronicles 15:1). It was there in the midst of building that David prepared a place for the glory of the Ark of God, and pitched a tent for it. The time is upon us in the re-building of the Tabernacle, to prepare and arise.

David was ready. Are you?

25

Sanctity for the Proper Order

*The reformation of the Church should commence
with the sanctity of the head – Book of Consideration
By St Bernard of Clairvaux, 12th Century Cistercian
Monk known as the Doctor of the Church.*

Due to the Lord's strategic help in warfare, David's fame went throughout the nations around Israel. The fear of the Lord descended on those nations. It came from around the pivotal point of Jerusalem (a type of the Church), where David lived in a stronghold position. The breakthrough had come, and the time was ready to bring the ark out of the trees of the world, and place it in the Tabernacle that David had prepared. The Lord was ready to camp in a flexible tent where people could be truly liberated. It was David's time to establish the proper order in worship and music, but he had to get his leadership team prepared in the sanctity of their lives. The structure he inaugurated gives wisdom and truth for us now.

Sanctify

David said this to his leaders, '*... You are the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites; **sanctify** yourselves, you and your brethren, that you may **bring up** the ark of the Lord God of Israel to the place I have **prepared** for it'* (1 Chronicles 15:12).

Leaders: It must be noted that David first made it clear to his leaders that they must make themselves holy to bring up the Ark of God's presence. In the New Covenant, Christ has made us holy by his finished work through the cross, however, through our faith we must live out that holiness in day to day life.

The principle is - change has to start from the top first. Once God's leaders are flowing with His apostolic order, then the rest of the people can follow properly, secure in their walk with God.

Brethren: David then refers to the brethren of the leaders. This is the rest of the tribe: their brothers, family, relatives and children. This speaks also of ones responsibility for other people generally, be it your own family, or those in your music dept who are under your care.

Leading Righteously

David shared this particular wisdom about leadership just before he died. *'The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His **word** was on my tongue, the God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me: 'He who rules over men must be **just**, ruling in the **fear of God**, and he shall be like the light of the morning when the sun rises'* (2 Samuel 23:2-4).

God's leaders must lead righteously in their spiritual position of government, cause, conduct, and character - it is proper order. The fruit of righteous leadership is like the beauty of a sunrise. *'Whoever offers praise **glorifies Me**; and to him who **orders his conduct aright** I will show the salvation of God'* (Psalm 50:23). *'... He will guide his affairs with discretion'* (Psalm 112:5b). The way of Christ is being real, and living with the fear of the Lord in our hearts; it is our pathway to moving forward in the things of God. Proper Divine order in the Church, and in our lives, is important to God. Christian's who believe the Lord is not into structure, or are loose and liberal in their theology, don't understand the bible.

*'Yes, the Lord will give what is **good**; and our land will yield its increase. **Righteousness** will go before Him, and shall make **his footsteps our pathway**'* (Psalm 85:12-13). Righteousness always leads the way.

A Place Prepared

God has a place prepared for the music he wants to bring forth in every ordained church. Music leaders called to ministry should be set apart to bring forth the apostolic sounds of the House of God in their particular region. For too long, many have just given lip service to this, and church becomes just another gig in their busyness of life. We are sanctified and righteous by faith in Jesus, however, being set apart in Christ we must live in sanctity, preparing a place within ourselves in a consistent manner. This has to be a priority for our lives on a day to day basis: spirit, soul, and body. We must live holy for our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19). Our responsibility is to look after them, not feed them all kinds of junk - be it food, or drink, audio, or visual, or otherwise. David understood this and said, *'I will behave **wisely** in a perfect way. Oh, when will You come to me? I will walk **within my house** with a perfect heart. I will set **nothing wicked** before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me'* (Psalm 101:2-3). David also exhorts, *'... **worship** the Lord in the **beauty of holiness**'* (Psalm 29:2b). The clothing of holy living is attractive - be one of the beautiful people in Jesus! Hollywood, and all that is Vogue, pales in comparison.

The Command for Sanctity

David commanded sanctity from the ones who would facilitate the tabernacle - this must also apply to music directors, music leaders, and worship leaders in apostolic authority today. Jesus said, *'... be holy for I am holy'* (1 Peter 1:16). Sanctity has to encompass our life in our consecration to God. The Levites (singers and musicians) wore the finest of linen (1 Chronicles 15:27); David the leader wore a linen ephod. This was a double layer of material that sat on his shoulders; it spoke of sanctified apostolic government. It was an expensive, bleached white material, made in Egypt. The irony is, we are all redeemed from the Egypt's of the world, and bleached white from our sin by the

grace of God. The linen speaks of the righteousness Jesus Christ gave us. Linen is from the Hebrew word buwts - pronounced boots. You have to walk in righteousness if your gonna be a leader, because *“those boots are made for walkin”* baby.

Sanctity is not a cool subject to engage in for many believers, especially in our busy, image conscious world. Having genuine fellowship around the word is more often a rarity. The latest movie, party, clothes, or acquisition of assets can be more consuming. Sanctity is not often preached, taught, or emphasized in the proper context of what it truly means to be sanctified, nonetheless, it is essential to understand, and is the only way forward to be effective in the proper order of things. If you want to be a singer or musician who *‘shall never be moved’*, then you need to grasp the importance of sanctity.

Read the following: *‘Lord, who may abide in your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? He who **walks uprightly**, and **works righteousness**, and **speaks the truth** in his heart; he who **does not backbite** with his tongue, **nor does evil** to his neighbor, nor does he **take up a reproach** against his friend; in whose eyes a vile person is despised, but he **honors** those who fear the Lord; he who **swears to his own hurt** and does not change; he who does not put out his money at usury, nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved’* (Psalm 15:1-5).

Let Your Light Shine

God has put light in you; *‘the spirit of man is the lamp of the Lord’* (Proverbs 20:27). Through your inner lamp, the Lord penetrates and examines our hearts. Through His light in us, our sanctity shines. Jesus admonished us, *‘take heed, that the light which is in you, be not in darkness’* (Luke 11:35). If we do not sanctify ourselves, and we put up with darkness in our lives through any sort of sin, we then become open to attacks of the devil - the light in you will then be darkness. Satan gets a foothold in areas of our

life, and that is where we can be defeated. If potential music leaders are not ready, do not exalt them prematurely. When spiritual pressures come, any hidden darkness may emerge, due to them not understanding, or being ready to handle those pressures. Timing for release of ministry is important, if not they may become vulnerable, or fall into sin of various kinds.

The battles we have in ourselves often require repentance and constant vigilance. We must make a choice to sanctify ourselves and submit to God daily. The footholds of the enemy in our lives will then cease, and the devil will flee (see James 4:6). Apostolic singers and musicians must be in this place of sanctity, and then your music will carry governing power. God's authentic opportunities for your life will come to you when you live in the proper order of sanctified living. Sanctity is a pleasant place; David knew the value of it, and consequently he was an immovable person in the things of God. *'The lines have fallen to me in **pleasant places**; yes, I have a **good inheritance**. I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel; my heart also instructs me in the night seasons. I have set the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand I shall **not be moved**'* (Psalms 16:6-8).

Embrace Sanctity

The preparation for artists to carry governing anointing is to fully embrace sanctity in their lives. This applies to all believers, all that are on music teams, and anyone who will ever minister on a platform. Apostolic authority can only reside in sanctity. That is why much of the five-fold ministry wisdom we have today, has first been restored over the past decades prior to the apostolic being firmly established now. We have needed more foundational wisdom to fully understand living in today's world, and what it will take to stay effective. The apostolic paradigm is governmental; to carry that divine authority in what you do, is to be like Jesus, for He carries government on holy shoulders. *'How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking **heed***

according to your word' (Psalm 119:9). Embracing sanctity, means accepting and doing all of what God says, then we can carry divine authority in His strength not our own.

To Sanctify Yourself

*The moon shines full on all - The sun plays games on the flood
I am clothed in the finest of linen - I am washed in the finest of blood
With a crispness of air I breathe - With a torrent of tears I cry
We pray prayers to bare the deep - We look boldly on and die*

To sanctify means: a separated individual, who is devoted, holy, prepared, and dedicated to God. To be genuinely sacred in attitude, majestic in conduct, and keeping yourself apart from worldliness. Our energy and time is devoted to the Lord - in the call on our lives, and with quality time in prayer and His word. In this consecration, we are secure in the knowledge that we completely belong to Christ for His purposes. Consider the words of David. *'How long, O you sons of men, will you turn my glory to shame? How long will you love worthlessness and seek falsehood? Selah. But know that the Lord has **set apart** for Himself **him who is godly**; the Lord will hear when I call to Him. Be angry, and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still. Selah. Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your **trust in the Lord**'* (Psalm 4:2-5).

*'Open to me the **gates of righteousness**; I will go through them, and I will **praise** the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord, through which the righteous shall enter'* (Psalm 118:19-20). The power of apostolic music is rooted in right living in Him. It is through the praises that come from living this life that we enter into all the Lord has for us.

The Result of Sanctification

The result of sanctification will be seen in your life and family, and your attitude to people in how you treat them. It is evident

in your conduct, your attitude of heart, and the way you apply yourself to all the things you have to do. Sanctification adds to your life, so God can lift you up and bless you. Sanctification doesn't separate you so that people can't relate to you anymore - quite the opposite is true. Those who are really close to God will become more like Him: real, open, honest, approachable, loving, kind, thoughtful, and genuine. Sounds great doesn't it, however, it is a constant challenge to maintain in any context, whether in family, church, or work.

The result of dedicating yourself this way is that you will become genuinely honored, and your gift and call is treated as sacred. If you walk in personal holiness, you will also treat others in a pure and sacred way also. The love of Christ will rise and be *'shed abroad in your heart'* (Romans 5:5), and you will walk in strong governing spiritual authority. Living in sanctity, is being set apart for the high calling in Christ Jesus. David said, *'Blessed is the man **You choose**, and cause to approach You, that he may dwell in Your courts. We shall be **satisfied with the goodness of your house**... By awesome deeds in righteousness You will answer us'* (Psalm 65:4-5).

Sanctity also passes down to your children, in an awesome dimension of blessing - consider this promise. *'Praise the Lord! **Blessed** is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments. His descendants will be **mighty on earth**; the generation of the **upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches** will be in his house, and his righteousness endures forever'* (Psalm 112:1-3).

Bringing it all Together

The final restoration of the apostolic gifts and anointing, is like the final fifth ingredient of pure olive oil in the anointing recipe of Exodus 30:24. It brings all the right ingredients together, blending them for proper use. The apostolic brings structure, and prepares a place, or platform of authority. The first apostles

of Jesus set everything in motion - the last apostolic move 2000 years later will finish the job. It is only now that we are really ready for proper apostolic order in the Church, and her music. The apostolic dimension will take the Church to maturity; that is why David commanded his leaders to sanctify themselves first. If this is not adhered to, the enemy will grind you up in these days of vehement war, and it will be difficult to move forward in all that the Lord purposes for your life. Sanctity is a must to bring forth the glory of God; music produced from that posture of life has a great role to play - it will have apostolic power.

Consult the Lord

The Ark of the Covenant speaks of God's manifest presence and glory. David and Israel had not consulted the Lord the first time they tried to bring the ark back to Jerusalem (see I Chronicles 15:13). They had been operating in presumption without fear of the Lord. Many churches do that today: they have votes on who leads the flock, or Mrs Nesbit tea and biscuit committees where the leadership is undefined, or worldly corporate models on how to run things. These are often full of the opinions of men, or earthly demonic principles that are void the Holy Spirit's involvement, or just traditions that have nothing to do with God and his ways.

People suffer because of this, and die on the inside as a result. They know something is wrong but never really understand what it is. In these situations, good faithful people just keep on going never outwardly questioning. Fear is the root of this, or they don't know how to communicate properly with those in leadership. The fear of man is the snare that grips them - perhaps not wanting to rock the boat. People suffer through lack of knowledge; they hold back and are held captive - it grieves the heart of God. We cannot be ignorant of God's ways.

Presumption to Power

David had a constant, humble, honest and repentant heart after God - despite his failings. He is our model in having a life of apostolic power and victory. Jesus is your legal advocate; let His victory be yours. He knows your struggles. The Lord is bringing his people out of presumption and into power in this day. Erroneous concepts of the way God's kingdom works, are being rooted out and exposed with His truth. Being unaware of truth, and proper Godly order, will be a breeding ground for darkness, and consequently a contempt for the light that is in us. The tests, trials, and challenges you may go through are for the purpose of cleansing any darkness, so you can walk in true apostolic authority and power. Sanctification is great and to be embraced.

Don't waste time trying to protect any self-image; beyond anything, this will keep you from seeing more of God's glory and power in your life. Humbly seek the Lord with all of your heart, and commit yourself to sanctification; power will replace presumption and the rewards will be great.

David said, *'The fear of the Lord is **clean**, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. **More to be desired** are they than gold... Moreover by them your servant is **warned**, and in keeping them there is **great reward**. Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from **secret faults**. Keep back Your servant also from **presumptuous sins**; let them **not have dominion** over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression'* (Psalm 19:9-12).

Set Apart

In keeping God's word there is great reward; we must do things God's way. It is a time to be set apart for Jesus; to see the glory of God change our cities and nations. In the Old Testament there was a tribe called the Levites, God set them aside especially for His service. They were descendants of Levi, the third son of

Jacob by Leah. Levite means - joined to. Singers, musicians, and music leaders are modern day Levites; we are to be joined to God. There is a reason why the Lord has ordained that singers and musicians are to be set apart for service. There is a reason that the artist has a generally more acute sensitivity. When an artist is unencumbered and focused on his gift and call, the results can be prolific. When the musical gift is free to grow and be developed, extraordinary things can be created - even the world knows that fact.

We are all familiar with the old image of a struggling, beret wearing, fine artist in Paris, who paints anything to survive and pay their rent. They love a benefactor who believes in them if they find one, as they can finance them to be free to create, without getting entangled with the worries of this present world. In fact many ministries are able to function through the generosity of benefactors. In proper apostolic order, singers and musicians that are supposed to be separated to a full time call of God should be looked after in a biblical way. In bible examples, this provision was absolutely phenomenal.

Sancti Selah!

26

Provided for in the Proper Order

Michael Stevens had it all - a super thin laptop, PDA, video mobile phone, portable CDR, and the latest series BMW. He was always dressed with immaculate style; however, as charmed as his life seemed, it only disguised nerve endings so frayed, that his body could short circuit at anytime. High tech synchronicity was the mother of convenience, yet the lure of juggling stocks, paying for the avant-garde, the pin stripes, the stainless steel kitchen, and valet parking, was taking its toll. An E diary kept each hour functioning @ something productive; time was his own choosing, yet his heart was a hollow ditch, and suicidal thoughts often pricked holes in his turbo driven mind. Michael was a blue chip doer, unstoppable, unflappable, and coming undone at the seams.

Georgina was learning the law, not the legal kind, but the precedent hidden inside her DNA, the ultimate cause of human female code that none of us should forsake - the law of the mother. Now with four children under 9 years old, her law course was in full flight. The memories of singleness and spontaneity were pasted into a photo album. She was now a happy mother and wife, but sorrow and pain had multiplied, and the life she knew had died in the process. Her mainstay was her faith, her songs, and a husband who never gave up. Mortgage was exactly that - a trap that could lead to death. Meeting payments was a monthly celebration that rode on the backs of three inconsequential jobs, and a residual income from a theme song they had written for advertising baby food through TV marketing. Georgina and her husband lacked many material

things, but their hearts were full as fountains. Survivor was their married pseudonym - five minutes a day they looked into each other's eyes, and making love was a weary exploration for treasure once a month. Their other passion was playing music at their small local church.

They loved Sunday morning, and faithfully made the long drive. The hour service never seemed long enough, but they were grateful for the time, and the mercy of that break in their week. The months continued to roll by as they pursued the never-ending success goals on their fridge; the rings under their eyes gathered gray, and the vision God had given them for music, was a beautiful yacht sailing further out into the perfect storm of a dark ocean.

To Plumb the Depths

The musician's call is one of leadership; it is prophetic and apostolic in nature. In the establishing of Davidic proper order, it is time for singers and musicians to be released into the apostolic dimension of music. Music leaders who sanctify and dedicate their lives to fulltime ministry for the Lord's purpose must be biblically honored - especially in their provision. Many church singers, musicians, and music leaders have never had enough time to plumb the depths of what it really means to be separated to God in their gifts and calling. In today's accelerating world, time is of the highest premium. In the proper order, time must be released for God's music leaders to fulfill the apostolic call in music.

Many called singers and musicians (and other leaders including pastors), struggle to just make ends meet - especially when there is little or no provision to their ministry gift. Long hours are spent in unnecessary work just to exist. Time, energy, and motivation are drained, yet inside, they know they are meant to be set apart to pursue the call of God.

Some are employed in churches on basic wages, or charity rates, to fill job positions that in some institutions have no healthy relational basis. The demands and requirements to fulfill the job often exceed their time available, yet people with a call and desire to serve, usually give it anyway. In the constant momentum of busyness, there is little time for much else. Human beings become human doings - tired, numb, and exasperated in trying to find equilibrium. Important things like quality time in prayer, time to create, and time with family, are pressured out of the schedule. The ideal balance for life is often expounded, but never achieved in church structures lagging in their spiritual foundations. Many marriages and ministries have been drained, or shipwrecked, in these paradigms of church.

If you are in a church that is excessive in its control, or you feel driven all the time with no life, or you are worn out in the thing that you love doing - something is wrong. The feeling of being driven, may also be your own internal pressure for high achievement that tips you out of balance, however, all these things point to the need for change. In the journey there is certainly a price to pay to establish things, but in today's reformation of the Church, God will establish order and provision for His ministers of music. They will then be free, to flow in all the music and creative sensitivities God has given them.

Provided for with Honor

According to the word of God ministers of music are worth more than charity rates and worldly pay scales. Their value is far more than just enough to get by, or gas money, or enough for McDonalds on the way home, or the occasional offering with a slap on the back for playing music. In Christian meetings, singers and musicians must not be treated as some sideshow, or warm up before the preached word. They are to be nurtured as set-apart ones, a sacred gift to the Church that is part of the

five-fold ministry gifting and structure. Their role is to help build the church, and to bring forth God's musical stratagems for that House, city and region (see my book *Prophet Musician* in chapter 8 *On the Wall Musicians*).

The provision to the Levite ministers of sound in the Old Testament was absolutely astonishing. David, Solomon, Jehoshaphat, Josiah, Hezekiah, Ezra and Nehemiah are all great reformatory examples of this. The Levites were truly honored and provided for in the proper order. This is our model and example for today. When the Promised Land was divided up with the children of Israel, the Levites did not get any land, as their portion was the Lord himself. Yet they were provided for with cities for their families, apartments to sleep in next to the place of worship, food and finances from the tithes (1 Chronicles 9:27-33). They were free from other duties, *'employed in that work day and night'*; *to bring forth fresh, hot musical bread, for every Sabbath. 'All Israel gave the portion for the singers and the gatekeepers, a portion for each day'* (Nehemiah 13:47).

God's musicians even had favor from the world. King Artaxerxes said, *'also we inform you that it shall not be lawful to impose tax, tribute, or custom on any of the priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers, Nethinim, or servants of this house of God'* (Ezra 7:24) - try doing that today! It is indicative however, of the high call, honor, and respect, that should be shown to those who are set apart for the House of God.

The apostle Paul said, *'Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and "the laborer is worthy of his wages"'* (1 Timothy 5:17). Organized churches must pay and provide for their key music leaders very well, if their calling requires all of their life and time. It may seem difficult, or money is short, or the

church is poor, or pioneering, but if a church is truly apostolic, the provision will come to supply every need at whatever level or size the church is. If the priorities and proper order are set in motion in all areas of church life, including the music, the Lord will bless. There is often a price to pay when pioneering (David served as an armor bearer to his leader), but you will get there. Honor, is part of sanctity and the proper order in the apostolic paradigm. David was a set-apart one; he had a great desire, and calling, that must be provided for and facilitated in the context of God's singers and musicians in these days. *'One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple'* (Psalm 27:4).

The size of the church ministry will determine the level of employment and provision to the singers and musicians. A church leader and his team have many areas to consider with finances, and for many churches today it is still a struggle. It is also important to always stay believing in faith for the finances to keep flowing into God's House, whether you are part of pioneering, or in a large established church work, as there is always warfare in this area. We are all called to live a life of faith, and even if we are well provided for, our faith must be strong and entwined with our leaders for the ongoing work. Very few church structures today would be able to provide for everybody in fulltime music teams, choirs, musicians in training etc, however, the apostolic model of the Tabernacle of David is an example of where local churches can come into if they have apostolic vision and understanding. Establishing some sort of provision for your main fulltime music leader is a great place to start, and work toward an apostolic future.

In the early nineties I met a pastor musician who had a clear vision for his church that the Lord had called him to start. He told me the first thing he was going to do was employ three

musicians, and their initial job description was to wait on the Lord for the sounds of the house. I was amazed at the time, at this step in a new pioneering work. Today he has a thriving church in a multi-million dollar, debt free complex.

Proper Order Establishes Abundance

Where there is great restoration or reform, there will be great provision - this truth runs throughout the bible. Those who were set apart and poured out their lives for the Lord, did not have to worry about where their rent was coming from, or how to keep a roof over their head, or feed and clothe their family, pay bills, or buy the next piece of equipment.

These things were not pressured daily issues. In the reformatory changes of King Hezekiah and his re-establishing of music, he followed the pattern according to *'his father David'* (2 Chronicles 29:2).

In this apostolic reformation it is time for us to do the same. Hezekiah was a youthful 25 years old when he began to do this. He was a gatherer of people; he called for sanctification in a time of repentance and cleansing, because the fathers had *'turned their backs'* (V3-6). It took Hezekiah only 14 days to set momentum, cleanse, and undo the 16 years of bad reigning by King Ahaz (2 Chronicles 29:16-17). The result of this restoration was proper order, great financial offerings, a renewed devotion to God's word, and music with prophetic apostolic release. *'... And Hezekiah commanded to offer the burnt offering upon the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song of the Lord began also with the trumpets, and with the instruments ordained by David king of Israel. And all the congregation worshipped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded... And also the burnt offerings were in abundance, with the fat of the peace offerings, and the drink offerings for every burnt offering. So the service of the House of the Lord was set in order. And Hezekiah rejoiced, and all the people, that*

God had prepared the people: for the thing was done suddenly' (2 Chronicles 29:27-28,35-36, KJV).

When believers seek for and do things God's way, order is the result; revival, change, and abundance in everything can then happen suddenly. The provision for God's House, should not even be a worry, or an issue, in the apostolic model. King Uzziah (who reigned three kings prior to Hezekiah's reign) understood the same thing. *'And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God: and as long as he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper'* (2 Chronicles 26:5).

Heaps and Blessed

'He (Hezekiah) commanded the people who dwelt in Jerusalem to contribute support for the priests and the Levites that they might devote themselves to the Law of the Lord' (2 Chronicles 31:4). The response of provision was so much - it was *'in heaps'* (V6). *'The Lord has blessed His people; and what was left is this great abundance'* (2 Chronicles 31:10). This happened because proper order was again established. This immense giving released the ministers to focus and devote themselves to what they were made for. The music ministers and their families were also fully embraced and provided for, not just the gift of the man or woman. Hezekiah *'did it with all his heart. So he prospered'* (2 Chronicles 31:21) - like his father David. A church that embraces God's apostolic paradigm, in the reformatory establishment of music, cannot fail to prosper - it brings pleasure to God.

David prophesied the promise, *'... there is no want to those who fear him... but those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing'* (Psalm 34:9-10). *"Let the Lord be magnified, Who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant"* (Psalm 35:27b). *'... Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken'* (Psalm 37:25b).

God will do it, for it is the Lord's heart; much of that heart we can find in the words of David. Choose God's ways as His '*paths drip with abundance*' (Psalm 65:11b).

As the apostolic is being restored in these end-times, we must traverse back down through history, and also learn from our spiritual fathers like David and Hezekiah. '*And thus did Hezekiah throughout all Judah, and wrought that which was good and right and truth before the Lord his God, and in every work, (including the music), that he began in the service of the House of God, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered*' (2 Chronicles 31:10 KJV).

'And Hezekiah had exceeding much riches and honour ... Moreover He provided him cities, and possessions of flocks and herds in abundance: for God had given him substance very much' (2 Chronicles 31:27,29). Now this is Church!

Do Not Forsake God's House

The book of Nehemiah tells us that the tithes and the offerings were to be brought in for the provision to God's ministers, including the singers and musicians. In not doing so, he considered it forsaking God's House, '*... and the priests that minister, and the porters, and the singers: and we will not forsake the House of our God*' (Nehemiah 10: 39 KJV). The ministers that lived in Jerusalem - right in the heart of the action - were incredibly provided for, '*... and the people blessed all the men, that willingly offered themselves to dwell at Jerusalem*' (Nehemiah 11:2). This amazing liberal provision to the singers and musicians enabled them to function properly.

'For Judah rejoiced for the priests and for the Levites that waited. And both the singers and the porters kept the ward of their God, (Because they were provided for) and the ward of the purification, according to the commandment of David, and of Solomon his son' (Nehemiah 12:44-45).

When provision lacked, God's house suffered. *'And I perceived that the portions of the Levites had not been given them: for the Levites and the singers, that did the work, were fled every one to his field. Then contended I with the rulers, and said, "Why is the House of God forsaken?" And I gathered them together, and set them in their place...'* (Nehemiah 13:10-11). The apostolic leaders of today, who have a heart after God like David, should be gatherers. They will set singers and musicians in their proper place - in the paradigm of order set out in scripture.

Gift of Sensitivity

God has given singers, musicians, songwriters, and a myriad of artists, a gift of heightened sensitivity. When their function is fully embraced, understood and enabled, they will be released in the full God given capacity of their creative gifts - along with the provision to be set apart. Sensitivity is a God given gift and characteristic; it is not to be maligned, but protected and nurtured. Jesus said, *'Learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart'* (Matthew 11:29). God has a sensitive nature - the Holy Spirit is very sensitive.

'And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God' (Ephesians 4:30). This means - to not make one sorrowful, or affect them with sadness, or cause grief, or offend, or make one uneasy. Ministers, or anyone for that matter, should never say, *'Oh musicians! They are a sensitive bunch I can never work them out, they are always a pain!'* The scripture in Ephesians is in context of the words of our mouth. *'Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers'* (Ephesians 4:29).

Church leaders must also help their singers and musicians in their God given sensitivity; to be strong in spirit, to mature and refine character, and not allow sensitivity to be an artistic excuse for character inadequacies - sometimes you need much grace for

this! It is important to be aware, however, that when that sensitivity is continually cajoled, intimidated, driven, or stressed in any way on a continual basis, it will cause a break down in that individual, and the church may experience the consequences of being robbed of the fullness of that gift. Struggling in this area of provision over a long period of time can quench this God given creative sensitivity.

Don't Lose Heart

There are many singers, musicians, and various artists, who have lost heart today for the things of God they perhaps once yearned for. I speak to you today, and say, even King David felt like that, yet he penned these great words which will encourage you to stay in faith for God's goodness in your land. *'I would have lost heart, unless I had **believed** that I would see the **goodness** of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and he shall **strengthen** your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord'* (Psalms 27:13-14).

When we entwine ourselves with God we learn to trust Him. *'Trust in the Lord, and **do good**; dwell in the land, and **feed on his faithfulness**. Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall **give you the desires of your heart**. **Commit** your way to the Lord, **trust** also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. **Rest** in the Lord, and **wait patiently for him...**'* (Psalm 37:3-7).

David prayed, and also prophesied for you, *'... O Lord, I pray send now prosperity. **Blessed** is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We have blessed you from the House of the Lord'* (Psalm 118:25-26). Amen!

According to James (Brown that is) - sing it, *'Hmmm... I feel good da da da da... I knew that I would now... da da da... Owwww...'*

27

Bring Up the Ark in the Proper Order

Sanctity and honoring are foundational to bringing forth the presence of God in an apostolic dimension. Sanctity is also a continuous life journey, transforming us in the process to be more like Jesus, however, because of his immeasurable grace, we don't have to get our lives perfect, or think we have to arrive, before anything great happens. In fact, we must realize, as we go on in life, we need to stand more and more in the complete trust, grace, and mercy of God to be effective - not just being self-reliant, but knowing how much we need him daily. There is also an increased responsibility to walk in sanctity as music leaders as servants to God's people, and to the Lord - especially in this hour. When people are not wholly dedicated in their lives, with a commitment to sanctity, they cannot bring forth the full measure of God's glory that He wants to release into the earth. You may be experiencing a touch of God's glory in your ministry, but there is much more to come with apostolic restoration - we need to be prepared.

Go up - Bring up

'... Sanctify yourselves, you and your brethren, that you may bring up the ark of the Lord God of Israel to the place I have prepared for it' (1 Chronicles 15:12). The Levites sanctified themselves, so that they could bring up the ark of the Lord to a place prepared - today that place is the heart. You cannot bring up the ark if you live an unholy and ragged life. When believers gather together in praise, worship, and warfare, the prepared heart is released in the sound, and the spirit world moves mightily.

To bring up the ark of power, means to bring forth, or bear His presence. Singers and musicians must have the maturity to go up and meet with the Lord. Our relationship with Christ causes us to grow with effective fruit in our lives, extending the boundaries of where we are in the spirit. In our experience we ascend, or get caught up as it were, by the Holy Spirit; through the melodies we see and hear we may bring the glory into the House of God. This helps to accelerate the Church in moving forward, by releasing ruling spiritual authority against the powers of darkness, and pulling them down from the bondage they bring on regions and territories. In bringing up the ark, we acquire the ability to stir up the minds and spirits of people unto the Lord, and lift heavy burdens from their lives. It causes us to offer, and bring forth our musical gifts for Jesus - not for our own self-promotion, or self-seeking. Church in this apostolic era, will bring forth everything that God's covenant represents - in all His presence and glory.

Consult or Breach

*"For because you did not do it the **first time**, the Lord our God **broke out against us**, because we did not **consult** Him about the **proper order**"* (1 Chronicles 15:13). God is moving today with great apostolic order being established in the Church. It has been by the incredible grace of God that the Church has developed over the centuries. Many churches do not seek the Lord for His right modus operandi, often just modeling themselves on other men's success, or traditions, or even just what they get from the TV.

Hezekiah who brought great reform to Israel, *'did what was **right** in the sight of the Lord according to all that his **father David** had done'* (2 Chronicles 29:2). He then went on to say, *'**hear me Levites! Now sanctify yourselves, sanctify the house of the Lord God of your fathers, and **carry out the rubbish** from the holy place'*** (2 Chronicles 29:5). *'My sons, **do not be negligent** now, for the Lord has **chosen you to stand before Him, to serve Him, and that you should **minister to him...***** (2 Chronicles 29:11).

The Lord will cause some form of breach in churches if He is not consulted about the way His Church should be structured. David did not consult the Lord the *'first time'* - this is the former ways of doing things, or what had gone before (1 Chronicles 15:13). David's statement could apply to hundreds of years of Church, or just one week. God has progressively been doing a new thing in the Church, and He tells us to not *'remember the former things'*, as they may not work anymore, or will be ineffective in the new thing God is doing (Isaiah 43:18-19). By Gods grace, churches may continue in a measure of effectiveness in their music, but the Lord has so much more in this apostolic reformation. We can easily miss it if the Lord is not consulted - as did the church of Sardis, *'you have a name that you are alive but you are dead'* (Revelation 3:1). They had a reputation in the eyes of others, but not in the eyes of God.

The Lord may take away the candlestick of genuine power in the House, if we do not listen to what the spirit is saying to the churches. It is easy to continue pumped up in church life, with excellence, inspiration, motivation, marketing, and strong organization, yet still be spiritually lukewarm and asleep. In fact you can completely lose it and still look good. The church of Ephesus lost their first love (Revelation 2:4); they thought they had it together, but the Lord required they repent, or He would take the light from their House. If the Church is going to stand glorious in these days, we must remove the religious rubbish in all its forms. Sometimes the Church can be blind to what that is - the Holy Spirit says we must have an ear to hear.

God Breaking

God broke out against David when he didn't consult him - it simply means to cause a breach, or to break something down. This was God's severity toward His apostolic leader. David was the one to carry the responsibility of governing God's nation, and to set the template for music in the House of the Lord. If

things are not working properly in a church, certain symptoms will be evident in the lives of people. Even if a platform ministry looks good, the indication of a breach may not be obvious. In a music department, a gradual break down may often be a microcosm reflecting the broader state of the church. These are signs that the Lord may be exposing dysfunction, or a need for change to bring a church into His proper order.

Impending breakdown is evident to some degree, when too many people are feeling intimidated, stressed, pressured, or in fear of saying anything that is deemed negative, or in dissent of a created religious system.

Further characteristics of a breaking down, are excessive mistrust, confusion, hurt, or grumbling critical hearts, that leave too many people feeling unloved, not cared for, unwanted, used, or living in a continuity of unresolved issues and disillusionment. When the pressures of church ministry cause regular illness, or dysfunction in the lives of families, or individuals, this is also an unfortunate indication of serious problems. These symptoms are often in churches where a large percentage of people are unclear who their own pastoral oversight is, and how they should relate to leadership. They may know who the senior minister is from a platform, but at a grass roots level there is no clear structure for pastoral relationship, or healthy interaction. In the midst of this, church services may just end up in a performance of predictable programming, rather than the genuine worship of God. These symptoms may all be part of a slow steady breach, or major pruning being done by the Lord - results may see a building lost, or taken away unexpectedly, or at worst even a church splitting, or eventually totally breaking apart. The proper order that God required of David is either resisted, not in place, or the paradigm of the church and its leadership are just blissfully unaware due to their traditions.

The Lord is raising the Tabernacle of David today, in all the governing apostolic authority that it represents for the Church - to ambassador who God really is. We must resolve to seek our God with care: to inquire, consult, investigate, and study, to fully receive God's wisdom for His ways. He requires it of us - if we are to bring up His ark of glory. David sought the Lord early for answers - not easy for a muso! *'Early will I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh longs for you in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for you in the sanctuary to see your power and glory'* (Psalm 63:1-2). Whatever early means for you - seek Him.

Proper Judgement

The proper order God required of David means the Lord's judgement - this is a legal term. You can't have proper government without clear legal statutes and set precedents. The Lord our legal Advocate (1 John 2:1), sits in heavenly court, and requires us to seek Him for His ways. The proper order in action, is simply the execution of His determined judgements - what the Lord deems as being correct in His way of doing things.

The prophet Amos said that the Lord could get tired of our sounds and melodies when they are void of his heart. God would *'rather let justice run down like water'* than be tickled by our latest song (Amos 5:23-24). It is the spirit of His justice (proper order) that singers and musicians need to bring to earth in song and sound. This is apostolic, governmental music that will release power like a gushing breakthrough of water. It is decreed judgement against the devil and his hordes. The result is, all that are oppressed, enslaved, and captive in the world, are released to the Lord - we are anointed to do this with Jesus (see Luke 4:18-19).

The proper order is the privilege of God for us. It is the fitting manner for being an important part of His plan of redemption on earth.

The question is why does the Lord bring a breach to His house when things are out of place? Ultimately the breaking down will cause us to inquire of Him, and draw closer to understand His ways. When God breaks out against a church, it is His grace and mercy in action, so we may change and bring forth the ark of His presence and glory to the nations.

David's power in praise came from the discovery of God's incredible love and all that the Lord is to him. *'Because your loving kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise you'* (Psalm 63:3). What God has for us is greater than life itself. Not inquiring of Him is certainly foolish.

High Praise Judgement

The high praises of God are warring praises that have governing influence, and a profound, dramatic affect on nations. *'... To execute on them the written judgement - this honor have all His saints. Praise the Lord'* (Psalm 149:9). The Hebrew word for judgement is *mishpat*; it is the same word as proper order. It is an order and way of doing things - written down, patterned, and decreed in heaven. When we execute that order, we bring forth the power of apostolic high praise - power in music that wars for the kingdom of God. It is our honor as artistes to do this. It is the heavenly pattern for the Church to be governing and powerful, and that pattern is essential for being apostolic in music.

The Hebrew word *tehillah* means high praise - it is intense, and the Lord inhabits this intensity. High praise music will perfect that which is imperfect; you can't move into the executing of judgment (Psalm 149) until you have entered high praise. Praise is the key of David, and is part of God's grace for the nations. In one generation David subdued all his enemies, established peace, the kingdom of God, and unified all Israel. Music in this dimension has a definitive role to play in these end-days.

In recent times, some incredibly fierce, blatant, demonic anti-Christian music cultures have emerged in the world. They have a wrath, and a musical force with such frightening vehemence, that could be considered as a demonized, governmental music response to what God is raising up today. It will take far more than just the old nostalgic, gather round the piano, nice evangelistic songs from the Church, to bring any vast change. God desires that all humanity seek Him. It will take the great supernatural changing power of God's glory to be released in the earth, to turn the darkest of dark around to the Living God of heaven.

Deluge of Grace

Music gifts are to be handled with much grace. When music is in proper order, a deluge of grace will be released from heaven. As things become darker in our world, there is much more grace for the cities and the nations; the Church is the agent of that grace. The earth-moving songs and sounds are to be discovered in the careful, intimate inquiry, of sanctified lives to God. It is our honor to find them, and articulate them. The heavens are then opened over cities and nations, and the glory of the Lord will cover the earth. It is time to bring forth the ark of His glory in all fullness.

Grace Lord!

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Jesus' Yoke for the Proper Order

There is a responsibility that comes with the power of apostolic authority; to walk a faith filled holy life, absolutely yoked to Christ. It is a yielded life to God, where the burden should be light and not heavy. It is living a paradox to the pressures, and spiritual battles that come with being in authority. If we don't live yielded in our hearts, we cannot carry governing power, or bring forth the ark of end-time glory that can change lives. The spiritual warfare against a sanctified life is absolutely huge. Where we are not yielded to the yoke of Christ, the devil will penetrate, and find every single crack in your life as you try to move forward; his vehemence is woefully unrelenting. We must be close to the Lord in these days and learn of His ways. Jesus' yoke will separate the true from the false.

Learn from Jesus

Jesus said "***All things** (including music) have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. Come to Me, all you who labor and are **heavy laden**, and I will give you **rest**. Take My yoke upon you and **learn from me**, for I am **gentle and lowly in heart**, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is **easy and my burden is light***" (Matthew 11:27-30).

The yoke of life in ministry (even though very testing at times) should not be carried as a heavy burden. The path to governing power, and the light way of living described by Jesus, is to know the Father's heart through your sanctified life. Jesus will then

reveal, uncover, and lay open, what has been veiled, or covered up to you. *"Within the veil I now do come"* - remember that old song! The eyes of your heart will be opened and Jesus will put the yoke of true governing power upon you. Your songs and sounds will naturally carry that power. Apostolic people have a fathering and mothering spirit - it is clearly evident that their love is yoked to Christ. You will have battles and warfare in church life, but your music department should reflect a light and easy burden at its heart. If it doesn't, something is wrong, and needs adjustment

Burdensome Ministry

Crackling on the roast pink skin of my eyes -

Sore and dry with more wrinkles than a crow's foot

In sleep I never reach the basement of solitude - I wake but rest has passed

If you are laboring in the ministry and it is a heavy burdensome deal, then you need to stop and take stock. It does not mean we don't work hard, for ministry requires much work. The paradox is that the ministry of Jesus' government in you should be light and easy, as Jesus carries it not you. Jesus calls to himself, all those who are weary of laboring in their own flesh and their own ways. Those who are worn out, or just plain sick and tired of it all; don't despair, these are the sort of folk that gathered around David in the wilderness and became his mighty men. If you have grown weary, tired, or exhausted. If you are weighed down with burden's, grief, and wearisome effort. If you are just tired of trying to make it happen, or live the dream - take time out with God. Pray and fast, get close to Him, do whatever it takes. God may cause, or permit you to cease from any movement, or labor for some time, but it doesn't mean that it's all over.

You may feel like David in the cave of Adullam, but the Lord will protect you. He will provide a way for you as you do the right thing for yourself and your family. God will give you wisdom,

cause you to recover, collect your strength, and refresh you - enabling you to move forward in your call and life. It is ok to give yourself to some rest and recreation. In the midst of it, God will take you to a quiet and calm place within yourself. He will keep you in patient expectation of a great future, and even in a peaceful place to live. The real heart of God and His revelation for your life will be uncovered for you over time. It will give you the ability to minister in the future through a restful state in God, even though you are busy. You will grow more organized and less stressed, doing things in His authority, strength, and revelation - not your own.

Jesus said to learn from him - not from the world, or cool glossy magazines, or the many conflicting voices and opinions around you. In the scripture from Matthew 11:29, Jesus is saying, *“just stop awhile, let Me appraise you, and increase your knowledge of Me.”* In other words, submit everything to Jesus and get to know him, for he will help you. It sounds simplistic but it is the desire of our Lord. David gives us wisdom, *‘and in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, until these calamities have passed by’* (Psalm 57:1). *‘For the Lord **will not cast off His people, nor will He forsake His inheritance’*** (Psalm 94:14). Time is a healer, time is a traveler - walk on!

Jesus Humble Gentle Powerful

The way of Jesus is gentle and humble. His heart is a sweet heart, mild, and meek. He may be King of the universe and have the very highest position, yet he takes on the attitude of not exalting himself. This is the real bible Jesus; he humbly and lovingly considers himself of low estate. Jesus is the one *‘who remembered us in our lowly state’* (Psalm 136:23).

All Heaven gazed, as the king slipped off his warm slippers and stood up from His throne. The king turned and admired the vast rainbow He had hung over his giant, emerald green throne

masterpiece. He loved that color; for an unexplained moment He remembered making the seams of beautiful jade he buried all over New Zealand. Dodging a friendly lightning bolt from under the throne He walked briskly toward the crystal sea. To His right was the most beautiful white horse you had ever seen - a glorious stallion that every child would love to stroke and ride. It just stood there waiting, as if smiling at his master. The king hugged his strong neck, kissed his wet nose, then ruffling his mane whispered something in his ear. The white horse threw back its head in thanks as the king turned and walked onto the crystal sea. For a moment heaven held its breath, then the king was gone.

A child lay in a field, crying in a pool of mud, cuddling in desperation to a dirty comfort cloth and an old brown teddy. It had been raining. The clouds were dark grey. Suddenly, warmth surrounded the child. The child slowly opened its mud caked eyes; the tears were rain and rain were tears. Next to the child was a man dressed in glowing white. He was covered in mud; his face buried in the wet, about 3 inches from the child's face. The child startled, yet fear was far away now.

Their eyes met. He smiled, taking in a small mouthful of sludge. He spluttered and spat in a fun way, and the child laughed and giggled. In a sudden moment they were skipping through a field of wheat, dry and clean. The sun was warm and love was on the horizon. Patiently the universe waited.

When you measure, and appraise yourself to Christ's awesome humility, you will find peaceful equilibrium for your mind, your emotions, feelings, desires, and affections. It is there in that simple knowledge, you will find pure holy sanity. *'In the multitude of my anxieties within me, your comforts delight my soul'* (Psalm 94:19).

Ready for the Masters Use

In learning of Jesus you will be in line with God's ways and His word. You fall deeper in love with Him, and in the process get totally blown away by how amazing God really is. Ministry and life becomes easier and lighter, without the heavy burdens of religiosity weighing you down. You will just refuse to carry them in your own strength anymore, even if they are imposed upon you. Your eyes are on Jesus. His way makes you fit for His purposes, and to be far more useful than what you may have experienced. You will live a more virtuous, kind, and benevolent life. The pressures of living will be more manageable, milder, and pleasant - not excessively harsh. Your life should not have the oppressive non-biblical observances of the ways of religion. Some of the worst of Christianity can actually look so much like the real thing. Life in Christ gives you agility. He carries you; not you carry everything for Him. His burden is light; it is like a small freight package to carry, not a huge overweight box of excess baggage weighing you down. It's the Christ package - light and easy.

Move Ahead

*"Mercifully the Spirit of God is still pressing upon the world; He will enter wherever He sees **a desire, however faint** to welcome Him. God cannot withhold His grace it is we who refuse it."* Sheppard's Impatience of a Parson, a plea for the recovery of vital Christianity - 1929 Hodder and Stoughton. In the early 20th century, H.R.L Sheppard was the vicar of St Martin-in-the-Field Church, Central London, England.

Pressures come in every aspect of life. They can cause your desire for God to be quenched, or make you rise to the highest of heights. Whatever your circumstances, stay faithful and prayerful for change. Above all don't give up. The Lord may move you on in your life, but you will know what is right. Christ is with you, and change is fine, if it is of God.

Why is the way of Jesus important? We must have the yoke of Christ operating and understood in our lives to bear the ark of His presence and glory. It is also part of sanctity in the proper order. Living this way will bring the fullness of His appointment to your life and ministry. In due season, you will be appointed by God at the proper time for the right place. Something marvelous may come up that you may never have thought possible.

Relax.

29

Appointed for the Proper Order

*'And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah: and I will clothe him with thy robe, and strengthen him with thy girdle, and I will commit thy **government** into his hand: and he shall be a **Father** to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of **Judah**. And **the key of the house of David** will I lay upon his **shoulder**; so he shall **open**, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open'* (Isaiah 22:20-22 KJV).

In the scripture Eliakim is a type of Christ. Eliakim means the God of resurrection, or the one who raises and sets up. The Lord is a **setting up** God, he enjoys raising up things that are dead, or making a long held dream come to pass. We are in the last days of God's long held dream of re-building the Tabernacle of David. Isaiah's prophecy is echoed in the New Testament when Jesus came to the church of Philadelphia and said of Himself, *'He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts and shuts and no one opens'* (Revelation 3:7). This was the key of governmental authority that sat on His shoulders. This authority opens the House of David and all that it represents with music. In the House is music that will affect cities and nations - music in the apostolic dimension. In the house is apostolic proper order. David unlocked something so powerful in his time that is a model for us now. Jesus comes to the faithful today to release the same key of authority, as He did with the church of Philadelphia.

Jesus Appointed to Government

Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would be appointed by the Father, and bestowed with the government of heaven. Jesus would then

father the music in the house of praise (Judah - the Church). He would nurture, care for it, and raise it up in governmental authority. In recent decades this has proved to be true; in the process the Lord has accelerated the Church. Isaiah said Jesus would be clothed with the linen robe of His own righteousness - a priestly sash, or waistband, signifying the position of a very high official. Linen was the required clothing of the singers and musicians in the Old Testament. The apostolic authority of government is committed into the hands of righteousness. Unlike anytime in history, the Church is now being broadly strengthened with the clothing of apostolic priesthood and authority. The revelation of the priesthood of all believers will be very evident in this apostolic era of Christianity. It is time for the whole army of God to rise up. It is time for a holy alliance in the spirit amongst all God's people, a unity with global consequences in bringing nations to the Lord. This strength of apostolic government, and the character of the priesthood of Christ, should be evident in the spirit and power of our music. If the key of David is truly in your hands, you need to be *appointed* to carry that stature in your life and ministry. There is a spiritual war on, and we need to be clothed accordingly as we take our correct place in the army of proper order.

The Key Accompanying Appointment

The key of government that opens, loosens, and shuts, is laid on the shoulder, or borne on the back. It is a picture of the tangible weight of God's authority evident in your life. David's Tabernacle of liberty and worship represents the opening instrument of the abiding glory of God; glory living in a heart that is always after Him - this presence and power is governmental. Music and song in the apostolic Church should have this authority. It has great impact in the spirit. The key of David is synonymous with opening what could not be opened by any other means, and closing, or rooting out the religious, or non-essential. The key of David is very significant to the

restoration of the Body of Christ. Once something is opened, or locked by a key, the key-holder has the authority to that door. There are keys for cities and nations that will open them to God forever. This key of government is appointed authority that enables ruling objectives to be accomplished. Jesus was appointed with this key. Singers and musicians must be appointed under apostolic authority in the church, if they are to release the power of the Lord's complete sovereignty and royalty in their music. This is governing power in sound that can open the doors of spiritual prisons in the lives of people, or rend the strongholds over cities and nations - it is apostolic and prophetic. Power that can close the darkest of doors forever; you have that key with the righteousness and authority of Christ. Jesus said to the disciples that he had many things to tell them but they were not ready. When our hearts are ready He will give us keys. If you know how to keep doors closed against the enemy, and open for the glory of God, the warfare will intensify. Don't give the enemy any foothold to rob you.

Jesus gave Peter keys of the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 16:19). The ability to bring Christ's authority (the king's domain), from heaven to earth. The authority for binding and loosing, or closing and opening, comes from a revelation of Christ (who and what He truly is). These keys are Davidic and they are not just about binding the devil. Jesus dealt with Satan at the cross. We need to stand in consistent apostolic authority releasing the kingdom into the earth - then we will see His glory.

The Key of Proclamation

*'But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own **special** people, that you may **proclaim the praises** of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light' (1 Peter 2:9).*

The apostle Peter said, we are a chosen generation, saved out of darkness to proclaim his purity in our praises. It means to

announce, publish, declare, and assert the truth. Every generation was chosen to do that, but every generation, has not been like the one we are in now. Jesus has been waiting patiently for 2000 years to see the precious full fruit of music. The devil has no recourse against this purity of praise, sound, and song. The apostolic authority of this music comes from a personal revelation of how special we are to Jesus. We must understand, we are chosen in our music call, for him alone, to proclaim our sounds through the priesthood of authority and belief we have in Christ. To proclaim is a prophetic action that is released in apostolic power.

Jesus called us out of darkness into light; the governing spirit of our music will do the same thing for others, as we proclaim His praises, songs, and sounds. We need an ear to hear what the Spirit is saying to do that.

Bearing the Ark

*'And the children of the Levites bore the ark of God on their **shoulders**, by its poles, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the Lord' (1 Chronicles 15:15).*

The families of the leaders bore the ark on poles, on their shoulders. This is a picture of a yoke - the shoulders of governing authority, yoked with Christ. The children are the sons and daughters, grandchildren and relatives. These were people of generations, with strong spiritual heritage. They are called out and set aside ones. The Hebrew word for children is bene, which means to build, establish, construct and re-build. The spirit of the children in the tabernacle establishes and builds the House of God - to build is apostolic, governing action.

The Levites of that day are a type of those who establish the church; the new thing of that time in history was the tabernacle. Today's musical children are a part of the re-building of what

our spiritual ancestors established in seed with David's Tabernacle 3000 years ago. This verse is also a picture of sanctified leadership; appointed apostolic fathering and mothering who release sons and daughters in their ministry and gifts.

Appointed to Release

Musicians and singers are builders - working and relating closely with their apostolic leadership. Appointed music leaders are to appoint and release their artists to build - it is the care of their heart. They are committed to their people through anything, as they raise and equip teams for local ministry and to send them further afield. They love the Body of Christ in their city, and where possible, make the effort to relate and help build up the Body. Singers and musicians can cause governmental anointing to come on their church. They can also do the converse, and keep the heavens closed with their *noise* (Amos 5:23). This often happens when there is a gig mentality toward church. This mindset is wrong; church is not a gig for the success of ministry, or just creating the latest freshest sounds for marketing. Singers and musicians should live the road of a set apart, holy life; when appointed and living in holiness, apostolic power is released.

Live Love

*'And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is **holy**, He who is true, "He who has the **key of David**, He who **opens and no one shuts**, and shuts and no one opens'* (Revelation 3: 7).

Jesus presents himself to the faithful Philadelphia church of brotherly love. He re-iterates His holiness to them, in the sincerity and truth of what He really is. He also reminds them that He holds a governmental power key - the key of David.

He shows Himself to them as the Holy one, for that is how they know and understand Him - holy, true, and with power. The Philadelphia Christians are not a pumped up constantly-on-the-go Body of people. They are not an excessively marketed organization, or over bearing in their structure. They are not a rigid church, or a vision driven machine that uses people for its own ends. They don't labor for absolutely perfect doctrine, expecting everyone to have degrees and letters after their name. In fact they did not consider themselves that strong in their own eyes. Their key was that they had kept his word, and they were faithful regardless of what happened to them (Revelation 3:8). They had a measure of proper order, but they were very strong in being a love Church. Jesus said to them, *'I have loved you'*(Revelation 3:9). *'My eyes shall be on the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me...'* (Psalm 101:6).

You may be doing your music imperfectly, yet with a purity of heart (even with one guitar or voice) the key of David can still reside in powerful authority with you. You don't have to be slick and perfect, or just striving for super excellence with everything looking good to be impressive, or be like the world. God also loves imperfect worship with pure motive. It is also important to say here, that it does not mean we don't desire and exercise excellence in what we do, but it is the motive that God looks for. Excellent motive and heart shines with gift, and any genuine leadership can see that. David, the youngest son of Jesse, was not the obvious one to be king. Like David, God may say - *"they are the one, appoint them!"* God does appoint and call the most unlikely people at times - the foolish things confound the wise (1 Corinthians 1:27).

Jesus also said to the Philadelphia Church that He would cause those who were from Satan's religious temples, to come and bow down and worship at their feet. He was showing them that due to their heart of love, even the worst enemies of Christ would be

subdued for their sakes - now that is power. When the devil knows Jesus loves you, and you really know and understand that, it will also be evident in your music and song - the devil will then bow and flee. In all our vision, busyness and striving, we can sometimes forget that the heart of what we do is all about the motive of love. God is love, and we must live it to carry true appointed apostolic authority.

Holdfast the Trial is Coming

Jesus then said these very important words to the church of Philadelphia - words that relate to these apostolic days, with this whole subject of the power of apostolic music and the re-building of the tabernacle of David. *“Because you have **kept my command to persevere**, I also will keep you from the **hour of trial** which shall come upon **the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth**. “Behold, I am coming quickly! **Hold fast** what you have, that no one may take your crown. “He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God’ (Revelation 3:10-12). There is a great trial and test that is coming on all of us in the end times. In all the shaking and troubles of the world, we will be completely tested in the resolve of our faith before Jesus returns. These are troubled times and we will need to really hold fast to the Lord for what is real and true.*

Mel Gibson, the director of The Passion movie about Christ, said, *“The world has gone nuts, it’s time to get back to the basic message that Jesus died for all mankind”*. When terrorism caused the collapse of the World Trade Center towers, the consequences were global, and since then major trial has escalated on earth. Everything was touched and shaken by this one act of war. Many have turned to God, or have testified of his miracles. The new millennium continues, and terrorism, war and rumors of wars, increase on a daily basis all over the world - nowhere is safe.

The trials to come will require great and godly perseverance. We will need character that is steadfast and enduring in one's purpose. Character that is loyal to the faith and the clear doctrines of Jesus; constant even in great trials and sufferings. To persevere is not an option, but a command from God, because the trials are going to happen. This is also why the Lord is restoring the Church to governing strength with her gifts in this apostolic age before Jesus comes back. Some churches will not be kept from the hour of trial for they will not take heed.

In proper order, we will have the governing apostolic strength to handle great trial when it comes. We will be there with love, power, and proper divine structure, for the millions of people who won't have strength in an increasingly weary world. In music departments you will always have trials and tests, but being established in the proper order should make things easier in Christ. In the book of Revelation, the church of Philadelphia was the better of the seven churches that Jesus addressed, however, He even said to them, "*hang on to what you've got!*" I am sure it was good through His eyes, yet even so, they could still lose it. Many crowns of life will be lost in the hour of trial because people and churches didn't change. God will bring continual breach to them until they do, because He wants His Church to move forward in an apostolic dimension. Jesus said '*learn from me*' (Matthew 11:29). There is an apostolic key that David had which we must have now in our music; otherwise we are just playing nice melodic show games with cold showbread.

Positions of music leadership, or just being on a platform should never be taken lightly. Many are, and slip into the trap of a gig mentality that ends up just fitting into the frantic busy week of an entangled life. Those days are drawing to a close. We need to be appointed and have a revelation of what that truly means for now. Appointment to correct authority releases overcoming power. Apostolic people are strong overcomers - the singers and musicians are to be pillars in the Church.

Appointees of Power

*'Then David spoke to the leaders of the Levites to **appoint** their brethren to be the singers accompanied by instruments of music, stringed instruments, harps, and cymbals, by raising the voice with resounding joy' (1 Chronicles 15:16).*

David's head Levites were chieftains; they were official overseers under a king, senior princes of rank and dignity, leaders in high spiritual authority - like an apostle. They were tried and tested leaders: nobles, military commanders, generals, or captains.

They were serious leaders who carried royal authority and mature wisdom - warriors who were wise in warfare, discerning, skilled, and holy people. These apostolic ranks if you like, were the ones with the right wisdom to appoint the music ministry. When they are appointed, strong, mature, seasoned singers and musicians will carry and release, apostolic and prophetic anointing.

Being appointed also goes beyond the music, by being a part of leadership, and helping to build and establish the church. This quality of music leadership must be raised, nurtured and released in this apostolic era. They must become holy spiritual warriors, fathers and mothers of a new generation of spiritual children, who will contribute to the nations coming to Christ. These leaders have the authority to appoint; however, you must be appointed first before you can appoint others. David is a type of Jesus, so it is easy to see that a leader of music is not a casual position, or one to be held in the wrong manner. Part of a leader's job is to spiritually oversee, and have the authority to perceive, lay hands, and release people into positions of spiritual government within the call of a singer, musician and related ministries. This includes the ministers of the sound desk (recorders) who were also appointed (1 Chronicles 16:4 KJV).

Appointment should be public and well timed, with the laying-on of hands, and even with anointing oil. Not a cold heartless religious ceremony, but an important, memorable, and reverential moment for the individual concerned, that is acknowledged by all.

When you are appointed, you are fully released *in the spirit* under your apostolic church covering - to unleash all the potential of your gift, into the seat of authority in the region where you are called. Your release affects everything, including the life of your family, it is liberating, fulfilling, and the most wonderful thing you can experience as a Christian artist called in the House of the Lord. Doing what you love to do for the Lord - set in the right place, and doing it well with those you love around you.

When Appointed

When appointed, you are caused to stand in the authority of the House of God where you are planted. You will have the ability and character to endure, remain, and take one's stand in the role you serve in. You are able to hold the spiritual ground of that position through any trouble. Your gifts and the anointing will be clearly evident. You are released to officially present yourself before the King; ordained, and established before your leaders, peers, and brethren - the family digs you.

Appointment protects you, and all those who come under the very powerful influence of the gifting of music. You come under the covering of the House, and then you cover others through your gift. When you are covered in the apostolic proper order, you have the governmental authority of the whole church over you. That protects you and your family with all the godly paradigms that church should have, including intercession, and stable relationships. People need that in today's reformation of Church. (Again I encourage you to read John Bevere's book *Undercover – the promise of protection under His authority*, www.johnbevere.org)

The spiritual attack on your gifts will be immense in these days particularly in the areas of demonic control, total discouragement and all that the principality of Jezebel can dredge up, however, part of true apostolic authority is rooting that out.

In all of this process don't listen to the devil's lies when you have trials, he will want to make you feel like it's all over because of things you may go through. Despite any grief, David's faith was this, '*... you have known my soul in adversities and **have not shut me up into the hand of the enemy; you have set my feet in a wide place***' (Psalm 31:7-8). '*... For He has shown me His **marvelous kindness in a strong city!** For I said in **my haste**, "I am cut off from before your eyes"*' (Psalm 31:21-22). The truth is we are never cut off from God, even though you may feel like it, and your city may seem to be a tough deal. David even felt like this - be like him, and stay in love with the House of the Lord. God has an appointed place for you, don't waste your days now - '*so teach us to **number our days**, that we may gain a heart of wisdom*' (Psalm 90:12).

Harnessing the Gifts

These are some of the reasons that in recent times many itinerant prophetic gifts, in the various areas of music, are being called back into permanent home bases in the House of the Lord. David said, '*a wide place*' - a place of security. They are being harnessed and properly appointed alongside the apostolic gifts, to build on sure foundations for this new millennium, and prepare the Church for the next level. Some churches are just not ready for that yet, or are so entrenched in how they have always done things, that God has had to re-plant many a gift into new soil.

In the premise of appointing in the Davidic order, it is unwise to be hasty in setting your music leadership, or those who play on the platform. Churches need to re-think their music

departments, and re-evaluate them in relation to what the Lord is doing today in the new millennium. Many pastors have sensed this, but are too hesitant to do it, or don't know how. They may also be under immense on-going pressures to maintain the status quo for financial reasons, such as the upkeep of expensive facilities - too much change to the establishment may upset the apple cart.

On our many visits to churches, we have spent quality periods of time producing extensive overview and appraisal of music departments and their vision. We have often located the weak or lagging areas, and rooted out common problems found in most churches; helping to formulate new vision to build with enduring strength. If a music department is not working properly, restructuring is a vital process. Today they should be honestly re-examined, in context of the apostolic re-building the Lord is doing. When you start to establish the proper order, the change in a department will alter the spiritual texture of your church and it's sound. God is restoring us to live the authenticity and authority of scripture in all its apostolic application; this is what reformation does, bringing us into line with God's word. There is always a struggle for that in the refining process, but what a privileged day to be alive now!

Do His Pure Word

David describes the word of God, *'the words of the Lord are pure words, like silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times'* (Psalm 12:6).

As I finish this chapter, and look out into an autumn garden with oak leaves falling, I think of the genius of the technology of the laptop on which I am typing. Inserted in it, is a card-thin CD with eleven bibles and all the reference texts I will ever need - a library in binary. How would Martin Luther (the 16th century reformer) have felt, after his revelation of justification by faith?

His contention with religious devils had him holed up, and hiding for his life in a castle. It was there in that confinement he did a translation of the bible. Imagine if he could have clicked a mouse, and in an instant found out a Hebrew word translated into German!

Technology has enabled us to access the knowledge of truth incredibly fast, and hence think, write, flow, and learn in the spirit much faster. You could call it high tech revelation! Things are accelerating so fast on earth now (as is prophesied in scripture); we must be sharp, and prepared to arise as a Church Body around the world. God has given us the tools to do it and the governing gifts - everything is coming into place.

Click...

30

Singers in the Proper Order

*'Then David spoke to the leaders of the Levites to **appoint** their brethren to be the **singers accompanied** by instruments of music, stringed instruments, harps, and cymbals, by raising the voice with resounding joy' (1 Chronicles 15:16).*

The Levites were appointed into a proper order; to fully understand this, we must have an apostolic mindset in our approach to scripture. There are many singers in the Tabernacle of David, including thousands in the choirs, but in this chapter we are going to focus on the order and appointing of leadership, and the oversight of those singers. This was essential to the proper function of the whole team, and the release of apostolic authority in their music.

The Singers

In the establishing of Davidic order, it is important to understand the governing position of the singers over the musicians. The head singers had the role of chief musicians, and were prophets. In light of the re-building of the Tabernacle of David, this is also important to consider for leadership today.

The singers

The word singer means ones that strolled, or walked about - either male or female. Movement is inherent with the singer; moving, or walking around, helps singers to release their spirit, passion, fire, and emotion. Singers were accompanied, supported, or partnered by instruments. The movement of a singer also relates to travel. It is essential to experience travelling

as a music leader, as it gives you the bigger perspective of life in our world. David said, '*the singers went before, the players on instruments followed after*', (Psalm 68:25). Singers are in the front line and they were often fearless warriors.

The instruments

An instrument is a vessel, a tool, or implement of music. The Hebrew word for instrument is *kelee*; it is the same word as a vessel for hunting or war. Musical instruments are a warring vessel; when played they can have a powerful effect in the spirit, in breaking down strongholds of darkness. The voice of the singer is the same.

The singers voice

The role of the singers was to raise their voice. The Hebrew word for voice is *kole*; this means a sound of war, a proclamation, a voice, a thundering, and sending out. This word is the same as the sound of marching to war. These were high, extolling, raised up passionate voices. The singing was a decreed proclamation to the spirit world, highly prophetic and extremely joyful. The voice of the singer is to carry apostolic governing power. '*Sing aloud to God our strength*' (Psalm 81:1).

The revelatory joy

The joy expressed in Chronicles 15:16, is the emphatic joy of God. This is not just frivolous partying, and hyped up whooping and hollering, even though that is fun sometimes. It is real, revelatory, Holy Ghost joy that comes from knowing the glad result - we win the victory with Jesus, for He is our complete success. The singing and music that David required his leaders to establish, was extremely passionate, loud, and notably governmental with its effect in the spirit and natural worlds. They sang out of this place of revelation, and it made the devil quake. The singers were not just singers either, they were *prophets* and they were the chief musicians over the music.

Prophet Singers

Heman

The first appointment for the Tabernacle registered in scripture, was for Heman the faithful (see chapter 10 *The Singers* in my book *Prophet Musician*).

Heman was a prophet, or seer singer (1 Chronicles 6:33). He was the son of Joel who was the eldest son of Samuel the prophet. The prophetic authority in this man would have been absolutely phenomenal, with the heritage from his grandfather Samuel. Heman had a reputation for great wisdom, even being compared to Solomon.

Heman's job was to exalt the horn of the Lord. This is a biblical term which means, to increase the influence and power of God in the atmosphere, by a voice that rends the heavens (1 Chronicles 25:5).

Heman was the father of fourteen sons and three daughters; they all ministered with him in music. The children were submitted to their father's authority (1 Chronicles 25:6). He was a busy man; bless his wife, seventeen babies - no holding back the prophets, phew!

Heman, Grandson of Samuel

The Old Testament scriptures from Genesis to Malachi (from a Jewish perspective) were divided between the former and latter prophets. Samuel was the first of the latter prophets in the new prophetic order raised up by God (that preceded the Tabernacle of David). Samuel as a type, foreshadows the prophetic restoration of today, particularly in the last 20 years that has preceded the apostolic re-building of the Tabernacle of David - the Church. In Samuel's time, his prophetic establishment, carried through in those following years into the apostolic

fulfillment of David in the Tabernacle. This whole journey foreshadows, and is indicative of the apostolic reformation we are in now. The prophetic paved the way for Samuel's seed Heman, who many years later, became the main governing leader over the music in the Tabernacle under David's apostolic authority. Today, the Lord is raising up many grandsons and daughters, to be governing prophet singers and musicians in the apostolic leadership of God's music in the end times.

The pattern of prophet leaders in music will be relatively new in this modern era of Church restoration. It is important for us to know and understand, because the Old Testament provides the examples for us to gain understanding of proper order. This is the apostolic model the Lord is establishing with music in His Church now.

God's desire for governing ministries

'In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes' (Judges 17:6). It was not God's perfect will that Israel had a king in those times. God wanted and has always desired to be the King of Israel, the King of the Church. He desired Israel to ultimately be governed by His law, statutes, and ways, through the reconciling influence of gifted ministries. The judges of the Old Testament were types of the five-fold ministry gifts in the Church today. The five-fold is God's order of ministry, not one-man shows, or singular paid religious priests who do everything. The era of doing things that we think is right in our own eyes is over. God is interested in a Body. God is in authority; around Him are the five-fold ministries that govern, and bring to fruition His heart's desire through the Church. It's apostolic ministry, and Heman, as a prophet singer, is part of that governing process. God will release many Hemans in apostolic music ministry today - it is part of the proper order of music leadership. If we don't, the governing music that is part of changing cities and nations will not be released.

Asaph

Asaph was the next appointed - he was a prophet singer musician. His name means the gatherer; his family was appointed with him. Asaph was the son of Berechiah; he was a doorkeeper who watched over the ark. Asaph's dad watched over the presence and glory of God as a job - what a heritage! You had to have a real servant's heart with this work. Jesus Christ also makes reference to Asaph being a prophet. Jesus fulfills Asaph's contemplation from Psalm 78:2, in Matthew 13:35, *'that it might be fulfilled as spoken by the prophet...'*

Jeduthan

Ethan also called Jeduthan; he was the third appointed along with his family. His name means choir of praise, or the praising one. He was a loud character, and loved to just walk around singing his head off.

The Big Three

These men, along with Heman, *'served their office according to their order'* (1 Chronicles 6:32) - with God everything has an order. The appointment they had is an office of authority, or labor of service; this is a governing, or apostolic term. The word order here is the same as proper order. You could say, *'they served their office according to the execution of their music gift, within the Lord's decreed judgments, which are the proper order.'* These three men and their families were appointed to oversee the *'service of song in the House of the Lord'* (1 Chronicles 6:31). They were the music directors - a better title is Chief Musicians. It was a prophetic team leadership with varied strengths.

Heman was a vertical prophet; he was completely separated to God, in being absolutely faithful to all the Lord said for him to sing and decree. His eyes were upward bound, he was not moved by market forces, he was unmoved whether albums were number one or not, or who was the more popular singer, or who

had the freshest sound, or whether he was contemporary, trendy, or had a growing profile. It was only heaven's sounds and songs that moved him, he knew that was where the true power was. God could entrust a man like this with high level governing leadership - this was the reason his song had such power in the spirit.

Asaph the prophet was more pastoral in his role, in terms of dealing with people and bringing the teams together. He was a gatherer not one who scattered. He made things happen, he executed vision, he was gifted with people, and was sensitive to their needs.

Jeduthun was more focused on the song and music, and how it was all progressing. He was exceptionally passionate, possibly quite flamboyant. All three men would have had similar traits, however the point is, an apostolic team works with varying emphasis with a strong key leader; the same principle as the five-fold ministry.

These men were at least fifty years old: they were fathers, with maturity, experience, and godly wisdom. The young and inexperienced cannot carry the full spiritual weight of governing authority in music leadership. These men held governmental leadership positions in the Tabernacle of David, and were directly '*under the **authority** of the King*' (1 Chronicles 25:6). This is a picture of submission to apostolic oversight. All three were primarily singers as well as being able to play music. '*... the singers, Heman, Asaph, and Ethan were to sound the cymbals of bronze...*' (1 Chronicles 15:19).

Heman's Team

There was a definite order to the team of prophets in music leadership.

No 1. Heman was the main head singer, the Chief Musician.

No 2. Asaph at *'his right hand'* (1 Chronicles 6:39).

No 3. Jeduthan at *'his left hand'* (1 Chronicles 6:44).

They were at Heman's side, to help and support. Together their abilities made up the whole picture of balanced prophetic leadership. They were leaders of choirs, and also songwriters as reflected in the book of Psalms. These men were prophets of song and sound. The gifting and anointing was prevalent in their families.

Prophetic musical oversight

This revelation of music leadership will not be a normal model for most churches. In the proper order however, it is primarily a vocal team of prophet musicians that shared the weight of spiritual authority in the Tabernacle. The main overseer was a prophet singer. These are not people who think they are prophetic at times, or have leanings that way. They are received, acknowledged, and appointed as prophets of God.

Prophets like Heman set their minds on God's interests first, above the ways of men. Jesus Christ always responded to what He saw His Father doing first, above the pressures of man's wants and need. Prophets carry the burden of the Lord first and foremost. This is why prophetic oversight is important in music. They release what God decrees through the power of music. It's one reason why the devil vehemently attacks musicians who have a prophetic call and gift on their lives - especially to distract, and discourage them from being what they are called to be.

The results of governing oversight in music

The prophetic, governing anointing modeled in the music structure of the Tabernacle, unveils the hearts of people (1 Corinthians 14:25). It keeps people open to God and to each other. The prophets also stay very transparent before God and

man, not desiring to ever compromise their call. In this purity of motive and order, the Lord's word deeply permeates people's lives, and releases the full reality of the function, purpose, and call of singers and musicians. In all the trials, and everything that has to be dealt with in normal life, any difficult situation is much clearer and focused, and they are understood in context of the journey a team is on together. The continuity of strong prophetic oversight over a music team produces a deepening intimacy, prayer, and fellowship. We must remember that the prophet's gift is to serve those in authority. Prophet singers and musicians, are watchman; they have a God given heightened sensitivity and discernment. They see what is ahead, discern enemies, or any disorder that will affect the building of the House. When fully released under apostolic authority, their sensitivity in the spirit is very powerful.

The prophet singer serves the apostolic authority, and in so doing helps to release, encourage, and stand alongside that authority to build. The apostolic oversight gives platform to the prophetic gift, and as the apostles and prophets work together, the music then releases full apostolic power. This relationship of governing ministries is being restored today to work in proper order. The foundational gifts of apostle and prophet build - they need each other. It also has healthy consequences on how other ministries in the Church function and relate properly. The enemy has warred against this being established, because it is foundational to the Church being glorious (Ephesians 2:20). In these last days, spiritual warfare has increased, and the wisdom and understanding of dealing with it has been rebuilding. This is so that the proper order can be established. Rise up singers and stand in your rightful place.

Selah and win.

31

Prophecy is the Proper Order

*'O Danny Boy, the pipes the pipes are calling
From glen to glen and down the mountain side...'*

The prophetic and the ability to prophesy is given to the Church, *'until we all attain unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a **mature man**, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the **fullness** of Christ'* (Ephesians 4:13). God is restoring that fullness today. The prophetic dynamic of leadership in the tabernacle, is the mainstay for music ministry, as much as the office of the prophet, apostle, and the other gifts are for the Church. The prophetic is not irrelevant in our contemporary music world. If we are going to attain to any level of spiritual maturity in music, it is imperative we walk in agreement with God with what He is re-building now in the apostolic model. Why did the Lord have prophet musicians to oversee the music of the tabernacle? First let us look at the role of the prophet.

The Prophet's Role

The prophets are unaffected by human agendas that may be detrimental to God's desire. They carry the burden and heart of the Lord. His heart is often released through the power of music, as with David. The prophetic brings specific insight; it edifies, warns and encourages. It roots out, and pulls down, by decree and proclamation. The prophet helps the Church with what is coming in the future - they are seers, for they see where others can't.

The prophetic anointing is released powerfully through music. It prepares the hearts of the people and covers them. As we get

closer to Christ's return, it will be crucial for mature prophetic mantle to be in the Church - especially in music. Its strength works alongside the apostolic gifting - this relationship is not based on geographic location, status, or job opportunity, but is a relationship divinely connected by God. It then functions in governing authority in the proper spiritual and natural structure of Church. The prophetic order of music, modeled in David's Tabernacle, is fully understood with an apostolic revelation and mindset of scripture. The Tabernacle, and all that it represents, can only be understood properly, in light of historical retrospect, and today's revelation of apostolic reform in the Body of Christ.

Receiving the Gift

Jesus said, *'a prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house'* (Matthew 13:57). The road to establish governing order in music will not be a glamorous or easy one, however, with the apostolic paradigm being restored, honoring and understanding will eventuate. Music departments are stunted in growth, knowledge, and understanding, because the proper order is not in place. Many leaders still don't have revelation or mature understanding in this area. Governing music gifts have the ability to grow a music ministry and the church in a proper way. God is restoring that now because He wants to do mighty works in the Church. The reason why Jesus couldn't do mighty works and be honored in his hometown of Nazareth, was *'because of their unbelief'* (Matthew 13:58).

If we do not receive prophetic oversight in our music, we will not receive a prophet's reward, or the mature benefits of the prophetic ministry of music in the Church (Matthew 10:41). The same applies if the music gift is just employed to fill a job description, or only received to administrate, or maintain music in its current status quo as just another arm of the church to fill a pre-programmed slot before preaching. If this is the case, the anointing of the gift will eventually be stifled, or spiritually held

back and controlled. If music leaders, singers and musicians are not released in their gift in the Davidic paradigm, the church will not receive the full reward of the gifts. The same principle applies in how pastors are received, or any other person with a ministering gift.

The Church must have the maturity, ability, and structure, to receive ministry gifts into their proper place; helping to grow the Church into the full measure of Christ, for building up, and equipping the saints. One of the main purposes of prophetic proper order, in the leadership of singers and musicians, was to prophesy under apostolic authority with instruments and song.

Prophesy on Instruments

*'... Some of the sons of Asaph of Heman and Jeduthan who should **prophesy** with harps, stringed instruments and cymbals. The sons of Asaph were under the direction of Asaph who prophesied according to the **order of the king**. Under the direction of their **father** Jeduthan who **prophesied** with a harp to give thanks and to praise the Lord'* (1 Chronicles 25:1-3).

Prophesying by the Holy Spirit is under the appointed governing authority of the House; that is, the open hand of power exercised by David the apostle king. He was anointed, to appoint and release God's gifted men and women - it is the '**order of the king**'. The Hebrew word Yad means the open hand of governing power, from the root word Yada, meaning Judah (praise). Elisha the prophet called for a musician, and the open hand of the fullness of God's power was released to bring strategic prophecy, *'... and it happened when the musician played, that the **hand of the Lord** came upon him'* (2 Kings 3:15). The prophetic gift of music and song, functioning in the proper order of authority, releases the mighty power of heaven's glory to bring huge influence and change on earth - Yad power! The sons of Korah understood this, *'both the singers and the players on*

instruments say, "all my springs are in You" (Psalm 87:7). The fountain of inspiration in the way we write, see, think, create, and perceive in the spirit, comes from the Lord. The open hand of the Lord comes upon us and we prophesy the heart and burden of God.

David would play his harp with the main body of the instrument placed over his heart, and his head and ear resting on the curved timber upright of the harp that held the strings in place. He would pluck the strings until the instrument resonated at one with him. Then the Holy Spirit would begin to ride prophetically through David's spirit and the sound he made. He would then pen the great prophetic psalms spanning hundreds of years into the future; echoing the heart of God and Jesus the Messiah that was to come.

Set Apart to Prophecy

David's army captains set apart 288 to prophecy (1 Chronicles 25:7); these prophesying musicians were picked by mature warrior leaders who had been through many battles themselves. The captains were appointed, skillful, and perceptive in selecting genuine, consecrated, music warriors. The devil brings vehement warfare against the prophetic; singers and musicians have to be separated to God to be strong. Wise apostolic leaders can see, understand, release, and encourage strategic prophesying in their musicians. This dynamic is often not understood, but it is being restored in the Body of Christ.

When the 288 played a tune, even without vocals, they spoke through that sound right into the hearts of people - releasing vision and revelation in people, and opening the heavens. They knew how to succinctly flow in the Holy Spirit on their instruments, along with the singers who prophesied. Flowing with the Spirit of God in music is an art. Most musicians never have the time to learn, or ever mature in that dimension,

especially with the constraints that are on most Christian church services - either contemporary, or traditional. It is also very hard to do when you are just bent over a chart for a whole service, or stressed out from a week of just trying to survive life. To fully develop the prophetic model of music in these days (as God rebuilds the Tabernacle of David), singers and musicians will have to be released and looked after with a whole new mindset of understanding and care by the Church. Time is a premium.

Trained in the Songs of the Lord

The 288 were all skillful, and *educated* in the songs of the Lord. The Hebrew word for this song is massa. They were prophetic in spirit, releasing the presence and power of God and in doing so lifted burdens off people's lives. It is amazing that even today, you do not see this in many churches professing to be Spirit filled. It is clear from scripture that the 288 were mentored, and specifically taught in their spiritual development, in the area of song lyrics and sounds that came from the heart of God. It's important to understand this, as many often adopt their music cues from the world.

In the 1980's, guitarist Phil Keaggy wrote a lyric that said, "*where do these chords come from.*" These are chords he wouldn't even know, or think of articulating, and he is an accomplished guitarist. The Holy Spirit has no problem guiding the hand of those who flow with Him, to hear chords and sounds you may never have imagined using, even if one is highly trained in music.

There are amazing inspiring talents in the world, and the craft of songwriting is a wild and endless art. There are gifted Christian artists with finely honed skill, who craft great songs for album projects, or music contracts. Moving in the spirit and releasing songs of the Lord, however, can be difficult for some; for there are many who have never even experienced this, as it is a

prophetic spiritual dynamic, not just a pragmatic crafting. It is true to say, most songs that come inspired of the Holy Spirit still have to be crafted. Rare is the song that is downloaded complete! God anoints skill and craft, yet the gift of prophetic unction with songs from the Lord is distinct; they carry a different power and anointing in them.

Instruction for singers and musicians is a clear part of the proper order. If that is not a specific part of a music department then there will always be a deficit in the team moving forward *in the power of the Spirit*. There are good worship and art schools as an adjunct to churches that teach good skill and performance, yet many do not teach or mentor what is outlined in the Tabernacle of David, even though they may touch on it. Prophetic schooling should be part of a music department's *main structure*. *Training* in the House of the Lord, is also part of a lifestyle of consecration and service to God in the House you are called to. It is not just about a modern day accredited education option, or courses taken just for the credits to get ahead in a career, or to make it in the world. These things are of course valid in their right context.

The 288

The 288 musicians were divided into 24 courses, or bands, each with 12 skilled musicians. Twelve is the biblical number of government, and symbolizes the apostolic governing power that musicians are to carry. The orchestra consisted of the prophetic instruments of strings and cymbals, accompanied by the singers and choirs of 4000 who ministered before the Lord in their appointed times. This was 24 hour, prophetic praise and proclamation - a picture of a daily worshipping life in spirit and truth in the New Covenant.

The awesome representation of loud, continuous, apostolic sound in David's Tabernacle, is mirrored in heaven, by the holy purity in the lives of a choir of 144,000 (Revelation 14:1-5). They

were singing a new song before the throne, with a voice of many waters and thunder. They were a sound that followed Christ wherever he went - they were without fault before God (V4-5). This is a clear picture of powerful, prophetic proclamation in song, released from separated, sanctified lives. It's a song that follows the leading of the Spirit's desire, not restrained by man's programs. It was loud, heaven moving music, and the Lord is totally into it. The Lord likes a football stadium size choir in front of him. Now there is a vision! What are stadiums really for?

I encourage you to buy the film I produced and directed for Noel Richards in England. It is on the Kingsway Music label - *Wembley Stadium Champion of the World*, circa 1997. This film has helped to inspire large gatherings and calls to worship and prayer around the world - it will inspire your vision. It is no coincidence that stadiums are filling up on a regular basis for worshipping, and seeking God in these end-times. *'Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth... Declare His glory among the nations...'* (Psalm 96:1,3). God's people sing a new song to the earth and declare glory to the nations. The 288 were able to discern, understand, and perceive clearly in the Spirit to bring the new song forth. They were diligent and prudent in their character, and were also teachers and instructors of musicians.

Performance or Power

The prophetic song and sound in most churches, even today, are only given lip service, and is little understood in most. Many churches don't have the song of the Lord, or the space and time to prophesy in music at all.

This includes some of those that are even considered (or consider themselves) on the cutting edge. This self-proclaimed tag is often based on albums selling well, or they are the best in the market, or have a high profile on TV. Marketing, and selling music on the back of continued popular success in a distribution

system, is not always indicative of real spiritual power in the sounds produced. Much of this music however, has been influential, inspirational and edifying, and it is all a part of the process of restoration.

Many church services have been reduced to slick, clean, and entertaining performances, or shows. Some are short and sharp before endless announcements, or a performed item, or to accommodate television transmissions, or recordings. There maybe songs that are prophetic in nature or lyric, that are sang from time to time, but most musicians, singers, and congregations of worshipping churches, never really experience the fullness of what the Tabernacle of David actually represents in the governing authority of music.

Some churches keep the music in a service to a predictable 15-20 minutes. The modern rationale - *'it keeps the people hungry coming back for more'*. The truth is, it actually robs the people of what could be really achieved spiritually in that corporate setting. This approach and thinking can be corporately deceptive if it is a constant paradigm. On the long term it will ultimately leave a congregation in spiritual deficit, yet most will not notice it in the frenetic busyness of their life. The end results are believers relying on meetings to fulfill their spiritual needs, soul tied to a system, yet never developing a deepening maturity in Christ - it is a spirit of control in a subtle form.

24 Hour Praise

The 24-hour continuity of praise in David's Tabernacle is also valid in its practical application today, although it demands great commitment in our overly busy world. Some think it a waste of time, yet there is an increase of 24-hour praise being birthed in the nations today. There are centers in the world practicing 24-hour praise more and more, some continually with prayer watches and intercession for their cities and nation. Most

are doing this occasionally as 24 hour, or all weekend events, as it is usually not possible for most churches to do it continually on their own, unless they have real revelation and commitment to it. In these events there is a great sense of God's manifest presence, and amazing things happen; vision is birthed, people are healed, and lives are changed. It would be easier if all the singers and musicians in a city got together with the intercessors and prayer warriors for 24 hour, prayer and praise - this would also unify churches. History also gives us insight, with examples of continual 24-hour praise and prayer that has had great global effect.

In 555 AD in Bangor Ireland (now Belfast), this continued for over 200 years in a community of around 3000. In the community, they shared praise, the expounding of scripture, prayer, and intercession, in the 24-hour shifts. It grew from pure hearted believers being obedient to the local call of worship and prayer, many missionaries were then sent to the nations making it a center of revival in Europe. This deep well of song and prayer released a spirit of reformation and revival that rent the heavens in that area. Today this territory has been a fiercely religious, politically contended, fearful, violent, and divided region.

The devil will always contend for geographical, spiritual wells of revival and change. Now there is a new call in Belfast, and powerful prophetic songs and praise are being released again with albums such as *Revival in Belfast*, and *Come heal this Land* by worship leader Robin Mark and others.

In the early 1700's the Holy Spirit came upon 300 Protestant Moravians in East Germany near the Polish and Czechoslovakian border. The Lord showed them, to continually worship and pray with intercession, 24 hours a day - this lasted for 120 years. They developed great vision for the nations, and

since the 16th century reformation of Martin Luther, they were the first Protestant missionary movement in the history of the Church who went into places such as Africa and the Americas. John Wesley, the great reformer, was very much influenced and liberated in the Holy Spirit by the Moravians. He went on to cause great awakening in Europe and America - such is the influence of small beginnings. About 60 years after this continual praise and prayer came to an end, great evil rose up in this area. Germany impoverished the region with the ensuing first and second world wars, and also the onslaught of anti-Christ Communism. God is moving again today in the apostolic reformation of all things. Music has to take its prophetic and apostolic position, as the Church grows continually governing, and globally strategic, for the releasing of the nations to God.

Prophetic Leadership

The oversight of the tabernacle music department, were the prophets who worked under the direct authority of David the king. The proper order for the music is a clear apostolic prophetic relationship. The music in a genuine apostolic church is predominantly prophetic in nature; the apostolic authority gives structure and release to that voice. The singers and musicians were '*separated for the service*' (1 Chronicles 25:1), and were well provided for in that sanctified position.

King Jehoshaphat separated appointed singers to go forth and sing before the army of Israel. He said, '*... Hear me O Judah (the tribe of praise), and you inhabitants of Jerusalem (a type of the Church), believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established: believe his prophets and you shall prosper*' (2 Chronicles 20:20). His prophets of song went forth and they won battles and affected nations. When the proper order of relationship is in place, prophetic music leadership and prophets of song will cause the Church to prosper and move forward to win battles - the devil hates this.

Apostolic churches must have prophetic leadership in their music departments. The Church is *'built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the chief cornerstone'* (Ephesians 2:20). If the foundation is not built, nothing else can work properly, and eventually will fall down, or stay spiritually limp at best. It is all about Jesus who is not just the foundation (1 Corinthians 3:11), but the whole building of the Church. The apostle and prophet gifts are the bedrock, to not only genuine Church life, but also what happens through the music department.

Jesus started the Church with the apostles and prophets, and they are foundational to the ministry of Jesus as Apostle and Prophet. Without prophetic leadership the music department cannot be fulfilled in the apostolic dimension being restored today. The full ministry of Christ that God desires to be released will be shackled, and that power will not be in the music in its *full measure*. *Prophetic leadership is the proper order*. It will inspire and assist the ministry of Jesus in the Church, in and through the music. The leadership may be singers, musicians, or both. The tabernacle order of David reflects a team of leaders; authentic, growing apostolic churches, will eventually find the paradigm of a single music leader (as we know it today) insufficient. These leaders often carry the weight of the ministry by themselves. It was never meant to work that way in the governing church. One person carrying everything will block growth; with all the services, events, needs of people, and the busyness of a growing church life, they will eventually burn themselves out, and their team.

The Tabernacle model releases, and makes way for others. The three main music leaders of Heman, Asaph, and Jeduthan, were fathers in the spirit; they were older family men, giving wisdom and skill in spiritual things, music, and life. Their job was to train, instruct, and raise others to do the same. The Levites were

also generally called to all manner of service in the house of God. It will not be uncommon to have singers and musicians who are multi-talented in many areas - this can be threatening to some leaders. Mature authentic apostolic leaders, however, will embrace, gather and release - not scatter like Saul did with David. The music leadership and their families submitted one to one another. Their parameters were clear and they knew their function.

Big and Creative by the Spirit

God's vision for music in His House is big. A church committed to Davidic order will attract great singers and musicians by the Spirit. David had 4000 set apart ones, a choir who *'praised the Lord with musical instruments'* (1 Chronicles 23:5). They played with all the instruments that David had made. Everything that God uses is made with the best materials. *'Then David and all the house of Israel played music before the Lord on all kinds of instruments of fir wood'* (2 Samuel 6:5). The timbers used were a cypress, pine, or juniper; these symbolically describe God's blessings for His people. These timbers were considered noble, or stately trees, good enough for royal or government use.

The Davidic anointing is very creative and inventive. David got everything for the House of God by the spirit, including his songs. *'David gave his son Solomon... **the Plans** for all that he had **by the Spirit...** for **all the work** of the service of the House of the Lord and for **all the articles** of service...' "all this" said David, "the Lord **made me understand in writing**, by His hand upon me, all the works of these plans"' (1 Chronicles 28:11-13,19).*

David's understanding and action came by the communication of the Holy Spirit, even when he didn't know how. That is why we have to have a heart after God, and be *'led by the Spirit'* (Romans 8:14).

Generation Strength

The apostolic reformation in the Church will gather and bring maturing structure to the new generation of singers and musicians. Prophetic gifts in music and song that have developed over the last 20 years, have begun to be reproduced in children brought up in that atmosphere and anointing. I have heard albums by young 18-20 year old worship leaders, whose songwriting and spirit show a prophetic maturity in their gift that has certainly been mentored by the move in music since the 1980's; it is now quite normal expression for this new generation. Reformation speaks of permanent change for generations. The apostolic church has to think in terms of influencing generations, not just hoping for short revivals. God plans for generations to increase - *'may the Lord give you increase **more and more**, you and your **children**'* (Psalm 115:14). We must be, *'telling to the **generation to come** the praises of the Lord, and **His strength** and His wonderful works He has done'* (Psalm 78:4). Why? *'That they may **set their hopes in God**, and not forget the works of God'* (Psalm 78:7).

My children are fourth generation Christians in their pastoral heritage from my wife's side of the family. I pray they will be awesome in their gifts as they grow up. It is also our job as parents to nurture that in their relationship with God. Just before his sixth birthday, my son Jamin Lee woke up one morning with songs in his heart and a desire to write them. He had melodies and concepts in his head. He went and wrote out the words on paper and I helped him bring his definite clear melody into chords. Within a couple of days he had written five little songs for kids; all were different, catchy, and glorifying God. Now he wants to do an album! My daughter Jesikah Faith who is eight loves art and design and has her own little studio for painting, and is also a good singer. Our youngest Chelsea Dance is four, flamboyant and...well her name says it all.

We are in a day when we will see wisdom and skill handed down to our young, in what the Lord has restored in music. This will develop into the future, to a greater fullness of expression in children that have been born and reared in these apostolic times. This is all part of the rebuilding of the tabernacle of David. It is clear from scripture that the leadership in the proper order had great heritage in their families, this will come forth more now. The apostolic is rooted in family and genuine relationship. If these are not a priority in a church, there will be clear imbalances and dysfunctional life in the people involved. Dysfunctional imbalance gives ground to the devil. The first nine chapters of 1 Chronicles speaks of the families of Israel. The word of God says that He will set the solitary in families to prosper them (Psalm 68:6). If relationship has been a frustration in your life and ministry, for whatever reason, God will make a way because family and relationship are His desire and purpose. In the family of God you will prosper.

Rejecting the Proper Order

We must be open to receiving what the Lord is doing now in His Church, or we will continually be in deficit. If we do not embrace what God is doing, we deny, or eliminate that part of Jesus' ministry that is essential for growth. Many have discarded the prophetic because of hurt, mistakes, or what it stirs up.

The devil will want to discourage anyone to prophesy God's way, because the enemy understands its power against him - this cannot be given up, for God is doing great things in the true restoration of His gifts. Many leading churches, even those considered Pentecostal, or spirit-filled, only have a token assent to the prophetic. There is little, if any song of the Lord, prophesying in song, or even speaking with tongues and interpretation. There may be a burst of personal prophecy now and then to excite people, but that is just a small part of being prophetic.

Be Open

Jesus said to the church in Laodicea, *'Behold I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come into him...'* (Revelation 3:20). If we are surely hearing the Lord's voice, and walking closely with him, we will be open to the Lord in all that He requires of us. The children of Israel were not open to God after their miraculous deliverance from Egypt, despite all that the Lord did for them in the wilderness. They suffered for not being open, they *'... limited the Holy One of Israel. They did not remember His power'* (Psalm 78:41-42). It is easy in our humanity of flesh to limit the Lord. The church of Laodicea was spiritually lukewarm, proud in their wealth, facilities, their dream, vision, and the current status quo, they thought they didn't need anything (Revelation 3:14). They were actually blind and ended up limiting God; this is amazing, as I am sure this was not intended. Jesus said to them - pay the price; be refined and repent, so they could truly be rich in holiness, and anointing.

The Lord is restoring proper order in the apostolic pattern, it may be different, or perhaps not what we are used to, but we must be mature enough to adjust to it. The Lord brings change that keeps us fresh and open in the Spirit. Fresh wineskins are easily movable, soft, and pliable - not like old wineskins, that are unyielding, stiff, hard and immovable. Old stiff leather is quite disgusting; are we willing to change and be brought to a place of total dependence on God?

The prophetic leadership in a music department will bring the whole department to carry that anointing - not just the leaders (1 Corinthians 14:31). This flows into general church life and is part of the equipping of the apostolic governing House of God. To prophesy is the proper order.

So prophesy!

32

Musicians in the Proper Order

Heman strode around the platform. He was immersed in the intensity of sound and the glory of God that had descended on the gathering. His spirit was red hot as a song from heaven coursed through him, yet he knew he had to wait for the right moment to deliver it. The 10,000 strong choir were in full flight, all with their hands stretched upward to heaven and singing with majesty beyond their voices. It was loud, yet secure and warm. Asaph was at the other end of the platform in amongst the percussionists and the drummers; they all smiled at each other keeping perfect rhythm. In the midst of the crescendo the Holy Spirit led Asaph in a new flow of groove. He set it up with the other players on the 100 golden cymbals that were wrapped around them. Jeduthun was completely pumped in his usual gregarious way, running back and forth in front of the choir like a ballet dancer, releasing energy that lifted their hearts. Most had their eyes shut, but were acutely aware of his presence and the moment of synergy.

As the high strings eased their intense legato, a melody flowed from a flute player at the side of the stage. A woman had been playing in the peak of the crescendo, as the tempo dropped, her melody was in perfect timing for the instant she took the lead. All the strings dropped in behind her, and began to play a soft staccato. The melody became a chant; in microtones of bending strings, accompanied by the off beat rhythms of 100 cymbals. Impulse steered the wheel of Heman's vocal chords, heaven turned its finger and in a split second Heman broke into a song. There was a giant rip, as heaven opened wide.

The royal trumpet spoke through him; he was completely taken over by glory. He sang and sang as he paced the platform with imposing authority, occasionally buckling deep to the floor in the complete delivery of passion. After a few minutes, the choir picked up on the line "*He is good,*" repeating it over and over; first breathy, and then waxing louder and louder. Heman's voice faded into the mix of thousands, as the timpani's rolled out thunder. The high strings flew on staccato wings. Other musicians were shouting. Tears were rolling down ecstatic faces in the presence of great glory; this was their home, what they loved, what they were made for - the hours meant nothing the rewards were unfathomable.

The heavens parted; a million singing angels, carrying swords, descended into the sounds that had caught the attention of every ear in the universe. The hours passed in the unrelenting praises that pierced the heavens. Every city, every town, in every nation, were surrounded by angels. Televisions were turned off and multitudes were praying; many in cafés conversed about God, the sick walked healed out of hospitals, government leaders wept at their desks. The earth was being taken over by glory. Soon the angels with the swords left Heman and the massive team. They were in full flight, heading for battle over the ancient site of Babylon. Heman sat disheveled on a chair, emptied out and at peace. Asaph was sipping an herbal tea with yellow box honey, and Jeduthan was nursing the youngest of his 11 daughters who couldn't stop giggling. The music continued harmoniously, as singers and musicians came and went. Some choir members had gone home to attend to family needs, others had come in to take their place; nothing was missing, nothing was lacking.

Reproduction in the Second Rank

The musicians were very much a part of the prophetic role in the first rank of singers and musicians in David's Tabernacle. As

with the singers, musicians are to also reproduce, and release others in the apostolic pattern. *'So the Levites appointed Heman the son of Joel; and of his brethren, Asaph the son of Berechiah; and of their brethren, the sons of Merari, Ethan the son of Kushaiah; and with them their brethren of the **second rank**'* (1 Chronicles 15:17-18). The second rank was a wider replication of the ministry of Heman, Asaph, Jeduthan and their brethren in the first rank. They were a copy, or repetition, second in the divine appointed order, yet very capable of doing the same. A major part of the duty and role of prophetic music leaders in an apostolic church is to reproduce themselves in others, and then release them for their ministry. Senior musicians, in all music disciplines, should be in the process of mentoring and reproducing gifts in younger ones. The leadership of Heman, Asaph and Jeduthan were not exclusive to themselves, or illusive within their first team, but worked closely with all their team down through the ranks. They were approachable, affable, and loving of people.

Fame and Service

The church platform is not for the glory and success of only one musician or worship leader. It is not meant for their singular success in a world market place of worship leaders and all its merchandised promotion. There will be one or two leaders that will shine above others, however there is such big business in the area of promotion of music worship leaders now. Much of it is good and productive, and has been a real blessing to the Church and facilitating new music into the nations, but it is not only about marketing to make it. We must be careful not to be caught up in the trap of *'this is where it's all at.'* If the ultimate goal and success is to be well known all over the world as the next light in worship leaders, we are headed down a dangerous road. Self-promotion is the greatest thing that will kill the presence and glory of God coming through your gift. If God exalts you in the nations then great, but your primary call is to the House of the Lord. Any fame is an honor, and the Lord gives you the grace to

walk in it, however, it is a by-product of our service to God, and it should never be a prime motive. There are world famous worship leaders who sit around at home with their fellow singers and musicians and marvel at what God has done with them in the nations. They know that their exaltation has come from faithfulness, and their daily work at home in the House of God where they are called.

Diversity

The church platform and its music ministry should be naturally diverse and varied in its expression of music. God made music for diversity; not predictable and boring, as can easily happen with the same music every week. In the apostolic model, one person is not meant to carry it alone, they can set the direction, but if there is no diversity they may end up being a bottleneck to expression and growth. The music ministry may start with one individual, yet as things grow, the creative expression should broaden.

Music leaders must also work in the ebb and flow of the Spirit at any given time, within all the seasons of things that need to be done. There are times when leaders, musicians, or singers, may need to step aside for a week, or month, or more, for no other reason than to perhaps release some one else in their appropriate time. If it is the main music leader he must love and nurture the new, maybe even from the wings, not to be intimidated, or threatened, but release them with joy. It is important to be able to sit under another person's gift and be blessed and ministered to by them. It is healthy to be able to sit and enjoy others and even spend some time with your own husband or wife in the presence of the Lord.

Deep Squad

In the premier league soccer in England, there is a term called a deep squad. The top teams have not just second ranks, but third

fourth and fifth ranks; all great players are paid a fortune as well, anything up to and beyond £100,000 a week. Yes please! These team members could do the job of a first team player if required. Many of them never get to play a full match the whole season, yet are just as vital as part of the team. Some are called super-subs; they are substituted at a strategic time in a match, and their freshness can bring a goal to win the game. Other players are the future football stars in the squad; maybe not with as much senior experience, yet they are in the process of being nurtured, trained, and prepared. If key first team players are injured, or have time out for inevitable rest, then someone is ready straightaway to stand in the gap. The continuity of premier quality keeps going in the team.

Church is not playing a football game, and we have to remember there is a real battle in the spirit, and there is a way to win as the growing army of God. One person cannot fight in the same trench all of the time, as it is easy to get tired of the mud. The allies experienced this in the French war trenches of World War One, where untold thousands unnecessarily lost their lives. The fresh strategy from the American involvement in the war, relieved the British and allied troops, eventually helping to win the war - it was a team effort.

There are inevitable ebbs and flows in life and in the Spirit of God; sometimes different needs require strategic changes. Wisdom is to have a deep team squad that is ever growing in your music department - the proper order of David is to develop and nurture quality. It's called fathering, and is a hallmark of being an apostolic prophetic music leader.

Other Team Leaders

In the Tabernacle of David, the second rank of singers and musicians had all the various gifts required for the bands and choirs (1 Chronicles 15:20). In this rank there were also other

music directors, or chief musicians. Jehiel (God lives) was a Levite, he was a chief musician including Eliab, who was David's older brother. Benaiah (Yahweh has built up) was one of David's mighty warriors, he was son of Jehoiada the Levite chief priest.

He was also set over as David's bodyguard, who later was raised into the place of Joab as commander-in-chief of the army after his faithfulness to Solomon. Maaseiah was a high pitched soprano singer who sang with stringed instruments. Some of these men played high-pitched strings, possibly in a soprano, or what was known as the alamothe range.

On a growing apostolic music team there will be nurtured, developed, or imported, other singers and musicians who are capable of being a chief music leader. Some may be more skilled in arranging, choirs, orchestration, rock bands, recording experience, vocals, rhythm sections, string instruments, teaching, pastoral, and many other various nuances and skills. These people may be more technically skilled than the main music leadership - this doesn't matter. The main chief prophet musicians are to pull it all together with executive governing authority. They work closely with apostolic oversight of the church, and all of this build's to make an awesome music squad that can function constantly at a premium level.

Serving Hearts Work Together

The second rank of musicians, were also keepers of the door, or guards, protecting the tabernacle particularly at night. They served around the presence of God all of the time; that will always pay dividends. It is natural in the heart of a singer and musician to desire to be in the Lord's presence as much as possible. It's like home, where you unlock your heart in song and sound.

David said, 'I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness' (Psalm 84:10). Door keeping was not a glamorous job, and was in fact a lowly position. David knew about service and deemed it a precious thing to just be in the House. Even what may look like a lowly position was great in his eyes. The musicians and the singers knew how to serve, and had no problem with lowly tasks. They ministered at their time on the roster, yet they served otherwise where needed. Serving in the music ministry of the House of God is not just about the pursuit of success, but humility, and serving people from a genuine heart. It is not about glamour, recognition, self-promotion, looking cool on stage, getting a record deal to promote the church, or pursuing being the number one album of the month, and all the other worldly things. The second rank had a heart that protected the things of God; they feared the Lord, honored and served. It is wonderful if any measure of success comes from that posture.

Percussive Rhythm

'... The *singers*, Heman, Asaph, and Ethan were to sound the cymbals of bronze...' (1 Chronicles 15:19), they were to proclaim and make a huge noise with cymbals - so much for turning the drums down! In the Tabernacle, percussive sound and rhythm, with melody and harmony, were very much part of prophetic release. There is a case today for singers to play cymbals if they desire. The sound and rhythm can release their prophetic flow, especially if they have the ability to do it themselves, alternatively a percussionist with extra cymbals can prophetically flow in the Spirit with the singers.

There are times when I have played the cymbals, or percussion just briefly, and have taken the band into another level of prophetic release. Leading by a prophet singer in this way is conducive to releasing the Spirit and *His desires*.

In David's time the cymbals were often played with the trumpets - a biblical type of prophetic sound. They were sounded before the ark of God's presence by appointed priests, often very loudly. Cymbals are strong prophetic instruments; this is little understood by many playing them today. That is why in the past, through the restrictive thinking of religion, the devil has tried to perpetuate a myth that drums and cymbals are too noisy, or at worst to be considered demonic in church. He knows their potential power in the spirit.

Percussive rhythm was a foundational sound in David's Tabernacle. In these days, there is increasing revelation of its power to release the prophetic and the apostolic power of God in music. A number of years ago a friend of mine, Terl Bryant (former drummer of the band Iona), started Psalm Drummers in England (www.psalmdrummers.org). Many gather together regularly for teaching, fellowship, and to bring all and sundry percussion and drums, to prophesy and worship together in large groups. It is no coincidence (with the re-building of the Tabernacle of David in these end-times) that ministries like this have become global.

In 2 Chronicles 5:13 there were 120 trumpets that played in Solomon's temple. Trumpets are symbolic of the Lord's voice. John the apostle said, '*...I heard behind me a loud voice (mega), as of a trumpet*' (Revelation 1:10). Trumpets are also symbolic of the 120 disciples who waited on the Lord in Jerusalem (a type of the church). They waited for the mighty sound from heaven that came and filled them up on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:2). The disciples then became prophetic voices, or trumpets for the Lord who brought thousands to repentance and salvation in Christ.

*'Praise Him with the **sound of the trumpet**; praise Him with the lute and harp! Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes! Praise Him with **loud cymbals**;*

praise Him with clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!' (Psalm 150:3-6). Loud and clashing - don't hide the drums and cymbals in the corner!

Sounds of Strings

The percussive rhythm was also accompanied with string sound. This would be the equivalent of synthesizer keyboards, where a variety of pad sounds such as strings would create an atmosphere. This is also very conducive to prophetic release and the moving of the spirit - a proper string section would also be an awesome addition to a music team.

The high pitched harmonious strings also played along with the harps - the instrument mentioned more than any other in the bible. The harp is also a symbol of the prophetic release of God. They are eight stringed instruments and they were a *pre-eminent sound*.

There are people in Israel today who are aware of the restoration of the Tabernacle of David, and are reproducing these instruments again. The instruments of old have a beautiful place in their cultural context, yet in our modern times we are also blessed with a huge variety of instrument expression and technology. The harps in David's time could also be a 3 to 12 stringed instrument; either plucked with the fingers, or are picked like a guitar. These were in the sheminith range, which is tenor or bass and more melodic. These musicians were also very skilled people, who had character and ability to minister to God directly before the ark.

Mattithiah, was one who was appointed by David and also a music leader; Elipheleh (pronounced Eli-fella!) was also appointed. These musicians were not have a go musos', or just on a platform for fun, partying, or to just fill in - they were appointed. In New Testament terms appointed by Jesus himself.

The Church must start strategically praying in, and appointing musicians for the House of the Lord; developing them to become the apostolic leaders of tomorrow.

David was also a skilled string harp player; he would have been very aware and adept on how the spirit moved through music to break down spiritual strongholds. God gave him plenty of practice on Saul, and he would have seen the effect of his playing on the sheep in the fields as a young man! *'Whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him'* (1 Samuel 16:23).

Today there are many well-seasoned David's who have this anointing - playing guitars, keyboards, and other instruments. There is an army of musicians who are being shaped to arise and break down dark strongholds. The apostolic paradigm of restoration will wake them up. *'Awake, lute and harp! I will awaken the dawn. I will praise You, O Lord, among the peoples, and I will sing praises to You among the nations'* (Psalm 108:2). The spirit of this verse is happening in our world now.

Master of Music

'Chenaniah, leader of the Levites, was instructor in charge of the music, because he was skillful' (1 Chronicles 15:22). Chenaniah was a very skilled Levite song leader. He was a ruler, a man who took care of church business and a chief overseer of music - perhaps a Bach or Mozart of his day. He was much more than a music director - he was a master instructor of music. He was however, under the authority of the wise leadership and guidance, of the overseers of the music - the prophet singers, Heman, Asaph, and Jeduthan. It was quite likely that Chenaniah had skills that were far more acute than theirs. Chenaniah taught and disciplined those in the uplifting prophetic burden of song, and how to bring it forth skillfully. He also instructed in music to continually improve the

players and singers. He was a teacher who was discerning and diligent. His name means Jehovah establishes. He established a firm, mature, music and song foundation in church, under prophetic and apostolic authority.

Chenaniah's life in the proper order of music ministry, is the paradigm that music directors of today should work in. Many music directors are carrying far too much spiritual and organizational weight for what God intended (in particular, large, busy churches). The single music director as we know it today, is not the definitive music model in these last days. The Lord has limits on ministry gifts, as everyone needs one another.

The apostolic reformation is establishing governmental authority along with the prophetic gifts. This will bring music leadership in churches into the proper order of David. It's about teams - reproducing, and working under apostolic prophetic authority. The apostle and prophet gift is the foundation of the Church with Jesus Christ as the cornerstone.

Play that music.

33

The Proper Order in Place

God established the need for proper order with David, and he was finally ready to bring back the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. The scripture says curiously that '*God helped the Levites that bore the ark*' (1 Chronicles 15:26). The first time they tried to bring the ark back was by the ways of the world; man trying to help and steady God. The second time they got it right. Proper order guarantees God's help.

Proper Order - God Helps

God supported and strengthened them; perhaps the Lord made himself much lighter in that old acacia box! As the ark made the journey back, huge sacrifice offerings were made - it was a bloody trail of dead flesh. Bringing forth the glory of God requires laying down self. It is not easy, or instant, nevertheless, it is the definite journey of the Christian life. All the singers and musicians were properly clothed and mantled in fine linen, symbolic of the righteousness of Christ. With the proper order in place, the Lord will be very evident in helping your church, by His tangible glory and power.

Proper order in music must have righteousness and personal consecration developed in the team to effect the world with glory; the weight of God's power will not be evident otherwise. Singers and musicians must understand they are the righteousness of Christ. Living it by faith is fundamental to having the weight of governing authority on your life.

Proper Order - One Sound

The proper order released the nation of Israel to celebrate, and bring forth the abiding presence of God to reside in that nation's proper place - today that is the Church. When the proper order is in place, the singers and musicians will grow as one, to make one sound as they did in Solomon's temple. The cloud of glory will fill the Church, and cover the earth (2 Chronicles 5:13-14). *'Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the horn, with trumpets and with cymbals, making music with stringed instruments and harps'* (1 Chronicles 15:28).

Proper Order - Undignified Liberty

The proper order will release a genuine liberty of the Spirit into the House of the Lord unlike we have ever seen before. The presence of the ark made King David whirl, leap, skip, and dance about, laughing with gleeful liberty like a big kid. We will be like little children, not stuffy old logs sitting on pews, or an audience watching. It will make Jesus (like David and all of heaven) so incredibly joyful.

David's wife Michal despised the way David worshipped, and his show of uninhibited liberty (2 Samuel 6:16). It was also a spectacle of great humility on his part, to do what he did as a king. This *'uncovering of himself'* (2 Samuel 6:20), also means to discover oneself, or reveal God, or bare oneself before the Lord.

David's response to Michal was, *'and I will be more undignified than this and will be humble in my own sight'* (V22). Matt Redman (a worship leader from England – see book recommendations) wrote a great song about this. David said, he would be more radical, wild, and humiliated in all humility. He didn't care what other people thought; he was happy because His heavenly Father was happy. Michal (the daughter of King Saul) was given to David as a snare to him, and he didn't really care what she

thought either. God's heart was first in David's mind. Michal was not joined in her heart with David in the new move of God's glory, and she bore no children to her death. Her husband David was singing and prophesying to the city and nation, *'lift up your heads O you gates... and the King of glory shall come in'* (Psalm 24:9). Michal, from the old order of her father Saul, judged the new order of David; she was too concerned with how it looked, and refused it - this caused a God breach in her womb of possibilities. She had, as a consequence, no fruit to bless the next generation.

After David's dance session, the prophet Nathan said to him, *"When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever"* (2 Samuel 7:12).

The seed from David (down through the generations) is Jesus - the House from David is the Church. The seed of what David established with the Tabernacle, is now within the House of the Lord that Christ has been re-building today. The seed is about to grow and blossom into full fruit now. This is God's purpose - that the Church has great authority, and calls the nations to Christ. In the apostolic move today, music will come to a new level. God will uncover His Church, and singers and musicians will discover their purpose, and the power that apostolic music will have in the earth. *"The Lord has sworn in truth to David; He will not turn from it: "I will set upon your throne the fruit of your body (Jesus). If your sons will keep my covenant and my testimony which I will teach them, their sons shall sit upon your throne forevermore"* (Psalm 132:11-12). The prophet Samuel's words are echoed in this psalm; God has been totally committed to all that David represents. We are now the sons who will sit on the throne of authority in this apostolic era, executing His governing power in the earth.

David said to the Lord, *'Praise is awaiting You, O God, in Zion; and to You the vow shall be performed, O You who hear prayer, to you all flesh will come'* (Psalm 65:1-2). A vow is an offering to God. Like the biblical financial order of tithes and offerings, there is a proper way to bring forth our sound and song to God - in His full authority. Let us be a people that have awesome song awaiting the Lord in the House of God. Songs that He will use to help bring all flesh in the nations back to Christ. Do it God's way and maybe you will hear the words whispered in your ears that the prophet Nathan said to David, *'do all that is in your heart, for God is with you'* (1 Chronicles 17:2).

Proper Order - Everyday Work Required

Once the ark was at rest on Mount Zion, new prophetic songs came forth and regular worship was maintained, *'continually, as every day's work required'* (1 Chronicles 16:37b). This was a continuity of employment everyday, for the singing and declaring of song in His abiding presence - not just to wait for 15 minutes in a meeting once or twice a week, or doing endless paper work and administration (important as it is to be organized). This went on for over 33 years of David's reign in Jerusalem. Each year being a prophetic celebration for the 33 years Jesus was to be alive on the earth. *'It is good to give thanks to the Lord, And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; to declare Your loving kindness in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night, on an instrument of ten strings, on the lute, and on the harp, with harmonious sound. For You, Lord, have made me glad through your work...'* (Psalm 92:1-4).

Proper Order - Professional Musicians

David made professional musicians the norm during his time. Professional musicians do not appear in the bible before David's era. It's indicative of what should also be the norm for the House of the Lord today in genuine biblical understanding - singers and musicians paid exceptionally well, and looked after with

governmental, apostolic covering. Artists in the House of God, released to fulfill all their purpose for the service of the Lord, as called ones in the proper order.

Proper Order - God's Ultimate Goodness

The proper order the Lord is re-building in our day, is the absolute goodness from heaven promised by God. It is everything good - exceptional beyond all we can imagine in the widest sense of the word. The good of the Lord, was already blessed 3000 years ago when David prayed - how much more now.

David's prayer to the Lord for us today

*'Let it be established forever and do as you have said... that your name maybe magnified forever... and let the house of your servant David be established before you... For you O my God have told your servant that you will **build him a house**. Therefore Your servant has found it in his heart to pray before you. . . and **now** Lord you have promised this **goodness**... You have blessed it O Lord and it shall be blessed forever'* (1 Chronicles 17:23-27).

David's words to Solomon when he drew near to death

*'I go the way of all the earth; **be strong**, therefore, and prove yourself a man. And keep the charge of the Lord your God: to **walk in his ways**, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may **prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn**'* (1 Kings 2:2-3).

The father's advice - be strong as you will need to be, do things God's way and prosper.

Proper Order - Security and Increase

*'Although my house is not so with God, yet He has made with me an **everlasting** covenant, **ordered in all things and secure**. For this is*

all my salvation and all my desire; will he not make it increase?
(2 Samuel 23:5)

The desires and the prayers of David and the prophecies of the House of God are coming to pass in the new millennium. God is making it increase through the Church, for the Lord is the God of an everlasting, unbreakable, nothing missing agreement. One day we may get the privilege of sitting down with David in eternity to talk and play music with him. Maybe we'll share with him some of the royalties from all his lyrics and ideas we have borrowed! It is God's desire that everything increases (Psalm 115:14-15). Today is that day, where we will see it beyond measure.

David prophesied

In the first psalm that David delivered to Asaph after the ark was set up, he said, *'Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, and let them say among the nations "the Lord reigns!"... For He is coming to judge the earth'* (1 Chronicles 16:31,33). Now is the time for the proper order to be in place in these end-times, for Jesus is coming back to judge the earth, and he wants to reign in His Church in the fullness of power. The proper order as written down in scripture is secure and increasing - it is already good and blessed. Verily I say to you leaders, singers, musicians, artistes - the Lord will reign in all the nations, get ready.

Finale'

*The last movement of an instrumental composition
A piece of music closing an act in an opera or drama*

When the understanding of God's end-time government is in your heart, you will bring forth the genuine power of apostolic music and song. God thinkers bring reformation for generations. Proper order gets us there to build a legacy of real change for our children and for the world we live in. God's government and

authority, assigns us the capacity to minister that power through our relationship with God, and one another; motivated by the incredible love of God.

We live in an age where nothing is secure; end-time events stare us in the face daily on television. Many believers are being transitioned into an apostolic mindset and understanding in preparation for these days. Personally, as I have made that transition, and God has positioned me with genuine apostolic ministry, I have begun to fully realize my identity in Christ in a whole different way. As a musician this has thrust forward my understanding. I pray this text has awakened greater understanding of the Lord Jesus Christ and His purposes for you, and you can now see much clearer through this window of historical time. I pray God's word will always bring light to your vision and life. It's time to put on your oxygen tank and dive deeper. Strap on your wings and fly higher. Pursue all He has for you in this present world, let greater action ensue, and enjoy this great journey with all its challenges.

The Ark Psalm (1 Chronicles 16:7-36)

On that day of glory, David first delivered this piece into the hand of Asaph and his brethren - to thank the Lord. When we start moving in the power of apostolic music, we will raise great thanks to our Lord as we see the miracles of God, and the nations begin turning to Jesus. Selah!

*'Oh, give thanks to the Lord! Call upon His name;
Make known His deeds among the peoples!
Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him;
Talk of all His wondrous works!
Glory in His holy name;
Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the Lord!
Seek the Lord and His strength; Seek His face evermore!
Remember His marvelous works which He has done,*

*His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth,
O seed of Israel His servant,
You children of Jacob, His chosen ones!*

*He is the Lord our God;
His judgments are in all the earth.
Remember His covenant forever,
The word which He commanded,
for a thousand generations,
The covenant which He made with Abraham,
And His oath to Isaac,
And confirmed it to Jacob for a statute,
To Israel for an everlasting covenant,
Saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan
as the allotment of your inheritance,"
When you were few in number, indeed very few,
and strangers in it.
When they went from one nation to another,
And from one kingdom to another people,
He permitted no man to do them wrong;
Yes, He rebuked kings for their sakes,
Saying, "Do not touch My anointed ones,
And do My prophets no harm."*

*Sing to the Lord, all the earth;
Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.
Declare His glory among the nations,
His wonders among all peoples.*

*For the Lord is great and greatly to be praised;
He is also to be feared above all gods.
For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
But the Lord made the heavens.
Honor and majesty are before Him;
Strength and gladness are in His place.*

*Give to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
Give to the Lord glory and strength.
Give to the Lord the glory due His name;
Bring an offering, and come before Him.
Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Tremble before Him, all the earth.
The world also is firmly established it shall not be moved.*

*Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
And let them say among the nations, "The Lord reigns."
Let the sea roar, and all its fullness;
Let the field rejoice, and all that is in it.
Then the trees of the woods shall rejoice before the Lord,
For He is coming to judge the earth.*

*Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!
For His mercy endures forever.
And say, "Save us, O God of our salvation;
Gather us together, and deliver us from the Gentiles,
To give thanks to Your holy name, To triumph in Your praise."
Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting!
And all the people said, "Amen!" and praised the Lord.*

© David the Bethlehemite

Address: Somewhere in a cool mansion,
in the Gracelands of heaven.

About the Author

Originally from England, Stephen has been in active Christian ministry for over 20 years. Stephen's gifting spans various creative fields as a prophet singer, songwriter, musician, worship leader, recording artist, author, poet, and as a creator, presenter, producer of Christian television, film, and documentary programs. Awesome City Music Ministries was founded in the early nineties with Australian wife Rebecca. They have widely traveled various nations ministering into churches and conferences. Stephen has a strong prophetic, apostolic gift in the arts. His wife Rebecca is also a gifted musician and songwriter with a sensitive passion for worship. They both have a call to various nations, and have a great heart for Gods House to rise and be glorious in this reforming apostolic era of the Church.

Stephen has recorded on various albums over the years and has produced several of his own with Rebecca; amongst other recording work, the powerful prophetic albums *Hear the Sound*, *Future Dreams*, *The Gathering and Black Lady Dancing*. His challenging teaching book *Prophet Musician*, with other music, teaching and video productions, has brought revelation and blessing to many. Stephen has worked with and spoken prophetically into the lives of many gifted musicians and leaders. In 1997 Stephen was commissioned to produce the feature length video film for the now historic, *Wembley Stadium Live, Champion of the world* worship event in England, which featured Noel Richards, Matt Redman, Delirious, and others. The film has inspired bigger vision, stadium praise and gatherings around the world.

Stephen has worked as a music overseer with various small and large music departments in churches, to help bring concise vision and re-structuring so they can move forward to facilitate what the Lord desires to do in this hour. In Europe, he has music directed at revival and healing events in such venues as the *Royal Albert Hall*, and *Wembley Arena* in London.

Stephen continues to write, produce, teach, and being a creative prophetic apostolic voice to the Church. The Lord is raising up Stephen

and his wife to be a mentoring and creative ministry to a wide community of musicians, singers and artists in the nations and local church. Stephen and Rebecca are currently based in Sydney Australia. They both have strong passionate hearts for Jesus, and to see the nations rise up in awesome worship to God. He and Rebecca have been married over 14 years with three children, Jesikah Faith, Jamin Lee and Chelsea Dance Bennett.

Other resources by Stephen Bennett

Album CD's:

Stephen Bennett:

'Hear the Sound' - a prophetic proclamation of songs toward 2000

'Future Dreams' - inspirations to Gods dream for the nations

'The Gathering' - a prophetic apostolic call to the Church

'Black Lady Dancing' - dance and celebrate Gods liberty with modern grooves and Spanish themes.

Books:

'Prophet Musician' - 224 pages, creatively written for all musicians & singers & true worshippers heeding the prophetic apostolic call of new millennium

'The Apostolic Power of Music' - 'the proper order of David's Tabernacle re-building in these end-times'

'Sheet music books' - for all Stephen and Rebecca Bennett ACM music.

Videos: *(all available for TV broadcast on request)*

'Hear The Sound' - music and teaching / interview

'The Anointing' - music and bible teaching

'Prophet Musician' - TV Series One - 6 x videos. Each has 3 half-hour programs per video. Prophetic teaching, inspiration, music, and special guests:

Noel Richards, Terl Bryant, Martin Neil, Chris Bowater & others.

'Cheeky Cherubs' - Children's programs presented by Rebecca.

Audios: (4 x tape series, also on CD)

(School of Apostolic Prophetic Singers and Musicians)

Module 1. *The Kiss of intimacy, The covering power of music*

Module 2. *'The prophetic sound' the Lord is doing a new thing, Separated to prophesy and the Gift of listening'*

Module 3. *'Gods prophetic voice & power in song and sound', 'The melody of Character's.*

Note: To request articles for magazines and publications or videos for broadcasting just contact Stephen at the ministry addresses.

Highly recommended excellent reading and studying resources

Order online or your local Christian bookshop:

APOSTOLIC CHURCHES

Jonas Clark: *'Governing Churches' all books* – www.jonasclark.com

John Eckhardt: *all books* - Crusaders Ministries Chicago USA

John Bevere: *'Under Cover - the promise of protection under authority'*-
www.johnbevere.org

APOSTLES AND PROPHETS

C. Peter Wagner: *'Apostles & Prophets' the foundation of the Church'* -
www.regalbooks.com

Bill Hamon: *'Apostles Prophets and the coming moves of God'* - www.cimn.net

Peter Lyne: *'First Apostles, Last Apostles'* - 106356.1011@compuserve.com

PROPHETIC MINISTRY

Rick Joyner: *'The Prophetic Ministry'* - www.eaglestar.org

Jonas Clark: *'Prophetic Operations',* - www.jonasclark.com

John Bevere: *'Thus saith the Lord?'* - www.johnbevere.org

John Loren Sandford: *'Elijah among Us'* - www.bakerbooks.com

JEZEBEL

John Paul Jackson: *'Unmasking the Jezebel Spirit'* - Kingsway Books -
www.streamsministries.com

Jonas Clark: *'Jezebel - seducing goddess of war'* - www.jonasclark.com

Francis Frangipane: *'The Jezebel Spirit'* - Arrow publications Po Box 10102
Cedar Rapids USA 52410

MUSIC AND THE ARTS

Ray Hughes: *'Sound of Heaven Symphony of Earth'* - www.eaglestar.org

Scott Macleod: *'Snakes in the Lobby'* - www.eaglestar.org

Matt Redman: *'The Unquenchable Worshipper'* - music@survivor.co.uk

Dave Markee: *'The Lost Glory'* (art/music) - www.follysend.org

or info@follysend.org

Chris Falson: *'Planted by the Waters'* (for worshippers)

www.chrisfalson.com

THE FUTURE

Chuck D Pierce & Rebecca Wagner Systema: *'The Future war of the Church'*.

www.glory-of-zion.org

Rick Joyner: *'The Harvest', 'The Call'* - www.eaglestar.org

Fuchsia Pickett: *'The Next Move of God'* - www.charismamag.com

Anthony Walton: *'Future Church'* - anthony@therock.co.nz

LEADERSHIP

Dr Ronald Cottle: *'Anointed to Reign - Davids pathway to rulership'* -

Destiny Image Publishing, www.reaper.net.com

John C. Maxwell: *'The 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader'* -

Thomas Nelson Publishing

Brian Houston: *'You an change your future'* – Hillsong Church Australia

Phil Pringle: *'You the Leader'* – www.ccc.org.au

LIFE

Bruce Wilkinson: 'The Prayer of Jabez', breaking through to the blessed life'.

Dutch Sheets: 'Gods timing for your life' - www.regalbooks.com

John Bevere: 'Breaking Intimidation' - www.johnbevere.org

Jonas Clark: 'Rejection is Hell', www.jonasclark.com

R.Loren Sandford: 'Burnout - renewal in the wilderness'

- PO Box 1110 Concrete Washington 98237

Kindah Greening: 'Grief - the toothache of the Soul' - church@kings.net.au

Dr Henry Cloud & Dr John Townsend: '12 Christian beliefs that can drive you crazy' - Zondervan Publishing house

Tommy Tenney: 'God Chasers', 'Gods favorite House' - www.godchasers.net

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