

September 19, 1996 Asher

Concerning Music in Israel

All the music of Israel must be *prophetic* in nature, whether that be in psalms, hymns or spiritual songs — Eph 5:19,20. Our songs must be filled with the praises of Elohim. He comes at the "appointed" time to meet with us and to speak with us *there* (in the place He has designated) — Ex 29:42. We come right into **HIS PRESENCE**. Our songs are directed in praise to Him, whether that be in joyful dancing or in songs of worship and exhortation — Ps 100:1-4. Some of our songs seem trite and are totally inappropriate to sing, especially in the minchah. We should re-evaluate some of our songs, and discern the spiritual content and direction our songs are taking us in as a People.

We are called as priests, to serve in His presence, standing before Him, presenting our offering to Him every morning and every evening. What we say and what we sing must be acceptable or it cannot be received. Numbers 28 is full of revelation for us concerning the morning and evening minchah — our appointed time to meet with YHWH. What we offer is "food" for our King — verse 2. This is the adoration, worship and praise we give to Him. We must present an acceptable sacrifice (Rom 12:1 &*2) to Him which is a "soothing aroma." This is something which comforts Him and *satisfies* the deepest longings of His heart — Isa 53:10,11. If there is any defect in our offering (even in our songs) He is not receiving what He deserves — our offering cannot ascend to His throne. For He says this is "**My food** for My offerings by fire..." The *continual* burnt offering was ordained in *Mount Sinai* — meaning when the Law was given. We understand that He came to fulfill the Law in us (Mt 5:17), so now we give ourselves without defect every morning and every evening — Rom 8:4; 3:31.

Rom 12:1 is absolutely invalidated if verse 2 does not accompany it. The burnt offering, of our "bodies collectively," is only made valid or acceptable if presented "daily" with the grain and drink offering — Num 28:5,7. Otherwise, it is not a "pure" (holy) offering which we present before Him. It is not a valid sacrifice without the grain and drink offering included. Offering this is what forms a common life together — Acts 2&4. It's what makes the offering whole — "holy" — set apart, distinct — Mt 3:18.

It doesn't matter how captivating or euphoric our music or words may *seem* to be, if what we present is not "**corporately**" based on pouring out our lives **daily** without complaint, "*our drink offering*" — verse 24 (2 Tim 4:6, Acts 2:46 — "day by day, every day, *morning and evening* — from the rising of the sun, even to its setting" — **Num 28:3,4**, Mal 1:11) and also that of having surrendered everything to Him — meaning what we contribute "*our grain offering*" (all our assets, possessions, energy, time, gifts and abilities — Lk 14:26,33, Mt 10:37-39, Acts 2:44,45; 4:32,34,35) then it is not a reasonable (suitable or corresponding) and acceptable sacrifice.

We no longer offer lambs twice a day, but ourselves — our "bodies" — together as one man, presenting ourselves pure (*unstained* by the world — James 1:27) and undefiled as a "holy" priesthood — 1 Pt 2:9. We are *whole* — set apart for particular use. This is what Rom 12:2 says, no longer "conformed to this world, but transformed by the renewing of our minds, thus proving what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." How could we be holy or acceptable while we still remained *conformed* to this world? What does this world contribute to us spiritually? It's so clear that the burnt offerings are the *praises* which ascend collectively from a "people" (bodies) and their lives must be based on the two essential elements of communion with Him — the drink (wine) and the grain (loaf) offering. That offering has to be pure — Mal 1:11. In every place among the tribes (where He has caused His Name to dwell among His People) the incense of praise and adoration for Him along with a "pure" grain offering will be made. We are *compelled* by the Spirit which dwells within us to give back to Him what we "owe" (*ought to give*) Him.

If the music we lift up to Him is not on this premise, then what we present before Him will be "strange fire." He will not recognize it or receive it. The spirit of prophecy must be attached to whatever we offer to Him as "food." He wants to be nourished by His people. This is soothing aroma (satisfying) to Him. He meets with us, to speak with us and we present ourselves as *living food* to Him. This is the New Covenant fulfillment of our function as Priests within His Courts.

We "stand" before Him every morning and every evening. The day will come when we really *praise and thank* Him in our midst. It will effect the way we *stand* — realizing we're right before His Throne. If we were before Him in "reality" I doubt we'd be thinking of anything else, but we must now do this in total faith. Eventually the prophets will call us together to praise and sing to Him at the beginning of each minchah. Do we have joy and anticipation in coming into His presence? If this is not our ultimate desire and joy it could indicate that we have already committed a *sin unto death* — Rev 3:3.

If there is something else which preoccupies our thoughts and desires more than coming to the appointed time to hear from Him and where we are to give Him the fruit of our lips, in songs of worship and praise, then it reveals idolatry — Heb 13:15. Whatever precedes or takes away from our *daily devotion* and the *focus* and *anticipation* of our meeting with YHWH is idolatry — 1 Jn 5:21. It is something which is highly exalted, lifted up above Him in our hearts. Some may feel they need a "vacation," that they "need to get away" for awhile. But what does this point out about a person? Is their heart centered on Yahshua and their foremost obligation in the Spirit — Rom 8:12,13. What are they seeking after anyway? What would it show about a person who didn't look forward to coming before their Master?

If our heart isn't right — perfect before Him, our songs will not ascend past the ceiling above our heads. If we're not there in our spirit and hearts, we're not there in our worship or songs either. We can't have musicians that aren't prophets or else our music is of no account. We have to have the same devotion and heart that David had that drove away evil spirits or else we are just in the flesh. We are functioning on our natural abilities, which comes to nothing. We can't let "natural" gifts lead (whether that be a natural ability in singing, writing songs, or in speaking). There aren't any natural abilities which lead without the spiritual graces to accompany it.

We can't have "moody" musicians. The prophets can't be moody — overcome by the flesh. The leaders have been designated to this task — to *astutely* watch over men's souls, lest a *transition* take place and we become dulled in our senses — Heb 5:14. Songs must be written by the Holy Spirit or we are sorcerers. Magnificent, beautiful melodies can lead us all astray if they are not inspired by the Holy Spirit. We must have songs which call us to the throne of God. All else is mere wood, hay and stubble. It's of no account. Many youth get into the songs, clapping and moving about without a second thought of the One who they are singing to. This happens because there are no prophets standing up in our midst to make a clear proclamation. We must be careful with musical gifts, especially those songs which lead us astray from our alertness and sensitivity to His presence in our midst. Like the song, "Daily Bread" for example — this song does not lead us to the throne. It has an errant spirit to it. It isn't appropriate in our minchot. Our songs need to be directed to Him *primarily*. We praise and worship before *His throne*.

Musicians must be careful of what is influencing them. What are they using as their reference point when writing songs? If their reference point in writing songs is anything other than communion and worship to the One whom they are singing to, then they will be lead astray and lead us all in the same direction. Country, bop, jazz and classical are all defiling influences in society. Just look at what those influences in society have produced. We have to have *clean* music, "a new sound", without the contamination of the world's influences. That means we have to ascend to His throne when we write songs or lyrics to music. We have to be worshipping Him ourselves and let the Holy Spirit guide us in our music. Natural ability will destroy us — whether that's in playing, singing, writing music, or in speaking merely out of our own intellect. This is all sorcery in the Body of Messiah. If this goes undetected in the communities then we will never be that generation which has yet to be born that praises Him — Ps 102:18.

Our senses must be trained to discern good and evil. Like some people can come into the kitchen and taste some tomato sauce which has slightly burned on the stove, while others take a taste out of the same pot and feel fine about it. Why is this? It's because their senses have not been trained to *distinguish the difference*. Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs are what guide us in the New Covenant. We have to be inspired by the Holy Spirit in writing songs. Country

influence, for an example, is a defilement. Can you taste the difference between a song which has that influence and one which was inspired by the Holy Spirit? Songs like this you can't take to heart. It's a dulling effect. We need songs that inspire us to praise and worship — exhortation. We shouldn't let things creep in unnoticed — Jude 4. If we have musicians that aren't prophets leading us, then we, as the Body, are of no account either (in allowing the fleshly carnal, or natural man to pave the way for us.) We need the spirit and character of the men mentioned in 1 Chronicles 16. They were "spiritual" men who led the assembly of Israel prophetically.

Works of the flesh are *obvious* to spiritual people. We have a lot of babies that can't discern solid food right now, but our senses need to be trained to discern the difference between the flesh and the Spirit. Just because people have been trained in the world, doesn't mean they should be allowed to come into the Body and function on those natural abilities and especially not to *dominate*.

Even if some of the leaders have musical graces, they can't be behind the instruments, unaware of the pulse of the Body — not detecting the spiritual needs. They carry the spiritual oversight, sensing where the Body is needing approval or is veering off from heeding the Holy Spirit. If they are always stuck behind an instrument, they can't possibly lead prophetically in the sacrifices. They will have *tunnel vision*. The Body will suffer as a result. If they happen to be spiritually gifted as musicians then their ministry must increase. They do this through investing their spiritual graces in others, raising them up to take their place. This is apostolic.

Each musician should work along in co-operation with other musicians, always having an ear to receive input from them. No one will develop his spiritual gifts in music if he stands aloof from others. He needs their fellowship and must work along in conjunction with other spiritual musicians. This is where we thrive. This should be a general mind with all the musicians in the Body. If there is any contention or dissension among the musicians who are appointed to this service in the Body, then those musicians are carnally minded, unspiritual, of no account before our Father. If they are allowed to function, their spirit will dominate and destroy the Body. Their senses have not been trained to discern the difference between good and evil, between what pleases and what grieves our Father. They will bring in defilement eventually to the Body if allowed to go on without detection. Their particular "flavor" will dominate the Body and lead it astray.

Also, generally speaking the lyrics to our music must be kept simple — without the clutter of many words which are difficult to remember. We don't want to cram an abundance of words into the songs we write, making them awkward to sing. Repetition is good where applicable. It works what we sing about into us more and causes us to ascend to His throne when we know the words confidently and therefore can sing with all our heart.

In 1 Chr 16:4-9 it speaks of the musicians that played before the Ark of God. You can be sure that these men were holy, spiritual priests of God. They were prophets, like Asaph, who prophesied through their musical instruments and songs. These kind of musical gifts build up, encourage, strengthen and give vision to the Body of Messiah. Even people in the world know the powerful effect music makes on them. It needs to be in the hands of holy priests who have the Spirit and counsel of God in their music.

The world has never heard this "*new sound*" which will come forth from the 12 tribes in these last days. It will be pure, undefiled music which has the same spirit and magnetizing effect in song as those who preach the good news. There is much ahead of us in this realm, so our Father is making sure now that we have His mind and His Spirit guiding us into all truth. We must worship Him in spirit and truth.

"True worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers." — Jn 4:23,24

Let it be that we are those who can discern truth from error. We have to make the distinguishing difference on earth ... in every way.