

## **David And His Harp**

No. 173

### **Introduction.**

I. Tonight, I would like to invite your attention of the reading of Amos 6:1-6.

***1* Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and to them that are secure in the mountain of Samaria, the notable men of the chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel come! *2* Pass ye unto Calneh, and see; and from thence go ye to Hamath the great; then go down to Gath of the Philistines: are they better than these kingdoms? or is their border greater than your border? *3* --ye that put far away the evil day, and cause the seat of violence to come near; *4* that lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat the lambs out of the flock, and the calves out of the midst of the stall; *5* that sing idle songs to the sound of the viol; that invent for themselves instruments of music, like David; *6* that drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the chief oils; but they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.**

II. From this reading I call your attention to the expression in verse 5 “Woe to them...that invent for themselves instruments of music like David.”

A. These words are very important.

B. They inform us how instruments of music came into the worship of God.

### **I. Instruments In The Old Testament**

A. David did not invent instruments in the sense that he made or originated them. They existed ages before David was born. In Genesis 4:21 we learn that Jubal was the father of all who handle the harp and pipe.

B. Instruments were not originally a part of the worship of God.

1. The five books of law (Genesis through Deuteronomy) do not authorize it in the worship of God.

2. It was some 500 years after the law of Moses had been delivered before David introduced it into the worship. David introduced them after he became king of Israel in about 1010 B.C..

a. This is clearly set forth in the 23<sup>rd</sup> chapter of 1 Chronicles. (1 Chron. 23:1-5).

***1* Now David was old and full of days; and he made Solomon his son king over Israel. *2* And he gathered together all the princes of Israel, with the priests and the Levites. *3* And the Levites were numbered from thirty years old and upward: and their number by their polls, man by man, was thirty and eight thousand. *4* Of these, twenty and four thousand were to oversee the work of the house of Jehovah; and six thousand were officers and judges; *5* and four thousand were doorkeepers; and four thousand praised Jehovah with the**

**instruments which I made, [said David], to praise therewith**

b. This was then done by the commandment of God. (2 Chron. 29:25).

**2CH 29:25 He then stationed the Levites in the house of the Lord with cymbals, with harps, and with lyres, according to the command of David and of Gad the king's seer, and of Nathan the prophet; for the command was from the Lord through His prophets.**

c. Later God also commanded it to be used in the book of Psalms. (Psa. 147:7).

### **C. It is clear that God commanded mechanical music in the Old Testament.**

1. Some in an attempt to prove God did not accept it in the Old Testament have sincerely abused the text we read at the beginning of our lesson.
  - a. They quote Amos 6:5 and say “Woe to them that invent for themselves instruments of music like David.”
  - b. These words were not, however, intended to condemn instrumental music in worship. They were directed to the lazy, apathetic Jews who were at ease in Zion (Jerusalem). God rebuked them because they were playing instruments in their sensuous revelry rather than doing the will of God.
2. The issue of the instrument in worship was not being discussed. One does violence to the passage when he condemns David and others in the Old Testament or when he uses the passage as an argument against instruments of music in the worship of God today.

## **II. What Does The New Testament Say About The Instrument In Worship?**

- A. The question now arises, “What do the New Testament say about the instrument in worship?”
  1. This question is of utmost significance because Christian are under the law of Christ, not the law of Moses.
  2. The apostles and the other inspired writers of the New Testament affirmed we are not under the Old Testament. (Rom. 7:4; Col. 2:14, 16-17; Gal. 5:4).
  3. We are under a new and better covenant. (Heb. 8:6, 7; 10:9).
- B. In answer to the question, “**What does the New Testament say about the instrument in worship?**” We must say it does not endorse or command it. Christians are not to used the instrument in worship. This conclusion is based on several facts.
  1. In the first place, Christians are not to use the instrument in worship because of the **law of exclusion**.
    - a. This is a law we freely apply in our everyday lives - paint house white, pharmacy.
    - b. This law simply stated means that when God states what He wants it excludes everything else. **Let me illustrate.** (Gen. 6:14; Exod. 12:5).
  - c. Let us now **apply this law of exclusion to the music question.** (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 13:15).

- 1) In these verses God has commanded us to sing.
  - 2) If God had given a generic (general) commandment to make music, we would be free to use any type of music we desired. But since God has specified the kind of music He want (vocal music), it excludes other kinds of music even though God has not given us a list of “Thou shall not’s.”
2. In the second place, Christians are not to use the instrument in worship because **they cannot do it by faith.**
    - a. Romans 10:17 states. Faith comes from the hearing or reading of God’s word.
    - b. But as one reads through the 260 chapters of the New Testament he finds that it says absolutely nothing about the instrument in worship. Since faith comes from hearing the word of God, one then could not use it by faith.
  3. In the third place, Christians are not to use the instrument in worship because **the New Testament is complete.**
    - a. It contains all truth to direct the people of God in this age. (Jn. 16:13; Acts 20:27; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; 2 Pet. 1:3).
    - b. These scriptures set forth that the New Testament contains all of the truth of God. It is all-sufficient. It furnishes us with every good work. It says nothing about the instrument.
  4. In the fourth place, Christians are not to use the instrument in worship because we are **not to add nor take away from the word of God.** (Deut. 4:2; 1 Cor. 4:6; Gal. 1:8).
    - a. **Nadab and Abihu** Lev. 10:1, 2).
    - b. This example should serve as a grave warning to those who change the worship of God.
  5. In the fifth place, Christians are not to use the instrument in worship because it was **not used by the early church.**
    - a. It is noteworthy to mention that the early church did not use instrumental music in worship
    - b. It was not added until the 7<sup>th</sup> century A.D.. It was then added by men, not by God.
    - c. Most religious bodies did not begin using it until the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
    - d. It has only been in the last 100 years or so that it has been accepted by nearly all religious bodies.
    - e. This acceptance is without support of the New Testament and without the support of early church history.

## Conclusion.

- I. From this lesson it is evident that instruments were invented in the time of Jubal.
  - A. Many centuries later David introduced instrumental music into Jewish worship by the commandment of God.
    1. God sanctioned it in the Old Testament, but He has not sanctioned its use in the Christian age
    2. Those who use it go beyond the scriptures and put their souls in jeopardy and make their worship vain. (Matt. 15:9).
  - B. It is important that we have a thus-saith- the Lord for our worship. (1 Pet. 4:11).

- II. It is equally important that we follow exactly what the word of God teaches about becoming a Christian.
- A. God's word teaches one must **believe in Christ**, commit his life to the Son of God. (Jn. 3:16).
  - B. One must **repent** of his sins. (Lk. 13:3).
  - C. One must **confess** Christ. (Matt. 10:32, 33).
  - D. Finally, one must be **baptized** to be forgiven of his sins and come into Christ. (Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26, 27).
- III. You can be saved by obeying these scriptures from the heart. Come now and let the Lord save you. Come as we stand and sing!

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