

THE POWER OF PROPHETIC WORSHIP

By Paul M Hanssen

Worship, praise, music, songs, and sounds are powerful tools God uses through the spirit of prophecy. Inspired worship is very prophetic on so many levels – personally, collectively, nationally, globally – inspired music and worship speak the prophetic word and even bring to birth God’s prophetic actions in fulfillment.

I'll never forget the first time I became aware of the prophetic power of worship and music. It was during a Sunday morning worship service in Tauranga, New Zealand. I was 25 years old (41 years ago).

Somewhere along the way, we have lost at least part of the vision God gave us in the beginning. One of the main threads of the Word that drew us together was **Acts 15:16** (does anyone recall what that’s about?).

DAVID’S TABERNACLE:

*After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: (**Acts 15:16**)*

While churches and groups fight and squabble with each other- who is right and who is more powerful, who has “the Truth”?? etc., etc.- God is speaking to the end-time church a message of **rebuilding what has fallen**; something lost in obscurity, clouded by religious traditions, and locked in practices that have nothing to do with God, worship, or His Word.

David’s Tabernacle has a twofold meaning: it **speaks of “prophetic worship”** (represented by the Tabernacle David raised) and of **“the House of David,”** the throne and Kingdom that God raised. Both will be rebuilt among the people of God in the end times. PROPHETIC WORSHIP AND THE THRONE/KINGDOM OF GOD! However, take note: the Kingdom is not established without the Tabernacle of David, or the tabernacle of prophetic worship. David’s Tabernacle would never have accomplished its purpose without prophetic worship.

To prophesy means to speak and sing by divine inspiration. Prophecy is not just about speaking words that point to the future, although it includes that. **Prophecy**

is centered on inspiration; spoken words, written material, music, lyrics, atmosphere, events, and moments can be inspired. All of these can be prophetic experiences, bringing life from the throne of God.

The Psalms of David and Asaph are collections of *inspired lyrics* accompanied by inspired melodies born out of experiences with God. Even in this present generation, thousands of people around the world turn to the Psalms' prophetic power in times of grief, calamity, sorrow, struggle, warfare, and sickness.

PROPHETIC SINGERS & MUSICIANS:

David required that the musicians and singers appointed in the tent of David be inspired.

Moreover David and the captains of the host separated to the service of the sons of Asaph, and of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, with psalteries, and with cymbals: and the number of the workmen according to their service was... (1 Chronicles 25:1)

To prophesy with harps, psalteries, and cymbals is to play melodies that invoke hope, peace, life, healing, and direction. Inspired music can also convey messages of judgment, destruction, and war.

WAR WORSHIP: PROPHETIC WORSHIP:

And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever. And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten. (1 Chronicles 20:21-22)

Inspired prophetic songs of worship to the holiness of God **is spiritual warfare** at its highest level. Jehoshaphat, after receiving prophetic direction from one of the descendants of Asaph (David's prophetic worship leader), consulted with the people and sent inspired worshippers before the warriors into battle against a great army of the children of Moab and Ammon. In like manner, God instructed

Judah was incredibly victorious on this occasion, “...for the LORD had made them to rejoice over their enemies.” (2 Chronicles 20:27)

JUDAH FIRST:

A few times in the book of Judges, we see God instruct Judah to go in the front lines of the battle – or to go first. Why? Judah means praise. Judah carried the insignia of the Lion – Judah prophetically spoke of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah – the Lion of war! Inspired worship precedes our overcoming experiences. It must go first!

During the rebuilding season of David’s Tabernacle, God wants to anoint and inspire His people, from the platform to the pew, with prophetic words and sounds that bring deliverance, hope, and life. This is accomplished not primarily through structured songs (though God uses them), but through songs and melody in the Spirit!

PAUL’S INSTRUCTIONS TO THE EPHESUS CHURCH:

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus about *psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs*.

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesus 5:18-20)

The Greek word translated as “**spiritual songs**” is *oide pneumatikos*, which can also be understood as “**songs of the Spirit**.” Spiritual songs are prophetically inspired expressions that flow from the river coming from God’s throne.

What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. (1 Corinthians 14:15)

PRAY AND SING IN THE SPIRIT:

Paul mentions both praying and singing with understanding and with the Spirit. To pray and sing with understanding means that the mind comprehends and grasps what is spoken and sung. However, singing and praying with the Spirit serve not

the carnal mind but the eternal spirit within. Inspired prophetic worship, song, music, and word go far beyond the mind's understanding, touching the depths of the spirit and bringing deliverance to the stronghold citadel of Zion within.

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. (Colossians 3:16)

To become prophetically inspired, **one must be filled with the Spirit.** Paul warned the Ephesians not to be drunk with wine but to be intoxicated with the Spirit.

DAVID'S THREE CHIEF MUSICIANS:

David appointed three brethren as the chief worship leaders in the tabernacle.

Moreover David and the captains of the host separated to the service of the sons of Asaph, and of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, with psalteries, and with cymbals: and the number of the workmen according to their service was... (1 Chronicles 25:1)

Fifty-three of David's Psalms were directed to the chief musician. The chief musicians included Asaph (the prominent leader), Heman, and Jeduthun, all from the Levitical family.

Their role was to train, oversee, and direct the choir of singers and bands of musicians who sang and played in rotation. The singers and musicians recited the Psalms David addressed to the chief musicians before the LORD and His glory. **Each of them had to be filled with the same prophetic spirit** that was upon David when he wrote the Psalm. Psalms and hymns lose their impact and power when recited without the anointing that accompanies the composition.

DEBORAH – THE INSPIRED PROPHETESS & WORSHIPPER:

Deborah, the prophetess, was also an anointed worshipper.

Then sang Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam on that day, saying, Praise ye the LORD for the avenging of Israel, when the people willingly offered themselves. (Judges 5:1-2)

Awake, awake, Deborah: awake, awake, utter a song. (Judges 5:12)

The prophetess was aware that her ministry not only involved speaking the Word of God, but also offering prophetic songs of worship unto the LORD.

No amount of studying can prepare you for divine inspiration. While guidance and teaching in spiritual matters are necessary, they create a channel for inspiration to flow. **Inspiration itself cannot be taught.**

The Old Testament schools of the prophets, mentored by Samuel, Elijah, and Elisha, were not meant to teach students to prophesy but rather to train them as disciples. Discipleship does not teach inspiration; instead, it teaches the student to follow leadership, be guided, and submit to authority. Inspiration cannot be experienced without learning to **bow and yield to the Spirit's guidance.** This is instilled in us as we become disciples in the school of inspiration, so to speak.

THE POWER OF PROPHETIC WORSHIP

Lesson 2

PERFECTED PRAISE

Prophetic praise and worship (inspired praise and worship filled with the breath of the Spirit of God) is a place we must enter if we are to fellowship the Father. It's not an option; it's a direct order – they that worship the Father **MUST** worship Him in Spirit and in Truth (John 4:24).

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. (John 4:23-24)

The Father **SEEKETH** true worshippers who will occupy His House – the habitation of God. The Father's House (His bosom, His heart, the place where His heart beats with His eternal, everlasting purpose) is our destiny – it's the goal set before us; it's the ultimate reason Jesus died and rose again – to provide the way to the Father's House.

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. (John 14:2)

The word for mansion is translated from the **Greek word *mon-ay***, meaning residence, abode, and dwelling. In the Aramaic New Testament, the word is *med-ore'*, meaning a dwelling place or room. The Father's House has many dwelling places. The Father's house has many rooms, dimensions, and spaces. The Father is multi-dimensional; His presence and glory, His grace and power, His wisdom and Truth are all multi-dimensional, meaning multifarious (having many varied parts and aspects). This is why we must never be guilty of squeezing God and His purpose into a box or framework of religious dogma, thinking even for a moment that we know all truth. I have traveled to 78 countries in my lifetime and have witnessed the power, presence, and glory of God in places where worship did not resemble what I was used to, where people did not dress like me – India is a classic example. And yet, God's multifarious wisdom and grace were manifest. (Ephesians 3:10 – manifold wisdom of God, 1 Peter 4:10 – manifold grace of God).

IN THE FATHER'S HOUSE, ARE MANY ROOMS!

The Father's House, with its many dimensions and spaces, reflects the worship found within being. The worship the Father seeks is not about a style, beat, melody, or a certain kind of lyrics – it is about inspiration, worshiping Him in Spirit and in Truth.

Inspired praise and worship are filled with prophetic direction, promise, fulfillment, and guidance. Worshipping the Father can never be accomplished by a mere programmed worship service – rather, it is a lifestyle:

- It is a place, a space, a room in which to enter
- it is a dimension in Him we must pursue
- it is an atmosphere that engulfs the soul
- it is a high ground – a plateau, if you will, to which, in the Spirit, we climb
- it is a space where everything of this tangible and natural world melts away, and at least for the moment, seems not to exist;
- it is where nothing matters because in the Spirit, through prophecy, you have everything you need
- it is experiencing the very bosom and heartbeat of God
- it is the cup of one's heart running over with prophetic reality

PERFECTED PRAISE:

And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise? (Matthew 21:16)

There is praise, and then there is “perfected praise,” not perfect praise, but **perfected** – meaning *repaired, adjusted, restored, and something made right, or being made right that is wrong; to put back in its original shape, form, and purpose; through restoration, and bring to completeness and perfection (a process).*

The difference between these two kinds of praise is significant. Praise and worship are keys that open doors into God's presence; this combined power shakes the deepest hell and stomps on demonic enemies plotting against the believer. Praise and worship are not only expressions of surrender and adoration, but are weapons

used to win spiritual battles; they build a strong defense against the enemies of Truth.

Jesus' statement in Matthew 21:16 quotes Psalm 8:2.

Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. (Psalm 8:2)

The NIV translates this verse as follows:

Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. (Psalm 8:2 NIV)

Some have been so bold, and I might add, ignorant, as to state that Jesus misquoted the words of David recorded in Psalm 8. This is absurd. How could the Living Word in flesh misquote the Word? – impossible!

During the early days of the New Testament era, while the New Testament was being written, Old Testament scriptures were often referenced because they were the only scriptures available to the church then. Instead of quoting Old Testament scriptures verbatim, the writer or speaker often referred to them by their context, content, or meaning. One example of this can be found in Matthew 13:35:

That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

Matthew was quoting from Psalm 78.

I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old. (Psalm 78:2)

Matthew quotes the verse while explaining its meaning. Asaph, the author of Psalm 78, uses the phrase ***“dark sayings of old.”*** Matthew clarifies this by saying, ***“things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.”*** The words differ, but the content and context remain the same.

When Jesus quoted Psalm 8, He quoted its content rather than the exact words.

Jesus said: *Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise.*

Asaph wrote: *Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength. (or established a stronghold against your enemies)*

The strength Asaph wrote about is defined as a citadel, a fortress, a strong tower, or a stronghold. The Hebrew word for **strength is 'oz**, which means a *force, security, majesty, might, power, prevail, boldness, and loudness*. It is the same word used for the strong tower of the LORD's Name (Proverbs 18:10, Psalm 61:3).

However, 'oz also means praise!

'Oz praise and worship is like a fortress; it forms a stronghold and a tower of strength. This kind of praise is not your typical clap-and-dance praise-and-worship session performed in churches every Sunday. It is not expressed through regular melodies, popular top-of-the-chart worship songs, or the usual forms of worship services. Nothing is wrong with common forms of worship when offered appropriately (or when inspired). However, "*perfected-praise, oz-praise,*" comes from babes and sucklings – without form.

This restored and realigned prophetic worship doesn't manifest in forms of praise and worship shaped by our understanding. A babe (and certainly a suckling) does not have a formed vocabulary (at least not one that can be understood)- they make sounds from the innocence of their hearts. Have you ever heard a newborn infant speak words? No, they do not form words. The sounds that come from their mouths are formless. Sucking infants yell, cry, scream, giggle, goo, and make various breathing sounds without forming words. A babe can form words, but the words are incomplete; the sentences are not full; some of the words are not understood – and yet, the power, the innocence, the purity, and the sincerity in their sounds grab the attention of the parent.

This kind of no-form, free-flowing, prophetically inspired worship is what the Word of God calls perfected praise – restored and repaired praise!

- 'Oz praise is not offered out of promptness or command
- It is not planned or rehearsed.
- It's not about programs or a set list of songs performed during a worship service (and I emphasize that there's nothing wrong with structured worship services—they also have their place).

I must be careful and balanced in teaching on this subject because there is always another side to all truth. When the cries were made as Jesus rode into Jerusalem, the children quoted from Psalm 118 and 1 Samuel 7 – Hosanna (hoshi'a-na – save now); blessed is He who comes in the Name of the LORD. They could not have known these verses unless by inspiration. Prophetic worship can be scripture in song, in worship, but under the same inspiration with which it was originally written. That's prophecy. See, we sing songs (that's all good and well), but are we inspired – are the songs inspired?

So, you have inspired worship with the understanding, and inspired worship in the spirit. Paul said, "What is it then? I will sing with the understanding, and I will sing in the spirit." (1 Corinthians 14:15).

The inspired cry and call of a spirit longing for and honoring God's presence is unlike anything else. It's spontaneous and Spirit-inspired from the depths of an awakened heart that has entered a loving relationship with God. It flows like a river. Mainstream Christianity and those who find security in structured, programmed services often reject this form of worship because it's unpredictable. The Spirit of prophecy and inspiration is not controlled by a format of rules or the norm of an event. As the wind blows, it flows.

Those who have found the Father's bosom rest there like a child drawing nourishment from Him. The babe and suckling have complete trust and dependence on the Heavenly Father for all things – they trust His Will; they lean on His everlasting arms; they walk in His purpose, not considering themselves but focusing on the accomplishment of God's purpose. The praise and worship that flows from their mouths is not created in a music studio or by popular worship artists; instead, it flows like a river from the belly.

He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (John 7:38)

This is where praise and worship, prophetic utterance, is perfected, restored, and made complete in the presence of the Father.

The bride brings forth the manifested sons of God. The word of God describes them as a "man-child," a sucking infant, as it were, and yet "a man."

And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. (Revelation 12:5)

This birth signifies the beginning of a relationship with the heavenly Father. The mission of the Son of God has always been, and remains, to lead us to the Father. The relationship with the Father begins with a birth in the womb of a longing spirit. The sons of God's relationship with the Heavenly Father is the result and fruit of the relationship of Jesus as His bride. The fruit the bride produces is described as a child, utterly dependent on the Father. The sons of God show no arrogance or self-sufficiency. They demonstrate total surrender and trust in the Father. Their goal and vision are towards the Father's House (the bosom of the Father). From the mouths of babes and sucklings, praise and worship are perfected.

Those who have entered a relationship with the Father seek only His face. They pursue nothing outside of His presence. They desire nothing outside His glory. Their deepest longing is to be held within the Father's bosom, where Jesus Himself dwells (John 1:18). The bride dwells in the Father's House with a dual relationship: a bride to the Son, and a son to the Father.

No words can fully express such a place and the relationship found there—only cries and sounds of yearning can convey it. It is beyond human expression or the words of a finite language. It can only be expressed by divine inspiration – prophetic worship, sounds of longing and desire for the Father's House – sounds of submission to His will and the inspired Word of God.

Asaph clearly wrote that through the praise of babes and sucklings, the "stronghold" that withstands God's enemies is established (Psalm 8:2). When Jesus explained the meaning of Asaph's prophetic words, He clarified that the praise of babes and sucklings is the perfection of 'oz *strength*' that builds this stronghold. In addition to various forms of worship and praise, David's Tabernacle also offered "'oz *praise*"—perfect praise.

However, a fortress, stronghold, and citadel of strength is built by those who discover the power of inspired 'oz worship. No other form of worship compares. The glory of God will not be restored to the remnant people unless teachers, singers, worshippers, prayer warriors, musicians, and saints are filled with the

divine breath of inspiration! Church leaders and worship leaders have all but lost their spiritual inspiration, and as a result, God's people have lost their spiritual fervor and fire. Sermons preached across pulpits worldwide are not rooted in time spent with God and are not delivered by teachers and preachers filled with divine revelation; instead, they are inspired by reading books, watching movies, searching YouTube for topics, or listening to stories. I'm not saying these sources can't inspire, but they don't generate the kind of inspiration that will flood the souls of the restored remnant in the end times. Sadly, sermons sometimes stem from spite, rebellion, or the need to prove something.

The inspiration that energizes the restored remnant comes from God's breath—fresh, pure, and untainted. The breath and fire of inspiration can't be contained within a form. It arrives like a rushing torrent, falls like rain, blows like the wind, and burns like blazing flames.

The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. (John 3:8)

To be divinely inspired means being overwhelmed by the profound glory of God's presence. This happens when God's servants burn with a steadfast thirst, hunger, and longing for God—and nothing else! The babe and suckling desire nothing more than to be held in the loving arms and bosom of the Father (El Shaddai—Almighty God, meaning the breasted one, the feeder). From this deep longing for Him flows genuine, inspired worship and praise. This is perfect praise; it has no personal agenda, carnal desires do not taint it, it is not seeking to be seen or heard; perfect praise is directed to one and one only, the LORD God.

In paradise, the perfect Garden of the LORD, God placed man, whom He had formed and in whom He had breathed the breath of life (inspirational breath).

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed (Genesis 2:7-8).

The Hebrew word for the breath of life is *naw-sham-ah*, meaning *divine inspiration, wind, and spirit*. When Adam, the son of God (Luke 3:38), was an infant in his earthly life, God filled him with the breath of God, which inspired him. He was

placed in Eden's paradise, overflowing with divine inspiration. Adam, male and female, breathed after God. Did they have a great deal of knowledge then? No. God gave them inspired breath and His Word, the Truth: "be fruitful, multiply, replenish, subdue, and have dominion - dress, keep the garden, and leave the Tree of Knowledge alone." The "sons of God" are mature infants, as it were. This is incomprehensible to the natural mind. Nonetheless, it is God's order. The manchild born by the woman was caught up to God's throne and given a scepter of power and ruling authority. This experience shows that the "infant" was mature. Adam was an infant, as it were, yet filled with the breath of God, inspired to fulfill and accomplish God's purpose.

They possessed Spirit (breath – prophetic inspiration) and the Truth (the Living Word and the command of God). This starting point mirrors the end—the ultimate. What they had at the beginning is what we must have at the end: inspired breath, fire, power, wind, and the guiding life and Spirit of God. As infants, Adam and Eve were meant to choose the Tree of Life. Jesus is the Tree of Life that would have led them to the Father, who is all knowledge. Had mankind used the breath of inspiration, as God intended, they would have eventually gained access to Knowledge, the Eternal Father.

Every crisis, battle, opposing demonic power, and dark spiritual force will attempt to take from you the inspired, prophetic breath of God (the testimony of Jesus), and the Word of Truth. The two things that we must have to worship the Father – Spirit and Truth!

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS – THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY:

Always remember that what is divinely inspired is prophetic. Something prophetic does not mean its message is predictive or foretells the future. Rather, it means it is filled with the breath of God; it is centered on Him, about Him, for Him, to Him, and of Him. Prophetic inspiration can be expressed in words, teaching, song, music, deeds, and atmosphere. Even a person's presence can carry the breath of inspiration; a presence that shifts the focus in a room to God and His glory!

Prophecy is miraculous on multiple levels because it encapsulates past, present, and future. The prophetic anointing demonstrates God's presence, in which past and future are present in the moment. It is sickening to see how cheap, distorted,

twisted, and abused the prophetic anointing has become in the modern church. It has become a tool to glorify man on his ministry platform; it has been misused to elevate carnal humans seeking to place themselves above the people of God. What is displayed today as “the prophetic” does not resemble what God originally intended for the Spirit of Prophecy.

A true, genuine prophetically inspired word will edify, build, and encourage those to whom it ministers. Even though prophetic words can cut, root out, and rebuke, they will nonetheless always build, plant, and heal; why? Because this is the nature of the breath of God. It is life-giving.

But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. (1 Corinthians 14:3-4)

The word “prophesieth” means to speak by inspiration. When a person is filled with the Spirit, his/her words edify. A truly inspired person does not seek to “give words” of prophecy but rather seeks to be filled with God’s Spirit to such a degree that no matter when, where, or to whom they speak, prophetically inspired communication proceeds from their mouth and their deeds; communication that honors God, His will, and purpose. Seek to be an inspired one – filled with the *roo-akh* breath of God!

We are given powerful insight into the “prophetic presence” found in God’s throne room in the heavens. His presence is filled with prophetic worshippers who honor Him day and night with inspired melodies and words of adoration.

And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. (Revelation 4:6-8)

The four beasts, or living creatures, dwell around and within God's throne. They exist for nothing and nobody but God. They are full of inspired, prophetic worship that honors God's glory and presence.

A remarkable thing about the living creatures is their eyes; they have eyes before (looking forward), behind (looking back), and within (viewing the present). They demonstrate the true nature of prophecy and inspiration: past, future, and the present. A genuine prophetic word will always encapsulate yesterday, today, and tomorrow. This is the nature of God's eternal presence, in which yesterday and tomorrow are now, present, and in the moment.

The prophetic living creatures worship Him who sits on the throne, saying Holy, Holy, Holy; Holy you are yesterday, Holy you are today, and Holy you are tomorrow – You who was, and is, and is to come. Here we find the nature of prophetic worship.

Our own lives witness that we have not found the throne room of our Heavenly Father because our focus is most of the time on one dimension of time or another. Either we are bogged down and burdened about today, or the pains and experiences of yesterday have entrapped us, or we are over-burdened by the thought of tomorrow. In Hebrews we read, “*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever*” (Hebrews 13:8). One meaning of the word “same” is together or brought together as one. In Jesus Christ, yesterday, today, and tomorrow are bound together in one prophetic purpose that glorifies and honors the Eternal Father who is holy yesterday, today, and forever! If we are to worship the Father as true worshippers, we must be filled with the Spirit of inspiration and worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. (John 4:23-24)

It is mind-blowing to understand that the Father actively seeks “true worshippers” who worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. The living creatures in God's presence are an example to us of true worshippers. Their whole purpose for existing and their

deeds, actions, and words are filled with fiery inspiration that honors God yesterday, today, and tomorrow all at once.

And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. (Revelation 4:9-11)

The prophetic worship of the living creatures impacts and influences the twenty-four elders to do the same. They cast their crowns of overcoming authority before God whilst expressing how worthy he is to receive glory, honor, and power. They acknowledge that everything past, present, and future is created for His pleasure and delight. This, my dear brother and sister, is the nature of prophetically inspired worship!

Further in John's revelation we are given a deeper glimpse into the Spirit of Prophecy.

And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. (Revelation 19:10)

John's experience is profound. It is all about worship and prophecy; prophetic worship centers around God – it is the testimony of Jesus, whose only goal was the honor, pleasure, and delight of His Father.

John felt compelled to worship the angel that spoke to him; however, the angel rechanneled John's desire to embrace and speak the testimony of Jesus through prophecy. Jesus' testimony honors the Father.

For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. (John 6:38)

I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. (John 17:4)

And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. (Matthew 26:39 & 42)

These are only a few of the scriptures that show us the testimony of Jesus – always bowing to His Father’s Will in all things. This is prophetic worship – God is the reason, the center, the purpose, the all in all! This is the essence of the Spirit of prophecy – honoring the Father, bowing to His will. When this divine Spirit of inspiration comes upon me, I usually cannot form words with my understanding, even though at times the Word of God will flow out in song. However, often, the fountains of the deep within my spirit are unleashed, and through the spirit of prophecy I find myself in a state of humble submission to the Father’s Eternal will and purpose – this is the testimony of Jesus. Worship God!!

INSPIRED WORSHIP LEADERS:

I have ministered in hundreds of churches around the world. Many things stand out to me when I first walk into a church. Within minutes of hearing the worship leader, singers, and musicians, it quickly becomes obvious what level of anointing, or lack thereof, is present on the platform. An anointed song or hymn can be sung in one church by a team filled with the inspiration that accompanies it, causing the rafters to shake. The same song, sung in another church without the anointing, feels lifeless, like death eating a dry cracker. It’s not the song itself; it’s about those responsible for delivering it and its message. If the same anointing and inspiration that inspired the lyrics and melody aren’t present in those leading, it lacks life. That’s why David was careful and deliberate in choosing the men he selected as his chief musicians. They were not only talented and capable for the task; they also possessed a prophetic anointing and inspiration. This was essential for them to teach, lead, direct, and present the compositions before the LORD with power, authority, humility, and purpose. They carried the same spirit of prophetic inspiration as David.

Worship leaders serve as gatekeepers to the most sacred place within the sanctuary. They oversee the ministries God has called to lead people into His presence. They should be well prepared for this role and, most importantly, be clean vessels through whom God can pour out His Spirit and anointing. However,

today's church platforms are often filled with talented worship leaders, musicians, and singers, many of whom live double lives and lack divine inspiration. Among the congregation, deacons and deaconesses are appointed to help maintain order. They assist anyone in need and work to preserve the sanctity and reverence of the worship space (though, unfortunately, these days, they often serve coffee and donuts). An anointed deacon has eyes to watch over, guard, protect, and preserve the place of worship. I see worship leaders as platform deacons with the vital mandate to maintain the sanctity of the platform from which the anointing should flow over the people.

A worship leader, along with their team, has the authority to open and close doors in the Spirit. Through them, a service can be uplifted into God's presence or led into frivolity, carnality, and spiritual death. They are the frontline warriors who either push back demons or allow demonic powers to enter. Their role is far greater than most people realize, which is why David carefully chose his chief musicians.

The rebuilding of David's Tabernacle will inspire and empower anointed worship leaders who stand before the Lord and honor His Name. Their focus will be on the One at the center of worship, not on the people. Their attention will remain on the King and His throne.

Throughout Scripture, several servants of God were called "*A man of God.*" Among them were:

- Moses: Deuteronomy 33:1.
- Joshua: Joshua 14:6.
- Elijah: 1 Kings 17:24.
- Elisha: 2 Kings 4:25.
- Shemaiah: 1 Kings 12:22.

David was also called *a man of God*.

And certain of the priests' sons with trumpets; namely, Zechariah the son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Michaiah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph: And his brethren, Shemaiah, and Azarael, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethaneel, and Judah, Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God, and Ezra the scribe before them. (Nehemiah 12:35-36)

When Judah returned from Babylon, Nehemiah and Ezra re-established the order of worship that David, *the man of God*, had established in Zion. Davidic worship set the standard for generations to come because God loved the heart, intent, passion, and love in David's worship. May this same anointing that rested upon him rest upon us as we experience the rebuilding of David's Tabernacle. May we, too, become "men and women of God."

From the beginning of Saul's kingship and calling, God used prophetic inspiration to minister to him. The first instruction Saul received after Samuel anointed him as king was to go to the Hill of God. There, he would meet a group from the School of the Prophets.

After that thou shalt come to the hill of God, where is the garrison of the Philistines: and it shall come to pass, when thou art come thither to the city, that thou shalt meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery, and a tabret, and a pipe, and a harp, before them; and they shall prophesy: And the Spirit of the Lord will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man. (1 Samuel 10:5-6)

God knew Saul's heart; He knew he was carnal, hard-hearted, and stubborn. He was not God's choice to be king over Israel; instead, he was the people's choice. Nonetheless, God gave them what they wanted, but in the process, also offered Saul the chance to follow God's ways rather than the carnal thoughts of his own heart. When Saul encountered the young prophets coming down from the place of worship, playing on psalteries, tabrets, pipes, and harps, he was inspired and began to prophesy. God's purpose was to transform Saul into a new man, but this did not happen because Saul did not respond to the inspiration that fell upon him. Prophetically inspired words and music will not benefit a believer's heart and life unless they respond and seek after God.

We see a powerful example of inspired prophetic music in the story of David playing his harp for King Saul.

And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him. (1 Samuel 16:23)

Through Saul's disobedience to God, he unknowingly opened many doors and windows for demonic powers to enter his life. God permitted and even directed evil spirits to settle on him. This was not meant for destruction but to help Saul recognize his wrongs and his need for God. **Saul called for David, trusting in the prophetic power he carried.** As David played under the anointing of the Spirit of God, Saul was renewed and regained clarity. Sadly, Saul did not see this as an opportunity to repent and seek God. The primary purpose of inspiration is to draw us into a closer relationship and fellowship with God. Inspired words and music are not meant primarily to make us feel good but to encourage us to pursue the Lord and obey His commands. Saul failed to respond to the deliverance that came through the prophetic melodies of David's harp.

We need this type of prophetic inspiration on our church platforms, especially in this generation.

ELIJAH:

When faced with the need for direction, Elisha valued the power of prophetically inspired music to provide an environment for the prophetic word from God to flow.

But now bring me a minstrel. And it came to pass, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him. And he said, Thus saith the LORD, Make this valley full of ditches. (2 Kings 3:15-16)

The Spirit of prophecy descended upon Elisha when the inspired minstrel (one who beats a tune with the fingers on a stringed instrument) played in his presence. Prophetic worship has the power to cause the rivers of God's Word to flow freely. It is one thing for an apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, or teacher to be filled with the Word through prayer, study, and preparation. It is another thing entirely for the environment to be such that the prophetic Word can be presented to the people. Inspired music and worship open the channels for prophetic revelation to flow.