

Praise is a Weapon

Don't cut yourself!

~1hr + discussion

Question: We sing the song that says "my praise is weapon, more than a sound..." But, is it?

Victory in Battle

2 Chronicles 20:1-23

1. They first sought the Lord in prayer in fasting
2. God tells them what to do
 - Jehoshaphat appoints singers to go ahead of the army, praising God
 - As they sing, God sets ambushes and defeats the enemy

Joshua 6:1-21

1. God tells them what to do (and what NOT to do)
 - The people remained in SILENCE for the appointed time
 - The walls fall after the final trumpet & shouts

Note:

Both examples show OBEDIENCE to God. The Music & The Shouting didn't hold the power to defeat an army or flatten a wall, God did. God used music to work with His people. Music in complete obedience delivered powerful results.

Driving away evil spirits

1 Samuel 16:14-23

- David plays the harp
- An evil spirit leaves Saul

Note:

David has a deep relationship with God & has been anointed by Samuel. This shows us that David's mere presence didn't necessarily drive away the spirit, but that God-centered praise through music did.

Inviting the Presence of God?

2 Kings 3:1-19

→ Elisha calls for a musician

→ When the musician plays, the hand of God comes upon Elisha

Note:

Elisha was clear that he wanted nothing to do with these guys. The *only* reason that he even entertained them was because he regarded Jehoshaphat. Elisha is a prophet that hears from God, but *perhaps* given the situation, music helped *him* to connect with God in an otherwise tense situation?

I've heard it said that Praise & Worship "invites the presence of God", and the above passage is even quoted in support of that, however, God's presence is EVERYWHERE, even in the Old Testament (see Psalm 139:). As New Testament believers, we have the Holy Spirit in us. So then, what are we inviting God to?

- Could it be that Music invites *us* into the presence of God?
- In this example, could it be the Elisha is so flustered by the presence of the Kings of Israel & Edom that *he* himself is struggling to calm his own mind/heart to commune with God?
- Could it be that the music helps Elisha focus?

If that's the case, then it stands that music *was* a weapon in this case, just perhaps fighting against people, emotions and/or distraction.

Another example often used:

- Psalm 22:3: "... Enthroned in the praises of Israel"

Question: Does God *need* our praises? Is his throne dependent on our praise? – No, but He certainly seems to bless honest praise & worship.

Deliverance

Acts 16:16–26

→ Paul the Apostle and Silas sing in prison

→ An earthquake opens doors and breaks chains

Note:

Paul & Silas were in prison for defeating an evil spirit. They were at a very low point being beaten and shackled in prison, AND YET, they are praying & singing TO GOD.

- The prisoners are *listening*, but they are not the audience.
- YET -> God turns this Praise & Worship into a testimony to all through His miraculous power.

Paul & Silas get delivered from Prison, The Jailer & his family get delivered from sin & death.

⚠ Warnings

Proper safety training is necessary before handling a weapon. For warriors who fought with a sword, they first had to learn how to safely handle & maintain their sword before they ever trained for battle. For armed professions today, safety training is vital to ensure someone does not accidentally discharge their weapon and hurt themselves or others around them.

- In physical battle, there are many types of instruments (i.e, knife, sword, gun, missile), each with their own uses & nuances.

If Praise & Worship is a **weapon**, then why do we not take time to understand the risk & dangers of the instrument that we use?

[See the Science of Music Handout]

God Puts Music In Battle

Isaiah 30:27-33

→ This is an end times prophesy where Christ has returned & He is putting a beatdown on the antichrist (“the Assyrian”)

→ Meanwhile, there is music playing and those of us that love Christ are playing along.

Summary

- God created music
- There are measurable effects of Music on the human body/mind
- Music is a tool (like any weapon) that can be used for GOOD or used for EVIL
 - Music can help facilitate a connection with God, but it can also give a false experience
- While music can be used in praise & worship, it is not the praise nor worship. The heart reaching toward God is.

Other thoughts or takeaways?