

# DOCTRINE OF MUSIC

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## 1. Definition:

- a. Music is the science or art of ordering tones or sounds in succession, in combination, and in a timed relationship which produces a composition having unity and continuity. (Webster definition)
- b. Music is a vocal, instrumental, or mechanical production of sounds which have rhythm, melody, and/or harmony. (Webster definition)

## 2. Vocabulary:

- a. נָגַן - nagan - (Hebrew verb) - to play a stringed instrument (Psa. 77:6; Isa. 38:20)
- b. נֶגִינָה - neginah - (Heb. noun fem.) - music of a stringed instrument. (Lam. 5:14)
- c. שִׁיר - shir - (Heb. vb.; 14 times O.T.) - to sing a song to anyone in his honor. (Psa. 138:5; Prov. 25:20; Song of Songs of Solomon 1:1)
- d. שִׁיר - shir - (Heb. noun masc.; 40 times O.T.) - a song, music, musical literature, singing a song, musical instrument, instrumental music (2 Chron. 5:13; 7:6)
- e. זָמַר - zamar - (Heb. vb., Piel stem; 23 times O.T.) - to sing praises and psalms. (Psa. 30:4; 33:2)
- f. זָמָר - zemar - (Aramaic. noun, m.) - instrumental music (Dan. 3:5, 7, 10, 15)
- g. סֻומְפֹנֵיה - sumeponeyah – (Aramaic. noun) – bagpipe, double pipe, (some have suggested: “dulcimer” – a stringed instrument of trapezoidal shape played with light hand held hammers) (Daniel 3:5, 7, 10, 15)
- h. συμφωνία - sumphonia - (Greek noun, f.) – music (Luke 15:25);  
Note: transliterates the Aramaic noun above in the Greek translation of the Old Testament (the Septuagint, the LXX) (Daniel 3:5, 10, 15)
- i. μουσικός - mousikos - (Gk. n., f.) – minstrel, music (derived from: “Muses,” the nine goddesses who supposedly rule over those skilled in the arts and sciences.)

3. The purpose of music is to express the emotions or arouse the emotions. (Gen. 31:27; Dan. 3:5, 7, 10, 15)

4. Music is an international language which bridges the barriers between peoples of different racial, linguistic, and national backgrounds. (Daniel 3:4, 7)

5. The first mention of music in the Bible is found in Genesis 4:21.

6. Music is often used as a preparation for some activity or event such as athletic competitions, dramas, celebrations, and ceremonies:

a. Assembly, announcements, and rejoicing with **trumpets**:

(1) שׁוֹפֵר - shophar - (Heb. noun masc.; 72 times O.T.) – ram's horn

(Ex. 19:16; Levit. 25:9; Josh. 6:4 Psa. 81:3; Psa. 150:3)

(2) חֲצִצְרָה - chatzotzerah - (Heb. noun fem.; 29 times O.T.) – straight metal trumpet, silver or brass (Num. 10:2, 3, 8, 9, 10; 2 Kings 11:14; 2 Chron. 5:12)

b. Celebrations - 1 Samuel 18:6; 1 Chron. 15:16; 16:4, 5, 42; Psalms 121-134  
“Songs of Ascents, of David” – sang at feast times.

c. Ceremonies - Daniel 3:5 – Worshipping Nebuchadnezzar's golden idol.

d. Social activities - Gen. 31:27, first mention of singing and music in the Bible.

e. Worship - Exodus 15:1, 20, “Song of Moses”, first song of worship mentioned in the bible; also in Exodus 15:20-21, the “Song of Miriam,” singing and dancing. Praise the Lord. (Psa. 150:1-6)

7. Music which does not glorify God is a distraction to reason and conscience, and convictions becomes obscured. (Eccl. 2:8; Lam. 3:63; Dan. 3:3-7, 10, 15; Gen. 4:21; Matt. 6:2; Matt. 9:23; Rev. 18:22)

8. Music and singing are used as an illustration of how sound teaching of the word of God is no guarantee of application in the life. (Ezek. 33:32 with James 1:21-25)

9. Music which glorifies God:

a. Is always associated with **reason and doctrinal content**. (1 Cor. 14:15; Col. 3:16)

b. Strengthens **conscience and conviction**. (Psalm 23)

c. Becomes like **medicine** to the soul. (1 Sam. 16:23)

d. Augments praise and worship.

**NOTE:** The “Psalms” of the Bible are the **hymns** of the Bible.

(Psa. 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9 etc.; 2 Chron. 5:13; 2 Chron. 7:6; 23:13; 34:12, 13; Neh. 12:27, 28)

e. Will be part of **heavenly worship**. (Rev. 5:8-10; 14:2, 3; 15:2-4)

10. Music in the New Testament is motivated by being “filled with the” Holy “Spirit.” (Eph. 5:18-20)

11. Music in the New Testament which glorifies God is primarily “singing.”

a. “...singing and making melody.....to the Lord.” (Eph. 5:18-20; Col. 3:16)

b. “...sing with the spirit and.....sing with the mind also.” (1 Cor. 14:15)

c. “Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praises.” (James 5:13)

d. We sing with one voice with the Old Testament saints. (Rom. 15:9 with Psa. 18:49; and Heb. 2:12 with Psa. 22:22)

12. Instrumental music is rarely mentioned in the new Testament:

- a. As an illustration. (1 Cor. 14:7, 8; Matt. 11:17; Lk. 7:32)
- b. At the return of the “prodigal son.” (Luke 15:25)
- c. Heavenly harps. (Rev. 5:8; 14:2; 15:2)
- d. Military signals. (1 Cor. 14:8)
- e. Divine summons via “trumpet,” - σάλπιγξ - salpinx - (Gk. n., f.; 11 times N.T.) – (Matt. 24:31; 1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thess. 4:16; Heb. 12:19; Rev. 8:2, 6, 13 Rev. 9:14; “like a trumpet” Rev. 1:10; 4:1)

13. The issue in music is **content, meaning, edification** of the soul, and **glorification** of God. (1 Cor. 14:15; Col. 3:16, 17, 23)

14. Specific songs in the Bible:

- a. “Song of Moses” (Ex. 15:1-18 and Rev. 15:3)
- b. A second song of Moses (Deut. 31:19, 22, 30; 31:1-43)
- c. David’s praise psalm (2 Sam. 22:1-51 with Psa. 18:1-50)
- d. “Song of Miriam” (Exodus 15:21)
- e. The psalm of David for the “ark of the covenant of God” (1 Chron. 16:8-36, 1 Chron 16:42)
- f. Song of Songs of Solomon (This book extols human love and marriage, the beauty and purity of marital love.)
- g. The book of Psalms
- h. Hezekiah’s song of thanksgiving (Isa. 38:10-20)
- i. The “Song of the Lamb” (Rev. 15:3, 4)
- j. The “Song of the Church” in heaven (Rev. 5:9, 10)
- k. The “Song of the 144,000,” no lyrics given, (Rev. 14:1-5)