

1 **DAVID THE COURT MUSICIAN**

1 Samuel 16:14-23

2 **THE MISERY OF KING SAUL**

- *Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the LORD tormented him. And Saul's servants said to him, "Behold now, a harmful spirit from God is tormenting you." (1Sa 16:14-15)*
- Since He rejected Saul from being king, God's Spirit has left him and in its place, an evil spirit has come to torment him.

3 **THE MISERY OF KING SAUL**

- In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit came to indwell three kinds of people on a regular basis:
 - Prophets
 - Priests
 - Kings
- Now, the spirit of God has left Saul – a symbol of God's rejection of Saul as king – and God has instead sent a spirit to trouble/torment him.

4 **THE MISERY OF KING SAUL**

- Many scholars have pointed to Saul's erratic behavior leading up to this point as a sign of his growing insanity.
- While there is no doubt that Saul had serious psychological problems, Scripture makes it clear that the root cause was spiritual.
- This is not *always* the case with psychological problems, but it is *often* the case.

5 **THE MISERY OF KING SAUL**

- Why did God send a spirit to torment Saul?
 - As judgment: Saul had repeatedly disobeyed God, and repeatedly rejected his guidance and commandments.
 - As a symbol: God has removed His own spirit from Saul and sent him a tormenter instead, as a symbol that He has rejected Saul from being king.

6 **THE MINISTRY TO KING SAUL**

- *Let our lord now command your servants who are before you to seek out a man who is skillful in playing the lyre, and when the harmful spirit from God is upon you, he will play it, and you will be well." So Saul said to his servants, "Provide for me a man who can play well and bring him to me." (1Sa 16:16-17)*

7 **THE MINISTRY TO KING SAUL**

- *One of the young men answered, "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the LORD is with him." (1Sa 16:18)*

8 **THE MINISTRY TO KING SAUL**

- *Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me David your son, who is with the sheep." And Jesse took a donkey laden with bread and a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them by David his son to Saul. And David came to Saul and entered his service. And Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor-bearer. (1Sa 16:19-21)*

9 ■ **THE MINISTRY TO KING SAUL**

- *And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Let David remain in my service, for he has found favor in my sight." And whenever the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the harmful spirit departed from him. (1Sa 16:22-23)*

10 ■ **THE MINISTRY TO KING SAUL**

- Saul's servants suggest that music – specifically that of a stringed instrument, such as a harp – may help the troubled king and give him some rest and peace.
- One of Saul's servants is evidently aware of David, who is a boy of 10-13 at this time, and suggests that he should come and play his harp for the king.

11 ■ **THE MINISTRY TO KING SAUL**

- David plays for King Saul, and proves invaluable in calming the king's troubled mind.
- Saul requests of Jesse that David be able to stay in his service.
- It is unclear if the servant's description of David is intended to build him up, or if the chronology of events is actually out of order (possible, and not uncommon).

12 ■ **A QUESTION OF CHRONOLOGY**

- One question often raised by skeptics is the fact that Saul seems to know David here in chapter 16, but does not recognize him after he kills Goliath in chapter 17.
- Far from being an inconsistency, there are a number of possible explanations for this, all of which serve to enhance the strength of the narrative ("it is the glory of kings to search out a matter").

13 ■ **A QUESTION OF CHRONOLOGY**

- *As soon as Saul saw David go out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is this youth?" And Abner said, "As your soul lives, O king, I do not know." And the king said, "Inquire whose son the boy is." And as soon as David returned from the striking down of the Philistine, Abner took him, and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand. And Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" And David answered, "I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite." (1Sa 17:55-58)*

14 ■ **A QUESTION OF CHRONOLOGY**

- Most scholars believe that David was somewhere between the ages of 10-13 when he was anointed king.
- By contrast, David was at least 16-17 when he killed Goliath. In other words, a number of years are passing between these events and it's possible that David may have grown or changed dramatically during this time.

15 ■ **A QUESTION OF CHRONOLOGY**

- It's important to remember that Saul was mentally-deranged during the period when David was coming to play for him.
- It is entirely possible that Saul lacked the mental clarity or lucidity to remember David's identity, after a period of years.

16 ■ **A QUESTION OF CHRONOLOGY**

- Not all OT narratives are presented in chronological order – many are not. Much of the OT narratives are grouped categorically rather than chronologically (the story of

Hezekiah is one example).

- It is important to keep in mind that this arrangement of events would not have been unusual to the early eastern mind, as strange as it seems to us now.

17 **A QUESTION OF CHRONOLOGY**

- We don't actually know that Saul doesn't know who David is. Saul had promised the family of the man who killed Goliath exemptions from all future taxes in Israel.
- *And the men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel. And the king will enrich the man who kills him with great riches and will give him his daughter and make his father's house free in Israel."* (1Sa 17:25)

18 **A QUESTION OF CHRONOLOGY**

- It is entirely possible that Saul knows who David is personally, but does not know who his family is.
- In fact, their exchange before the battle seems to indicate familiarity.

19 **WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT MUSIC**

20 **1) GOD MADE MUSIC**

- *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.* (John 1:1-3)
- God created music, as He did everything else: with a specific purpose in mind.

21 **2) MUSIC IS FOR WORSHIP**

- *I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving. This will please the LORD more than an ox or a bull with horns and hoofs.* (Psa 69:30-31)

22 **2) MUSIC IS FOR WORSHIP**

*Praise the Lord!
Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens![a]
Praise him for his mighty deeds;
praise him according to his excellent greatness!
Praise him with trumpet sound;
praise him with lute and harp!
Praise him with tambourine and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe!
Praise him with sounding cymbals;
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord!
- Psalm 150*

23 **3) MUSIC IS COMMUNICATION**

*Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth!
I will open my mouth in a parable;*

*I will utter dark sayings from of old,
things that we have heard and known,
that our fathers have told us.*

(Psa 78:1-3)

24  **3) MUSIC IS COMMUNICATION**

- *Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (Eph 4:29-30)*
- *We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete. (2 Cor 10:5-6)*

25  **4) MUSIC REVEALS THE SPIRIT**

- Music is communication from the spirit/heart of one individual to that of another. Because of this, it reveals the spirit of both the performer and the listener.
- This is precisely why music in the Bible is used to express both the time of greatest joy and deepest sorrow.

26  **5) MUSIC SPEAKS TO THE SPIRIT**

- *Also the Levites which were the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, being arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets: (2 Chr 5:12)*

27  **5) MUSIC SPEAKS TO THE SPIRIT**

- *It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD; (2 Chr 5:13)*

28  **6) MUSIC IS THE RACE, NOT THE PRIZE**

- Because of the ability of music to elicit an emotional response and ultimately touch our spirits, it has the potential to be addictive and obsessive.
- One of the characteristics of dangerous music is its addictive nature.
- Music should be a means of worship – a means of entering into the Presence – but it is not the Presence itself.

29  **6) MUSIC IS THE RACE, NOT THE PRIZE**

- The first person to emphasize the means of worship over the object of worship? Lucifer.
- Music has a purpose, but it is not *the* purpose. Therefore, when it becomes addictive or divisive, it has attained an importance which God never intended for it to have.