

Throne Room Worship Session One

Welcome to Throne Room Worship, during these moments together it's my deep desire to impart to you inspiration that will help you experience divine encounters with the King who is sitting on His throne. As a worship leader who is a harpist, I have a unique perspective on this topic especially as it relates to prayer.

The harp is one of the most ancient instruments ever conceived. In Genesis 4:21, the Bible tells us that Jubal was known as the "father of all who play the harp and flute" and most cultures have their own version of a harp. However, the harp is an instrument that finds its origin in eternity past in the realm of heaven. The book of Revelation gives us a snapshot of the presence of the harp in heaven and we see that it has a particular function in the economy of heaven, unlike any other instrument.

Despite my bias as a harpist towards elevating the use of the harp for prayer and worship, in the scriptures, the only other instrument mentioned in heaven is the trumpet. Most likely there are other instruments used in heaven, but it is clear that this instrument has been chosen by God for specific reasons that begs to ask the question "Why the harp?" There must be something about the harp that intrinsically fulfills a role that affects the physics of heaven in such a way that the plans and purposes of God are realized.

Did you know every prayer that is prayed is ushered into the Throne Room of God by the sound of an elder playing harp?

Revelation 5:8 reveals to us...

"...the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints."

This scripture reveals that you have an elder playing a harp over your prayers in heaven right now! And so we see that there is a

specific connection between prayer and harp worship. Our prayers actually appear before God in golden bowls in the form of incense. In the physics of heaven, when we pray, a particulate of some kind physically manifests itself in the bowls. King David, in Psalm 141:2, uses this metaphor **“Let my prayer be set before You as incense”**, but it appears that this is more than a metaphor. Prayers literally manifest physically in the reality of heaven. The smell literally changes the atmosphere in heaven. Many religions on earth use incense in their prayer rituals. Even with Moses, in his revelation of the order of service in his Tabernacle, and later in Solomon’s Temple, God commanded the Levities to offer incense in their religious observances. However, this use of incense pales in comparison to the real manifestation of our prayers before the Throne of God.

The use of incense on earth is a shadow to help us to understand what is really going on when we pray. Hebrews 10:1 and Colossians 2:17 refer to the law as being a shadow, which only gives a rough outline of the real item that is casting a shadow. When we understand the reality of what is happening when we pray, we have confidence that something real will happen in response. There is a real “High Priest” who will respond to our prayer as Hebrews 4:16 assures us...

“Let us, therefore, come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

When we grasp the reality of what is happening in heaven in response to our prayers, we develop confidence in the reality that God, in fact, wants to answer our prayers.

Throne Room Worship Session Two

Welcome to another installment of Throne Room Worship. In this segment we'll consider how worship opens a door to heaven and how the use of the harp can greatly enhance the effectiveness of prayer. The Apostle John tells us in 1 John 5:14-15:

14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

When we get a revelation of the willingness of the Lord to respond to our prayers, our faith grows and our prayer life becomes an exciting adventure. As we draw near to God, He draws near to us (James 4:8) and He promises that we will find Him if we search for Him with all of our heart (Jeremiah 29:13). These portions of scripture imply a high level of intimacy with God as we interact with Him in prayer. This is why the beauty of the harp is the perfect instrument to accompany our prayers and worship. Revelation 5:8 tells us that there is an interaction with incense and our prayers in the heavenly realm that is accompanied by the 24 elders playing harp around the throne of God. Is it that God simply likes the sound of harps? Apparently, He does, but for what purpose?

Let's for a moment consider the mechanism of the harp. The harp, in actuality, is a very simple device. All it is, is a string stretched across a frame of some kind. The strings are pulled tight so as to vibrate musically at a set of predetermined frequencies depending on its length and tension. (Note that the frame must be strong as a significant number of strings pull at the frame building a fair amount of kinetic energy that is stored up in the system.) That's it. Technically, it gets a bit complicated, when you add levers or pedals that activate a mechanism to change the key of the instrument (I'll share more on that when I share about my invention of a new electronic harp called the Harpella in another installment of Throne Room Worship) but essentially the harp is as simple a musical instrument as you can get.

There is something elemental and ancient about the concept.

Now for a moment, in contrast, let's consider the creation and nature of all matter in the universe. Currently, in the field of Quantum Physics, String Theory is one of the most accepted theories of all that is. Please note the humor in juxtaposing harp strings with a grand theory of everything, but bear with me (also, much more detail on this can be found in my book "Frequency of the Supernatural - "Revealing the Mysteries of God's Quantum Universe"). This theory states that everything is comprised of filaments stretched out as strings of vibrating energy. All atoms have an initial potential energy infused into them at the time of their creation. Before anything existed God used the vibration of His voice to create everything. He simply spoke and the whole universe began reverberating with the energy of His omnipotence. In a sense, like the well-tuned harp, every atom was created with an initial "tightening of the strings" when He wound up creation.

So let's connect the dots. Playing the harp sets up a harmonious vibration that, when played as worship, carries the presence of God. This is true of any form of worship as the scripture tells us in Psalm 22:3, that, **God inhabits the praises of His people**. In reality, our prayers are ushered into God's presence with the sound of the harp via golden bowls, so there is a mystical connection between harp playing and prayer. This is comparable to how a radio receives a signal at certain frequencies – interestingly, a radio signal often uses what is called a "carrier frequency" to deliver the signal to our radios. Similarly, it appears that harp worship is the medium by which our prayers are conveyed to God. Part of this beautiful mystery is the opportunity for us to reciprocate heaven with the playing of the harp here on earth.

Throne Room Worship Session Three

Thanks for joining me here at Throne Room Worship where we explore the wonder of heaven around God's Throne. Around God's throne the King of the Universe holds court and it is there that we can petition the King to effect what happens here on earth. In fact, Jesus taught us the ultimate prayer principles in Matthew 6, but in verse 10 He states how we should address our heavenly Father when we make our petitions. He taught to pray...

“Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

So, it is clear that God's objective in our prayers is to take that which is in heaven and make it available on earth. Clearly, more often than not, it is not like heaven here on earth. Here, there is sin, suffering and sickness, loneliness, anxiety and confusion, war, hate and the absence of God in the lives of people. This is not what God intended for us here on earth. Despite these consequences which have come as a result of the gift of free will, which makes it possible for us to have the capacity to choose to love – or not, God has given us the mechanism by which we can make a difference here on earth...
PRAYER!

It is important that we get into agreement with heaven. In a sense, prayer is about getting in sync with God's will for earth and echoing that back to God on this side of heaven. His instructions for the act of prayer are that we ask for His Kingdom and authority be done in the manner that it is carried out in heaven. The implication of Matthew 6:10 is that it is God's desire that the way it is in heaven is what He wants for us to petition Him for it to be here on earth. Prayer is the battleground that is where the warfare of heaven is waged for earth and we are the combatants. It is a strange paradox that this battle involves the most gentle and beautiful of instruments – the harp!

But before we discuss the Biblical use of the harp in Spiritual Warfare (as we will in a future segment) let's consider what it is like in heaven so we can grasp what it is that we are praying for when we ask God

for His will to be done on earth “as it is in heaven.”

In heaven there is a total compliance to the will of God. It is the Head Quarters of God's base of operations. The glorious truth is that it is His plan to one day relocate to planet earth (you can see this in Zechariah 14 and in Revelation 21). But until then we are to occupy here on earth till He comes (as we see Jesus using this kind of language in Luke 19:13 KJV) But for now, the primary weapon of our warfare is prayer. So what is it that through our prayers we are to apprehend in heaven and bring to earth? In heaven there is only love and beauty, eternal life and joy unspeakable. It is the place where there is no lack and the location of the bank of His riches in glory that we are to draw from to finance the Kingdom of God on earth. Paul the Apostle concurs in Philippians 4:19

“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

Heaven is a place where every tear of sorrow has been wiped away and there is only perfect harmony. That is why harp worship is such a powerful mechanism for effective prayer. There is no other instrument that is so associated with heaven than the harp. Just for its sheer sonic beauty, the harp is hard to make anything but a harmonious sound with. Seeing that challenge in prayer is to get what is in heaven down to earth in as full a measure as possible, it is worth considering this neglected mechanism and explore its potential for achieving this goal.

Throne Room Worship Session Four

Welcome to Throne Room Worship and our discussion of the dynamic of how our prayer and worship touches heaven and earth. As a psalmist, harpist and Bible teacher, I bring a unique perspective to this topic.

I find it strange that, even though the use of the harp is clearly evident in the Bible, both in Old and New Testaments, and the model for worship in the Tabernacle of David and Solomon's Temple and in heaven itself is documented, the harp has not had a noticeable role in corporate worship since the second temple was destroyed in 70 AD. I will address this in a future episode of Throne Room Worship. Regardless, at this point in our discussion, it is worth contemplating the qualities of the harp that expresses the heart of God that has led to His choosing this divine instrument that is intrinsically involved in the central activity of receiving our prayers in heaven.

So, what is it about the harp that draws both the heart of God and the heart of man? In a previous episode of Throne Room Worship we have already considered the comparison of the vibration of the strings with the vibration of the strings of energy in Quantum String Theory. The harp is a metaphor for the very fabric of the universe resonating with the frequencies of God's song itself. The scripture tells us in Col 1:16-17

16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

When we call things into existence through our prayers we are doing the same thing as our Heavenly Father as children with the same spiritual DNA. Mark 11:23 challenges us to do this when it says...

“For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart,

but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.”

When we worship in Spirit and in Truth, our worship resonates with the heart of God and we synchronize with Him in faith. We are getting into agreement with heaven when we magnify God and release our faith, recognizing that He is more than enough to meet our needs.

Specifically, when the harp is played in worship, it is synchronizing with the same sound that is being generated around the Throne of God according to Revelation 5:8. This is true of all worship on any instrument including our voices, but there is something wonderful happening when we use harps. It's like using the same equipment on both sides of the lines of communication with heaven. Similarly, like a fiber optics line on the Internet, we are uploading our prayers using a high-speed connection with the same compatible gear sending and receiving. When we use harps in our prayer and worship, we are actually creating a scenario where it truly is “on earth as it is in heaven”.

In addition to the beautiful sound of the harp, which aesthetically exemplifies the culture of heaven, the harp is an instrument that has a meditative quality to it. What makes it so conducive to spiritual reflection is its delicate sound. Unlike, for instance, the trumpet, which can be used with a brash strident tone – perfect for announcements calling people to attention and even a call to war, the harp has a soft lovely voice. You must quiet yourself and tune in to the sound of the harp to properly appreciate the quality of the notes and chords being played.

Throne Room Worship Session Five

Welcome to Throne Room Worship. Today I want to share with you about the most important thing that you can develop in your life. I'm referring to cultivating the ability to hear God's voice and the role the harp can play in this wonderful aspect of our relationship with God.

The scriptures tells us in 1 Kings 19 the story of Elijah who is hiding in a cave. Here the voice of the Lord is not found in the wind, earthquake or fire, but in a still small voice. This is the way the Lord speaks to us. Like listening for the sound of a harp, we must get away from a noisy environment and listen carefully for that inner voice that speaks directly to our minds. We must dial down all distractions and focus into a quiet place where we can hear that still small voice. That is why the harp is well suited for times of prayer. Its delicate tone is reflective of the tender voice of the Lord that speaks in gentle strains rather than in loud peals of thunder.

So it is with the art of hearing God's voice. To hear God's voice, like sheep, we must lay down beside the still waters. Hearing His voice is a promise that Jesus made in John 10:27 when He declared "My sheep hear My voice" so this ability to listen and comprehend his voice must be considered the norm for us as believers. This is clearly Biblical as in 2 Kings 3:16 we learn that the voice of God is released with the sound of the harp. Before Elisha speaks the thoughts of God over the kings of Israel he calls for a harpist. Conveniently, there happened to be one at hand, which tells us that at that time in Israel's history, the consecrated harpist was a viable occupation! Some translations use the word "minstrel" but it is more accurately rendered "Harpist". We observe this in 2 Kings 3:16 (NIV)

"But now bring me a harpist." While the harpist was playing, the hand of the LORD came on Elisha"

It, therefore, makes sense that as believers intent on effective prayer, it would be reasonable to use harps when attempting to hear God's voice. For God is not only wanting our communication to flow up to Him, He also wants to speak to us as a conversation. One-sided

prayer where we are doing all the talking can be ineffectual. Prayer is powerful when God speaks to us and we receive our directives during two-way conversation. As the Lord leads us into how we are to pray, and he communicates what is His will concerning our prayer, we are able to pray what He is desiring and we have the assurance that we will have our prayers answered. This divine cooperative interaction of our will and God's is the key to effective prayer. Psalm 37:4 says:

“Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.”

I've always seen this verse as a two-edged sword. God imparts the desire for an understanding of His will when we delight ourselves in Him and our will is in line with His. And, as our will is in line with His desires, our desires are His and His ours and we receive an affirmative answer when we pray. This divine interplay of our wills takes place when we have our minds renewed in God's word.

John 15:7 confirms this when it says...

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.”

There is no doubt that the playing of the harp in worship creates an atmosphere for God's presence. And where God is present, He speaks. My understanding of this was established early in my Christian experience when in my home fellowship as a teenager, Mary Goddard, founder of Christian Services Association provided a strong foundation. Later, when Patricia King took over the organization, I took all her training in the Gifts of the Spirit but I will always remember what she taught on the heart of God. She shared, that every time when God's people gather, God always wants to speak to His children. This has always served as a motivator for me that I am always ready to bring an inspired word for people as I've traveled and ministered on my harp. I always expect God to bring a word of encouragement, exhortation or comfort as He always wants to show His love through this wonderful gift.

Throne Room Worship Session Six

Welcome to Throne Room Worship where we share the secrets of the Kingdom of God and the keys to unlocking the presence and power of the King who sits on the Throne of heaven.

Often when I am ministering with the harp, before the meeting starts, it's my habit to wander throughout the space that the ministry is taking place in and, with the use of a wireless microphone system, begin to play and fill the environment with worship. There is a tangible shift in the atmosphere as the sound of the harp rises to heaven as an inspired prayer. Scriptures tells us that...

“God inhabits the praise of His people” (Psm 22:3).

So what's the difference between simply playing a musical instrument, for instance, to entertain people, or offering the same musical notes and rendering those notes as praise? The difference is the intentionality of your heart. It is not a sin to play music to entertain, however, when the intention in your heart is to give praise to God, the music becomes transcendent and God manifests Himself in a manner where His very presence fills the room.

Similarly, when it is the intention of believers to gather in His Name (this can happen even when going for a coffee), God is present. Jesus reveals to us in Matthew 18:18-20...

18 “Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 “Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

Notice that intense spiritual power for God's purposes to be done is released when the intention is focused to “bind”, “agree” or “gather” in His Name. Jesus promises that He would be present when we are unified in our intent of agreement to welcome Him. Wonderfully, where the Lord is present, the benefits of heaven are also present. Where the King is, so is the dominion of His Kingdom. In His dominion, there is no lack, no anxiety, no sickness, and no demon that can stand in His presence!

So it is when I play my harp, that it is my intension to bring the

presence of God. The wonderful things that take place after His presence is felt, is a result of the power and authority of the Lord who is present. My job as a consecrated harpist is to bring people into His presence and the rest is up to Him. It is like the men who brought to Jesus a paralyzed man through the roof on a stretcher in Luke 5:17-39. They must have said to themselves, "if we just can get our friend into the presence of Jesus, then we know that our friend will be healed!" Their faith was revealed when they showed the intention of their hearts.

We have an opportunity to create an environment where God can manifest His presence. As a harpist, I have a calling to encourage the use of the harp to help people experience the wonderful person of the King of the Universe. This can be achieved by anyone who is deeply in love with their Creator and is worshiping in Spirit and in Truth. It actually doesn't matter what kind of instrument you use, as long as it's your intention to truly worship God. But I'm persuaded that there is a special place in the Kingdom of God that is reserved for the restoration of the harp to be used to emulate the music of heaven.

Throne Room Worship Session Seven

Welcome to Throne Room Worship where we examine what is taking place around the throne of the King of the Universe and how worship affects what happens here on earth. Today I'd like to share with you about the use of worship music as it relates to spiritual warfare. I also want to specifically explain how the scriptures single out the use of the harp as, what we might call "God's secret endtimes weapon" that is being revealed at this time in the history of the church.

What do we mean by spiritual warfare? The Bible clearly shows us that what we see with our eyes is not that which is ultimately real. We read in **2 Kings 6:13-17** an amazing story that attests to the reality of spiritual warfare. Here we find the servant of Elijah troubled by the fact that, in the natural, they were surrounded by an army sent to capture them. Elijah asks God to open the eyes of his servant so that he can see that there is an angelic army that greatly out numbers the earthly army. If we could see into the realm of the Spirit we would be encouraged by the fact that there is a heavenly force that is fighting on our behalf. We can confidently say, as it says in Romans 8:31, **"If God is for us, who can be against us?"**

We can access the promise of spiritual authority in our prayers when we understand the power of worship as it relates to spiritual warfare. Let me give you another example. In 2 Chronicles 20 we find the story of Jehoshaphat being threatened by the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir. A prophet Jahaziel, a Levitical musician who was the one of the sons of Asaph, exhorts the Children of Israel in verse 17, to **"stand still and see the salvation of the Lord"**. He also says in verse 20... **"Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper."** And in verse 21 we find out what happened, it says... **"And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the Lord, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the Lord, For His mercy endures forever." 22 Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.**

Which brings us to The Biblical use of the Harp in Spiritual Warfare. In Isaiah 30 we find a most amazing little known reference to the harp as it relates to spiritual warfare. The passage states:

29 You shall have a song...As in the night when a holy festival is kept,... 30 The Lord will cause His glorious voice to be heard, And show the descent of His arm, With the indignation of His anger And the flame of a devouring fire, With scattering, tempest, and hailstones. 31 For through the voice of the Lord Assyria will be beaten down, As He strikes with the rod. 32 And in every place where the staff of punishment passes, Which the Lord lays on him, It will be with tambourines and harps;

This portion of scripture indicates that harp music creates an environment where the “word of the Lord” is released. It is with the sound of the harp that God’s judgements and proclamations are released... His plans and When His purposes are declared by us... they come to pass. This may sound a bit far fetched but it is confirmed in Psalm 149. **1 Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, And His praise in the assembly of saints. 2 Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. 3 Let them praise His name with the dance; Let them sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp. Then onto verse 6 it says... **Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, And a two-edged sword in their hand, 7 To execute vengeance on the nations, And punishments on the peoples; 8 To bind their kings with chains, And their nobles with fetters of iron; 9 To execute on them the written judgment— This honor have all His saints.****

Psalm 149 confirms that it is our privilege and responsibility as His combatants to enter into spiritual warfare for the souls of men and the Kingdom of God here on earth. Notice in verse 3 the reference to the timbral and harp. And in verse 6 onward that the purpose of the high praises of God is to pronounce the edicts of God and to bind the spiritual forces that influence the nations so that God’s written judgements are accomplished. But this is not for just a handful of select individuals, no, **This honor have all His saints.**

Throne Room Worship Session Eight

Welcome to Throne Room Worship where we examine how what happens in the heavenly realm impacts us here on earth. In our times together I love to share my perspective as a harpist and worship leader, however, many of the principles that are discussed are relevant to all believers, especially those who are musicians and worship leaders.

In past installments I've emphasized how the harp is a spiritual instrument that is Biblical and that I believe God wants to restore its use in ministry. And today is no exception. So today I'd like to discuss a passage of scripture that is very familiar as it relates to King David the Sweet Psalmist of Israel. That designation is found in 2 Samuel 23:1.

Most of us are aware that before David became King he was a shepherd... so he had a lot of time on his hands and used that time to worship God on his harp. And so we read in 1 Samuel 16 how the servants of King Saul suggested to Saul that when he was troubled by a "distressing spirit" a harpist should be sought out to play for him and so be well. And it just so happened that one of Saul's servant had heard about David and described him as "**a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD is with him.**" That's a pretty good resume to play before the King of Israel.

And so David is brought to Saul and in the last verse of chapter 16 we see that **David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him.** So we can conclude that there was something about David's harp playing that brought a measure of deliverance to Saul. In fact scripture teaches in David's Psalm 37:7 **You shall surround me with songs of deliverance.**

I have a suspicion that the reason why the anointed musician,

particularly a harpist, has the power to bring deliverance to a troubled soul is not just because the music is soothing. Surely, the demonic host, whose previous state was as angels around the throne of God, recognize the sound of heaven... the worship of God – on the harp! It reminds them of where they were and where they are going – and so they flee at that sound as light casts away darkness. I'd like to suggest that we can still have this effect of relieving people who are troubled by spirits with the sound of songs of deliverance, especially as it is played on the harp.

Throne Room Worship Session Nine

Welcome to Throne Room Worship where we examine how the heavenly realm converges with life here on earth. Today's discussion references an unusual story about how Saul was selected to be king by Samuel the prophet, and the role the harp played in this historic moment. It's part of my calling to help to restore the use of the harp in our time – which was a significant aspect of the ministry of music in the ancient setting of the Bible. So I hope that from this teaching you'll walk away with an encouraging word of truth and an appreciation for the Biblical use of the harp.

The back story for this divine encounter in the life of Saul is found in 1 Samuel chapters 9 and 10. Here we learn of Saul's quest to recover his father's lost donkeys. After much futile effort, Saul and his servant find themselves at a loss for knowing what to do and finally think of consulting the village seer, who happens to be the prophet Samuel. The Lord had already spoken to Samuel and in-turn assured Saul and his servant that the donkeys had been found, but shocked Saul by informing him of the Lord's intent of setting him up as King of Israel.

Imagine being on a fruitless journey, not finding something you are searching for and then being surprised by stumbling onto something so amazing that your life is completely changed. This is the God we serve and we can trust that even when things aren't going well that God may have something wonderful in store.

After anointing Saul to be king with the traditional pouring out of a flask of oil on his head, Samuel tells him what is about to happen in his life as we read in 1 Samuel 10: 5 and 6:

And there, as soon as you come to the city, you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with harp, tambourine, flute, and lyre before them, prophesying. 6 Then the Spirit of the LORD will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.

This meeting of prophets with instruments begs for the question to be asked, “What was this random group of prophets doing wandering through the country side with harps and other instruments, prophesying?” Apparently, “prophetic harpist” was a job description that was an actual part of Bible-time occupations. In fact we read about the “Sons of the Prophets” throughout the books of 1st and 2nd Kings which refers to a group of people who were members of a prophetic order or guild. This was during the time of Elijah and Elisha and harp training must have been a part of the guild’s skill sets.

We also read in 2 Kings 3:15 which documents a critical moment when Elisha is called to prophesy for the Kings of Israel...”But now bring me a harpist. While the harpist was playing, the hand of the LORD came on Elisha.” And so Elisha prophesies the victory for the armies of Israel through divine intervention that no one could have planned. What is interesting about this moment is that Elisha calls for harpist. Why? Did Elisha simply like the sound of the harp? It is because Elisha understood the spiritual significance of the use of the harp.

In a lesser known portion of scripture we find the definitive connection between harp playing and the release of the Word of the Lord. In Isaiah 30 verses 30 to 32 we learn that

The LORD will cause His glorious voice to be heard...

31 For through the voice of the LORD Assyria will be [i]beaten down,
As He strikes with the rod. 32 And in every place where the staff of
punishment passes,

Which the LORD lays on him, It will be with tambourines and harps;

So we see that the connection with the playing of the harp and the release of the Word of the Lord is a reality that is clearly a Biblical concept.

I find this to be true in my own ministry. Often, when I have played my harp in a church service, something is stirred in the preacher and

they begin to have the freedom to minister the Word of God in a free-flowing manner. In many churches, it is the custom for the musicians to play softly in the background while the minister is sharing God's Word, whether it's an organ, keyboard, worship team or harp! The sound of the harp brings an atmosphere where the Word of the Lord is released even as was the custom during the times of Elisha. Why not revive this for today!

One thing is for sure, when the prophetic harpists were playing over Saul, the scripture teaches us that in 1 Samuel 10:6 that the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and he prophesied with them and he turned into another man. I believe that when anointed musicians play to the glory of God, the Spirit of God can inhabit those praises and God's presence can be made manifest. And where God is present, he wants to speak to His children.... And when God speaks, our lives are transformed. It's especially wonderful when God speaks into our lives and gives us fresh inspiration for the future of our lives and ministries.

Throne Room Worship Session Ten

Welcome to Throne Room Worship where we examine the scriptures for the mysteries of heaven and how we can bring what is there – here to earth. When we think of heaven, we think of an awesome place where every tear has been wiped from our eyes. It's a place of perfect peace, where there is no sickness or lack or grief. But what is so marvelous is that it is God's desire that the way it is in heaven... it will be here on earth. Jesus himself challenges us to pray... Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, here on earth as it is in heaven. So, as Jesus teaches us to pray in this manner, there is the great hope that there is a distinct possibility that this can come to pass and be a reality, right now.

Sadly, the way that it is in heaven often does not appear here on earth. But this does not mean that it is God's desire that it remain that way. In fact, scripture teaches us in Matthew 11:12 that "the Kingdom of God suffers violence, and the violent take it by force". The implication is that despite a very real opposition to the Kingdom of God, we are to aggressively extend the Kingdom in our prayers of intercession.

The phrase "Your Kingdom come", is a powerful idea. We are to beseech the Living God that His power and influence come to earth in the same manner as it is in heaven. Some people think that this idea of God's Kingdom coming is something that will take place in the distant future. Some day Jesus will return and set all things right. Though this is true, I believe that the Lord's prayer indicates that we shouldn't be waiting for this to take place before we believe for God's intervention on this earth in our prayers.

So it's a battle that is taking place and part of the warfare is expressed in our prayers of intercession. One of the keys to effective spiritual warfare is found in the Lord's Prayer in the opening lines... "Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be Your Name." The word "hallowed" means for the Name of the Lord to be revered and respected... for honor to be given to His Holy Name... for His name to be praised! One of the most exultant ways to revere the Name of God is to

worship Him with music. One could accurately replace the phrase “hallowed be Your Name” with “may your name be praised”. The rendering of Psalm 45:17 from the Expanded Bible puts it this way...
”I will make your name famous from now on, so people will praise you forever and ever.”

When we sing to the Lord we are entering into an act that is indeed that which is constantly taking place in heaven. We begin to act out the reality that as it is in heaven, we are actively, and aggressively making it that way on earth. One might say, what difference does it make if we sing out a song in praise of God here on earth. Does it really have any effect on the troubles of this world?

There are a number of examples in the Bible that definitively says that praise can make the difference between life and death, but here is one example from the book of Acts chapter 16.

25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose. 27 The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!” 29 The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” 31 They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. 33 At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized.

That is a pretty amazing result from the singing of praises. Literal chains were broken off the prisoners. I’d like to suggest that as we “Hallow” the name of our Lord, it has the potential to loose the

bonds of wickedness and set the captives free in the Name of Jesus.

As a harpist and a psalmist, I have had the opportunity to minister in prisons. Though I'm sure the prisoners would have liked to have seen the prison doors flung wide open, I have definitely seen the doors of their hearts opened to the Lord. Similarly, I have taken teams of my harp students into a hospital. Part of the training I give is to teach how to play the harp using the Bible as our lyric sheet singing the scriptures responsively. In one such time as the team was echoing back Psalm 23 and Isaiah 53, I found the patients in the room also singing back... "we like sheep have gone astray – but Lord I want you to be my Shepherd..." Perhaps some were saved that day simply singing out their heart to the Lord and receiving Him as their Shepherd.

Throne Room Worship Session Eleven

I invite you again to another installment of Throne Room Worship, where we look deeply into what is going on in heaven and how that affects us here on earth. Today, I'd like to take you an amazing portion of scripture that gives us some insights into as to what it sounds like around the throne of God and how this is connected to the plans of God in this earthly dimension. We find a description of a specific moment that is playing out in the book of Revelation chapter 14. Let's read it from verse 1 to 3...

Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. 2 And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. 3 They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.

This portion of scripture is quite mysterious, who are these people? And where are they? Revelation Chapter 7 identifies these 144,000 people as being representatives of "all the tribes of the children of Israel". So they are Jewish believers who, as it reveals in Revelation 14:4 **"These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men"**. However, as to their location it seems that there is a rending of the veil between heaven and earth. On one hand, verse one identifies their location as Mount Zion, that is Jerusalem on earth. Then on the other hand, in verse two, we see right into heaven, or shall we say we hear from heaven... "A voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps."

Again, from other discussions we have had, we witness the harp playing a special role in the happenings of heaven. What is going on here? In verse 3 we are told...

They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.

Who are the THEY? This unusual group of people are the ones who are playing harps. When John heard “the sound of harpists playing their harps”, THEY are the ones who are singing “a new song before the throne”. How could they be in Jerusalem and be before the throne at the same time?

Though there is a specific telling of an end-times event taking place in this prophetic scripture, that I will not try to explain in our current discussion, there is a mystery that is unfolding here that we can draw some encouraging conclusions that can apply to our lives today. It seems that scripture is describing that this group of people are having a divine encounter in both heaven and earth simultaneously. There is precedence for this in scripture where we read in Ephesians 2:6 That God **“made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus”**.

So it is that we as believers are here on the earthly plain, but in some transcendent way are also seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Might I suggest, that we are indeed seated with him in a dynamic spiritual way, far above all principalities and powers. God wants us to hold on to this heavenly perspective and realize that when we call upon his name we can exercise spiritual authority over all the forces of darkness on this side of heaven.

Throne Room Worship Session Twelve

Welcome again to Throne Room Worship, where we consider the realities of heaven as we seek to translate these realities to right here on earth. Jesus said in Matthew 11:12 **“the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force”**. There is a very real battle for the hearts and minds of people here on earth that God is trying to bring His heavenly Kingdom to. He even uses the word “violence” to try to describe the battle that is going on.

As our discussions in Throne Room Worship have often taken us into the Book of Revelation, it is here that we have been given an opportunity to see what really is going on behind the scenes of this earthly existence. Here is a poignant example of this in Revelation 12: 7-12:

7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. 12 Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.”

Regardless of your end-times theology it is clear from this portion of scripture that there was a tremendous battle that took place in heaven at some time in history. And it is also clear that satan and his demons have been cast out of heaven, and thrown here to earth, only to trouble its inhabitants for a short time. You could say that

the battle for earth is in full swing. However, we have the assurance that salvation and strength have come to us and the very Kingdom of God is at hand because of the power of Christ, our Messiah.

We are even told how we are to overcome this powerful adversary. We overcome by the blood of the Lamb, by the word of our testimony and by not loving our lives to the death. What does this mean to us on a practical level. It is true that the Kingdom of God suffers violence by the hand of those who are controlled by Satan and his minions. But we are to rise up in strength knowing that our sins have been forgiven and we have been made children of the Living God by the blood sacrifice of the Lamb of God on the cross. In fact, as children of the King, we are to take this royal authority and pray that His will be done as it is in heaven. In fact our ultimate destiny as believers is to rule with our King for it says in Revelation 5:9 and 10 as the redeemed sing out around the throne with the sound of harps...

9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

In heaven, the powers of darkness have been banished, and it is our job as those who are to rule and reign with our King to, in a sense, take the Kingdom of God to this world in a forceful way. As it is in heaven, where the forces of darkness have been evicted, it can and ultimately will be on earth. And as Jesus has implied when we pray we are to have faith for the Kingdom of God to come, not only for when He returns, but for as much of heaven as possible, to come to earth right now, in this lifetime.

Not only are we to pray, but we are to extend the Kingdom of God in whatever sphere of influence that Lord has given us. We are to take the word of our testimony and share it with those around us with the transforming reality of God's coming Kingdom. However, the only way that this will happen, is, if we do not love our lives to the death.

This means that whatever creature comforts or prestige we hold on to must be laid down as we pick up our cross and follow our King. What does this specifically mean for you? That can only be between you and the Lord Himself. All I can say is “Where else can I go, He alone has the words of eternal life” and “what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and lose, well... everything!”

Let me offer one last thought on overcoming as gloriously sung by the saints in heaven. Their message is clear, but the very act of worship is a powerful component of their victory. I believe that when we as believers, lift up our voice in praise, even prior to the manifestation of the victory we seek, that this is an effective means to access the power of God in a given situation.

Throne Room Worship Thirteen

Welcome to another installment of Throne Room Worship where we catch a glimpse of what's going on in heaven and how that transforms the way we impact life here on earth. Often, in our time together, I refer to the scriptures with the unique perspective as a Psalmist and harpist. Despite being in danger of projecting a stereotypical heavenly image of a saint floating on a cloud playing a harp, there is good reason to examine the scriptures to see what is really going on in heaven and what that means to us.

In past segments we have mentioned the elders around the Throne of God who are playing harps as they receive the prayers of the saints in Revelation 5:8. We have also noted the remarkable moment when the 144,000 are playing harps revealing the awesome orchestra of harping in heaven along with the sound of many waters in Revelation 14. But today I'd like to highlight the beginning of Revelation 15 where John the Apostle says:

I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues—last, because with them God's wrath is completed. 2 And I saw what looked like a sea of glass glowing with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and its image and over the number of its name. They held harps given them by God 3 and sang the song of God's servant Moses and of the Lamb.

John says that this scene is “another great and marvelous sign” so no doubt he was overwhelmed by the heavenly vision he was having. He sees the angels dispensing God's judgments on the earth. He sees the glowing fire of the sea of glass and the victorious saints. But here we also see an unusual reward given to these overcoming men and women of God. They are given harps.

This quote from the New International Version translates the phrase “harps given them by God” and in the New King James version it is rendered “harps of God”. Any way that you say it, it was God's

way of honoring these saints by giving them a harp. In essence, you could say that God is a harp maker, and what wonderful instruments they must be! Now it doesn't say that they were made of gold as the Christmas carol "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" would suggest, but they, no doubt, are magnificent instruments unlike anything found on earth. Perhaps, all the imagery of heaven, such as the streets of gold mentioned in Revelation 21:21, led to the assumption that the harps in heaven are made of gold. Here is that quote "The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass". Regardless – the sound of these heavenly harps must surely be superior to the most beautifully build earthly harp.

I have been inspired by this scripture as I have invented a new electronic harp called the Harpella. Apart from the many high tech features this innovative instrument offers, its most striking feature is its appearance. It's made of clear acrylic and its prism-like quality lights up with the colors of the rainbow as you play it. To me, this is my way of trying to reflect the awesomeness of these heavenly harps as seen in the book of Revelation. Like those streets of gold, the HARPELLA can literally be made to glow with a gold color... "pure as transparent glass". I hope to inspire heavenly worship to a higher level here on earth by introducing this creation of a new instrument to glorify God with. (see www.harptronics.com)

But what does all this mean to us as we examine this extraordinary scene in heaven from John's account? It means that God rewards those who stand for Him, especially in the face of extreme persecution. Jesus confirms this in Luke 6:22-23 in the well known portion of scripture The Beatitudes...

Blessed are you when men hate you, And when they exclude you, And revile you, and cast out your name as evil, For the Son of Man's sake. 23 Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven,

This encourages us to live our lives fully for God despite the fact that we will be rejected by people who have rejected God. Consider this,

if we have God's approval who needs the approval of man? It's God who will reward us, not just in heaven, but here on earth. As it is declared to us in Mark 10:29-30

29 “Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel 30 will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.

I hope that this encourages you to live more fully surrendered to God. Perhaps, it wouldn't be a bad idea to learn how to play the harp now, so that when God rewards you with a harp, for your sacrificial life lived for Him, you'll know how to play it! I'm sure that even if you haven't taken any harp lessons on this side of heaven, that you'll have all of eternity to learn. But it couldn't hurt to learn now...

Throne Room Worship Fourteen “Heaven is our Home”

Thank you for joining me for another episode of Throne Room Worship where we turn our hearts towards heaven and spend a few moments contemplating the awesome beauty found in the presence of God. You know the title of this segment implies a sense of having a heart for heaven... But sometimes people may accuse us as being so Heavenly minded that we are no earthly good. I'd like to make the argument that the more we are tuned into the reality of heaven, the more good we are to the people here on this earth.

The scriptures clearly indicate that heaven is our true home. Hebrews 13:14-21 tells us:

14 For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. 15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. 16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Here the admonition is to seek the city that is to come, that Heavenly Jerusalem that will one day intersect heaven and earth. But until then we are to “do good and to share” and we know that such sacrifices that touch the needs of our fellow man, God is indeed well pleased with. Let's also consider what 1 John 3:1-3 says:

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

John paints a picture of the glory that is to be revealed in us. It's heavenly transformation, that is to take place, that we long for as believers. But while we anticipate this moment the scripture tells us

that this “hope”, has a purifying effect in our lives. Being heavenly minded causes a positive change in our lives right now. This makes us better people, with a more compassionate attitude. This gives us the tendency to want to live our lives in a manner that pleases the Lord. When we have a heavenly perspective we live out the love of God that is alive in our hearts and we can't help but express this to the world around us.

So as Hebrews challenges us: **“let's continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.**

And while we are taken up in this heavenly worship we won't...
“...forget to do good and to share”.

Throne Room Worship Fifteen Bezalel

Welcome to Throne Room Worship where we discuss how the realities of heaven intersect with our life here on earth. Today I'd like to examine the powerful role that art can play in expression of the Kingdom of God here on earth. Art is the language of the heart and God knew that we would respond to Him through the myriad of ways that sound and color are perceived. God himself is the master artist having created the universe in an awesome display – and creation, with all its sights and sounds, calls us to the Creator. Romans 1:20 states:

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.

So God Himself declares that His creation is evidence enough of His existence, so much so that unbelieving mankind is without excuse.

Now as a harpist, my primary art form is music. The harmonious interaction of tones and frequencies blend together as an act of worship and God inhabits my praise. The music is a carrier of the intent of my worship and God promises to make His presence manifest anytime two or more gather in his name. In fact, I have invented a harp called the Harpella, that combines the use of sound and light that can synchronize in tandem to produce an experience that enhances worship in a unique way. The playing of this electronic harp is an artistic expression, both sonically and visually, which is intended to express the Glory of God.

The Bible actually gives us an amazing example of an artisan creating a work that God Himself intended to use as a means to manifest Himself through. This masterful work of artisanship is of course the Ark of the Covenant. We read in the book of Exodus, chapter 31, that God specifically chooses a man named Bezalel for this great work of art. This incident is actually the first time in scripture that identifies someone who is “filled with the Spirit of God”, and in this case, it is

for a specific divine task. Here is the scripture found in Exodus 31:1 to 5:

Then the LORD said to Moses, 2 “See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, 3 and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills— 4 to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, 5 to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts.

The Lord goes on to say of Bezalel and his team that “I have given ability to all the skilled workers to make everything I have commanded you”.

This crafting of all the items used to create a place of worship where God’s very presence dwells is a foreshadowing of something that is actually real in the realm of the heavenlies. Hebrews 9:23 and 24 reveals to us:

23 It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

Here we see that the holy places that Bezalel and his artisan associates were tasked to create with their hands are only “figures of the true”. Our Messiah, Jesus, has in fact, entered into the real Holy Place in heaven itself. Instead of the Holy of Holies, where the Ark of the Covenant was placed to receive the blood of an animal sacrifice, once a year on the Day of Atonement, we see Jesus, our atonement, going into the Throne Room with his very own blood.

This brings us to an understanding that Bezalel had created a work of art that was a reflection of the reality of heaven. In its day, the Ark of the Covenant was the place that God chose to physically

manifest Himself here on earth. Here, heaven and earth intersected. In this one place, on a gold mercy seat, the Glory of God would shine between the depictions of the angelic cherubim and there God would speak. So it is with all works of art that have been birthed under the unction of the Holy Spirit, that it carries with it a touch of heaven. It is such art, whether it is music or visual art, a drama or written work, that can touch us on a deep level and reveal wondrous aspects of the Kingdom of God. God will speak through our consecrated art.

Sadly, though this world is filled with gifted artists of every discipline, more often than not, a godless message is broadcast through all forms of media. Even though God gives these amazingly talented people these artistic gifts, the gifts are given by God without repentance or restriction from their Creator. We are all given a free will and it is up to us to decide how we use these God-given gifts. Even satan himself is described as a glorious being who worshipped God with musical instruments built into his body. It's no wonder that he knows how to masterfully influence the arts of this world for his own sinister goals.

This being said, it's important not to reject the artistic medium that carries evil intent. The art is just the neutral container that delivers the goods – good or bad. Rather, we as believers ought to embrace excellence in art in order to speak that language of our culture and so convey the message of the Kingdom of God in a relevant way. The church is guilty of presenting the life-giving Gospel in dated and religious packaging so that the message seems irrelevant to the jaded ear of today's society. Instead, let's encourage the thousands of artists who serve the Living God with their gift of art. Let's allow the Spirit of God, like Bezalel, to fill our anointed artisans to be the reflectors of the heavenly realities that the Kingdom of God so desperately needs in order to change the nations.

Throne Room Worship Session Sixteen

Welcome to Throne Room Worship where we explore the realities of heaven and how the dynamics of that dimension can dramatically influence this earthly realm. The truth is, what we see with our eyes is not that which is ultimately real. Consider 2 Kings 6:17 where Elisha and his servant are surrounded by an earthly army...

17 And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see.” Then the LORD opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

There is a spiritual dimension that God wants us to tap into so that His will can be done here on earth. And He is waiting for us to step up and become powerful warriors who, through our prayers of intercession, are influencing the nations. Jesus Himself exhorts us to pray specifically that His Kingdom come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven! He would not have challenged us to pray in this manner, unless there was the distinct possibility that it would, in fact, be answered.

The Bible clearly gives us the mandate to pray for the leaders of our nations. The son of Billy Graham, Franklyn Graham, says that “interceding for those in authority is not an option,” when quoting 1 Timothy 2:1-2:

“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty”.

Franklyn Graham fuller states that “It is a biblical command that we are to obey.”

The definitive example of this kind of nation-changing intercession is seen in Daniel 10. Daniel had read the word from God by the prophet Jeremiah concerning the return of the children of Israel

after 70 years of exile. Consequently, he set his face to pray for 21 days and as a result of his prayers an angelic messenger, was released who declares in verse 12...

“Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.

The angel goes on to explain the shift in the then geo-political world according to the will of God that came as a result of Daniel's intercession. The angel also told of the intense spiritual battle that took place before he was able to breakthrough and deliver his message. But, just in case you think that this kind of nation shaking prayer is reserved for only prophets of old or perhaps just the spiritual giants of our time, let's see what the scripture reveals to us about this. In Psalm 149 we see a description of the high praises of God coming out of our mouths and the playing of musical instruments in praise, particularly the harp! It says...

Verse 3 Let them sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp... Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, And a two-edged sword in their hand, 7 To execute vengeance on the nations, And punishments on the peoples; 8 To bind their kings with chains, And their nobles with fetters of iron; 9 To execute on them the written judgment — This honor have all His saints.

We are all to have a part in exercising spiritual authority over the powers that govern the land. It is our responsibility to search out God's word and make a declaration of His “written judgment” as we enter into the high praises of God. Notice the important role that praise plays as we bind the kings and nobles. Surely, we are not addressing earthly powers, but the rules of spiritual wickedness in high places according to Ephesians 6:12

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

I exhort you to rise to the Throne Room where the Messiah is seated in His place of authority and get into agreement with His plans and purposes. Catch a vision of the awesomeness of your King and important role He is calling us to occupy until He comes and brings the Kingdom of God to this earth.

Throne Room Worship Seventeen

Welcome to Throne Room Worship the place where we lift our eyes toward heaven and let that vision transform our lives on earth. Today I'd like to share some thoughts on how we can deepen our levels of worship and ultimately change our level of service to the King who sits on the Throne of Heaven.

Have you ever considered that there are, in fact, levels of worship that can take us deeper into the heart of God? The Tabernacle of Moses and David and Solomon's temple all share an architecture that implies these levels. Remember that these structures are just a prototype of the reality of heaven. We enter the courts through the gate at the entrance, just as the scripture tells us in Psalm 100:4 that we "Enter His gates with thanksgiving in our hearts and enter His courts with praise." So having a thankful heart is a prerequisite to entering into God's courts enabling us to enter into praise. Praise is therefore our first level of devotion to God, but we cannot enter into that first level with an ungrateful heart.

It is at this level that we encounter the altar for burnt sacrifice and the laver of water for cleansing. Here we see typified the sacrifice of Messiah on the cross and the cleansing that comes through His blood. The water typifies baptism and the washing of the water of the Word (as referenced in Ephesians 5:26), which is the work of the Spirit as we renew our minds in God's Word.

Hebrew 6:1-2 states:

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, 2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

So at this level, these are the basics, the foundation of our faith, but are still considered part of the outer court experience. If we want to

move beyond the basics and into perfection, we need to go deeper with God.

In the architecture of the structure of worship we encounter another door which leads into the Holy Place. This is another level of worship which is much deeper than the outer court. Here we encounter the oil burning golden lamp stand, a seven branched menorah that illuminates the Holy Place. This represents revelation. To go deep with God we must have a revelation that comes to us by the infilling of the Spirit of God.

We also see the Table of Showbread which speaks of communion with God. In John 15:7, Jesus, our Messiah speaks of abiding in Him and allowing His Word to abide in us and only then do we find that we can ask what we will and it will be done to us.

This brings us to the Alter of Incense which represents prayer. This earthly act of burning incense is a true parallel of what is actually happening in heaven. We have discussed the scene from Revelation 5:8 where our prayers literally appear in the Throne Room of God in the form of incense in the golden bowls of the 24 elders. Revelation 8 also describes the resulting actions of the angels as they take the incense that is the prayers of the saints and consequently hurls it back to earth in response where the power of God is then released to affect this earthly realm.

David prays in Psalm 141:2

Let my prayer be set before You as incense, The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

I believe that we can encounter God on a very deep level and, in fact, change the realities of this world through prayer. This is a high level of intimacy with the Lord, but this is not the deepest level. There is yet a deeper place called the Holy of Holies. But before we go there, I'd like to share some thoughts on the act of worship and the levels that can be expressed.

When we express to God words of thankfulness, we have stated that this is the first level. However, this can be taken to the next level when these words are sung and the playing of musical instruments, especially the harp, is incorporated. The scriptures are filled with examples of singing and worshiping on instruments. In Bible days the primary instrument was the harp. Part of the calling of God in my life is to help to restore the harp as a prominent instrument for praise, worship, prayer, healing, deliverance and for creating an environment where the voice of God is released. Anointed music is a key as this is the pervasive reality in the soundscape of heaven.

Again we see a deeper level of worship expressed in David's Psalm that references incense, but notice he adds "The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice." Adding the lifting of hands we see that another part of our body is needed to go one step deeper in our commitment of consecrated action. Yet an even bigger step, that we see in the scriptures, as we commit our whole body in worship is found when we worship God in the dance. This may take many people out of their comfort zone, but this act is profoundly scriptural. Here is where our subject matter converges when we see King David ushering in the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem with an extravagant act of worship in the dance in 2 Samuel 6:14-16:

Wearing a linen ephod, David was dancing before the LORD with all his might, 15 while he and all Israel were bringing up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets. 16 As the ark of the LORD was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, she despised him in her heart.

The profound truth is if we want to usher in the presence of God (as typified in the Ark) we must offer the King of the Universe unbridled exuberant praise! This story offers a strong warning for spiritual bystanders not to be critical of such a display of passionate worship. We are told in verse 23 of this chapter that God judges David's wife as she was barren of children all her days, and so it is with those with a

critical heart towards worshippers that they will be spiritually barren. One further level of surrender in worship is found in Psalm 95:6

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

Kneeling is the universal act of surrender to a ruling monarch throughout the millennia. Here our whole body is committed to swearing fealty and can ultimately be fully expressed when one is complete prostrated before the Lord. We see this in Revelation 4:9-11:

9 Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: 11 “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.”

This is true Throne Room Worship and we can join in too. This is the deepest level of worship. This is entrance into the Holy of Holies directly where the Ark of the Covenant is resident, but is only a type of this reality in heaven. Here the presence of God is fully manifest and here, since the veil of the temple was torn – top to bottom, when Jesus cried out from the cross “It is Finished”, here we have full access to the God who loved us and made a way straight to His heart.

Throne Room Worship Eighteen

Welcome again to another installment of Throne Room Worship. On today's segment I want to ask you a question. Do you consider yourself a creative person? God, the Creator of the Universe has given the gift of creativity to all His children. Perhaps as a child you were more in touch with that side of your heart, but now, it needs to come back to life. Well today I'd like to help reconnect you with the King of the Universe, but who also is really the King of Creativity. King David said in Psalm 8:3-5

**3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,
4 What is man that You are mindful of him,
And the son of man that You visit[a] him?
5 For You have made him a little lower than [b]the angels,
And You have crowned him with glory and honor.**

I believe that part of the glory and honor God us given His children is the wonderful gift of creativity. God has filled the world with a myriad of colors and it seems that in heaven that sense of color is multiplied to an extreme. Revelation 4:2-3 gives us a snapshot of heaven when John says:

Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. 3 And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.

I recall a poignant moment in my childhood. It was a beautiful sunny Sunday morning and it was the day that I was confirmed in the denomination I grew up in. That ceremony was the closest thing I understood at that time to making a commitment of my life to God. So my young heart was filled to overflowing. I looked out the kitchen door window and exclaimed to my mother how blue the sky seemed. I believe I said to her that I felt like I could climb a mountain. Since that moment I have had similar encounters with God when all the

colors of the world seemed more intense. I believe that when we get to heaven that the veil will be removed from our eyes and the full glory of all of God's creation will be opened to us. I also believe that it is possible on this side of heaven to connect with the Living God and experience a touch of His glory even before we get there.

That is why it is so important for there to be an expression of the arts by God's people. When we are connected to the One who created the colors of the rainbow, the mind-blowing galaxies of the universe and all the quirky animals and insects of this world, it tells you something about the very essence of His personality. I think that it is sad that many who have a God-given creative gift have been demeaned and discouraged not to value that wonderful aspect of their personality. In a sense, some have had the joy of artistic expression, practically, if not literally beaten out of them. I suspect that there are some of you who are watching this that need a deep healing in this area of your heart. Please allow me to speak to that place of brokenness in you. If you would allow me, I would like to pray for you and call back to life that creative child of God that you are and that God wants you to be.

So as God breathes this artistic gift back into life, I believe that he has a plan for it. I'd like to suggest that there is a means by which He wants to use this gift to express His great love for people, and He wants to express it through you. The scripture in Ephesians 2:6-7 says that He has **6 ...raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**

I believe that eternity starts right now. God wants you to experience the reality of the creativity that is His very nature and that He wants to impart that to you now.

Throne Room Worship Nineteen

In keeping with today's Christmas theme here is an excerpt from my Book "The Frequency of the Supernatural – Revealing the Mysteries of God's Quantum Universe" from a chapter entitled A Quantum Christmas.

With every story, the best place to start is at the beginning. So, when we retell the Christmas story, we find its backstory—the setup for the plot—in the book of Genesis and in the magnificent treatise found in my favorite book in the Bible, John's Gospel. So in the beginning of John's Gospel, he gives us the background of the Christmas story, which begins before time began:

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 nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it (John 1:1-5).

We are given an amazing insight into just how the "darkness" did not understand or comprehend the plan of God's salvation in First Corinthians 2:8:

Which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

The "rulers of this age" totally missed what was happening, and their darkened comprehension left them blind to the Light who had come and His ultimate purpose. John continues his magnificent treatise in John 1:6-14:

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light

to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

This is the awesome reality of the Christmas story—that the Word became flesh. God became the baby in the manger, and this was His plan from the very beginning—that we would become the children of God. We note that in both John’s account and in Genesis, Jesus is revealed to be the Creator and that one of His awesome creative attributes is light.

Let’s consider a word about light. Genesis says:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light (Genesis 1:1-3).

What is light? The concept of light is one of the foundational aspects of reality that defines our universe. Albert Einstein’s famous equation $E=mc^2$ tells us that there is a direct relationship between all matter (m), energy (E) and the speed of light (c²), implying aspects of time and space. In modern science, particularly in quantum mechanics, man has discovered that time does not function in a linear fashion. The reality about time is that it does not function as we experience it.

In fact, science begins to substantiate what the Bible teaches us about the cosmos. Time for God is very different from our experience. This aspect of God is revealed in Second Peter 3:8-9:

But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish

but that all should come to repentance.

Which brings us back to the “reason for the season.” Paul brings God’s perspective on the flow of time and our destiny in Romans 8:29:

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

That is why all year round we can sing, “Joy to the world, the Lord has come!” His love has come to us, and because of this we are transformed. We have the hope of His coming, but we also have unspeakable joy because we are becoming like Him. This was the purpose of His first advent! In His second advent He will bring the resurrection of the dead and the renewal of the whole world!

Throne Room Worship Twenty

Bridal Paradigm – Wedding Feast of the Lamb

Welcome to Throne Room Worship where we look deeply into a vision of what is happening around the Throne of God and allow that vision to transform our hearts. As 1 John 3:3 says:

“...everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

This hope is the hope that when the Lord is revealed we will be transformed to be like Him. Today, as we pull back the veil from heaven I want us to look at a mystery that is truly astounding. We find it in Revelation 19:7-9 taken from the English Standard Version

7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’ ”

This amazing scene in heaven is a celebration like none other. It is the culmination of God’s plan from the beginning of time. Before anything existed the Triune God envisioned time and space where He would create a stage where the greatest love story could play out. God is love, and so inevitably that love had to find an expression through the creation of His Bride. The drama of history is that love story and it will last throughout eternity.

Take a moment and consider the desire that God has to share His vast love. He invents the very concept of human beings with the capacity to feel, think and choose in order to make possible the idea of a bride and a husband. The very act of love is tied into the ability to choose. Without this capacity, we could not truly love at all. Free will is the component of our existence that allows for the greatest gift of all. The potential for love is God highest desire for us – to love and

be loved. This is pictured most profoundly in the human experience of marriage, the most intimate relationship we can know.

In every culture a wedding is one of the highlights of a person's life. The party that celebrates a marriage is most likely the most extravagant event that someone will experience. So it is with the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. In the timeline of God's plan this will be the highlight of the ages. But in order for us to fully appreciate what is happening in this scene from the book of Revelation we have to understand the cultural context found in the Bible as it relates to the marriage customs of the Jewish people at that time in history.

The first stage of a marriage covenant is the betrothal. We see this in the life of Mary and Joseph in the first book of Matthew and the second chapter of Luke's Gospel. Here Joseph seeks to quietly withdraw from the betrothal when Mary is found to be with child. At this point in the covenant a dowry has been provided and this engagement is considered legally binding. You could say that at this time in church history that we as believers have been betrothed to the Lord. Ephesians 1:13-14 as read from the New American Standard Bible states:

In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

The language that is used here is indicative of the pledge that is being made when a man gives an engagement ring to his fiancé. Here the Holy Spirit is the gift and is given sealing the forthcoming wedding. In ancient Jewish custom, about a year later the Bride was swept away by the groom and his male companions in a dramatic surprise night-time procession. I imagine that the bride is somehow tipped off as typically the bride and her bridesmaids are expected to be ready for this moment. However, we see in the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25 that five of the bridesmaids didn't get the memo as Jesus

draws from the custom of the day as part of the storyline. So we are also to be ready for we do not know the day or the hour that our Heavenly Bridegroom will come and catch us away as 1 Thessalonians 4:17 tells us that we **“shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air”**.

And so that brings us to the final stage, the wedding banquet itself. We see a portrayal of this in the scripture that references the marriage feast in Cana in John 2. Here we learn that the Lord saves the best wine till last. Indeed, what the Lord has in store for those who love Him will be beyond our imagination. No doubt the celestial celebration of the marriage of the Bride of the Messiah, clothed in the purity of His righteousness, will be sublime and glorious.

One thing that I have pondered, as a harpist who has performed at well over 200 weddings, allow me to pose a question; What is it that every bride would like to have at her wedding? Might I suggest that the Lord who rewards his faithful with a harp, would surely have some harp music at His wedding. And what beautiful music that will be.

In conclusion one of the last scriptures in the Bible is Revelation 22:17 and it's a wedding invitation:

17 And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

So not only is this an invitation to a wedding, it's an invitation for you to be the Bride. But the invitations go out and sadly, not everyone accepts the call. In the Parable of the Wedding Feast in Matthew 22 we see the servants sent out to those who were invited and many were distracted by their busy lives and refused to come. The servants go out to the highways and byways and filled the wedding hall but some were not properly dressed and were thrown out! Let's prepare ourselves so when the Bridegroom comes we will be ready.

Throne Room Worship Twenty-One

Welcome to another installment of Throne Room Worship where we examine the realities of heaven and live it out here on earth. In the culture of heaven and in every culture on earth, there's this one thing they all have in common – music! In every ethnic group there's a unique style of music that helps to define their culture. That's one reason why it's so delightful to hear the diverse blend of musical stylings when a given people group worships in their own definitive music. Scripture tells us that from every tongue and tribe there will be the redeemed as it says in Revelation 7:9:

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands.

Every one of these people groups will bring their style of music into heaven, each with their own distinct musical flavor, all given to glorify God.

Music is one of the primary aspects of the experience of heaven. As we've discussed in Revelation 5:8, the 24 elders convey our prayers to the Throne of God with the sound of harp music. But in verse 9 of that chapter this theme of ethnic diversity is actually lauded in song...

And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

And again we hear the singing in heaven with the harps in Revelation 15:

And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and

those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and [a] over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. 3 They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying:

“Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! 4 Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested.”

The power of music is shown in the first moments of creation when God spoke the worlds into existence. The soundtrack of that moment was punctuated by the singing of the angels in Job 38:7. What an amazing choir that must have been. And at the birth of Messiah the angels again joined together to announce the coming of the King in Luke 2.

So what is it about music that is such a part of the atmosphere in heaven that God so purposefully mandates. I believe that part of the power of music is the way that the frequencies resonate together to form mathematically related waveforms. In my book “The Frequency of the Supernatural” I elaborate on this concept. To surmise this aspect of music, as it relates to physics of heaven, this harmonious resonance acts like a carrier frequency that radio signals use to project across the airwaves. So the very way music vibrates in a harmonious manner is a picture of how worship is an expression of our hearts being at one with our God and each other. Just as the believers were in one accord on the Day of Pentecost so it is that the Holy Spirit can move in our midst when we are in harmony with each other. In Psalm 133 this very thought, that God’s power is released in unity, is expressed in song:

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!...for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

What better way to express our worship than with music.

In Psalm 22:3 we're told that God inhabits the praises of His People. What makes simply playing or singing music any different from worship, is the intention of our hearts. When two or more are gathered in His name, the very intention of your meeting together for the purpose of doing so in His name, changes an ordinary meeting of people to a time where God promises to be in our midst. And so it is when music is offered to God that it conveys the presence and glory of God. That's why music is so prevalent in heaven. It's the natural, or should I say supernatural state of worship in heaven and God wants it to be replicated here on earth.

This desire that God has for us to saturate ourselves in Godly music is reflected in Colossians 3:16:

16 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.

Everyone knows that it's much easier to memorize any words, especially scripture, when it's sung. I'm sure God intentionally designed our physiology so that the analytical half of our brains that handles the lyrics of a song, and the more creative half of our brains which lights up to the music, work together to create a powerful memorable experience. Surely God desires us to hide His Word in our hearts so that we will retain the wonderful transforming truth of His Word. And through music He created the best way to do that.

We can intellectually discuss many thoughts about music, but there's a powerful emotional component to music. Though our faith is not founded on feelings, it's highly appropriate that a heart full of love for God be expressed in passionate worship music. Shakespeare wrote "If music be the food of love, play on". Though the theme of music is often romantic love, I'm persuaded that God intended that we pour out our celestial love for him through music. In fact, scripture tells us in Zephaniah 3:17 that God (himself) will rejoice over us with singing.

Throne Room Worship Twenty-Two

Here I am send me

Here we are for another time together on Throne Room Worship where heaven intersect with earth in our discussions. Today I'd like to share about a Hebrew word "hineni" which means "Here I am". When you hear a call from heaven and you sense God calling you by name, you know that God is dealing with us about something that will change us forever. There are a number significant moments in the Bible when God calls and the prophets respond "hineni – Lord here am I."

When Moses turns aside to see the burning bush in Exodus 3 God calls out to him... "Moses, Moses" and he replies "hineni – here I am". God tells him that he is standing on holy ground and recounts the plight of the Children of Israel. And to his amazement hears God's command that he was to be sent to Pharaoh to deliver them from bondage. Little did he know that he would also be the author of the Torah which would transform the whole world through the revelation of God's Word.

Abraham answered with his "hineni" when he was poised to fulfill the strange thing God had asked of him to sacrifice his only son in Genesis 22:11:

But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied.

Little did he know that in being willing to sacrifice his only son, through which God had promised, that the whole world would be blessed, that in a mysterious cosmic exchange, it somehow made it possible for God to reciprocate, and in turn send the only Son of God to be sacrificed for the sins of the world.

The prophet Samuel as a child is called by God and wasn't aware that it was God Himself speaking in first Samuel 3. While being under

the care of the High Priest, Eli, God calls a Samuel a third time and Eli instructs the boy to reply “speak Lord, Your servant is listening”. Samuel had no idea that from that moment on the Lord would set off a chain of events that would involve this boy to eventually lead to the crowning of the King of Israel and ultimately the rise of David as king, the progenitor of the Messiah – King of Heaven and Earth.

Of all the “hinenis” found in the Word of God, the moment that strikes me most deeply is when Isaiah has a vision of the Throne Room of God and in the heavenly scene the temple is filled with the Glory of God. In Isaiah 6 the angels cry:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

Isaiah is undone and he hears the calling...

8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

Where ever you are and whatever you are doing, if you hear God’s voice calling be willing to say “hineni” ... “Here am I. Send me!”

Throne Room Worship 23

Music Conveys the Message

God loves music. This is evident from the many references to the scriptures that we have made here on our time together on Throne Room Worship. Music is part of the culture of heaven and because it's God's intention that the way it is in heaven,... it would be here on earth, that heavenly music must also be an important part of His plan and purposes for us.

At the very beginning, when the Lord laid the foundations of the earth there was music. According to Job 38 God set the cornerstone of the planet, "When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?" What a wondrous sound track that was sang by the heavenly host as the earth was created. Around the Throne of God, the twenty four elders play their harps as the prayers of the saints are collected in their golden bowls. Throughout the scriptures music was evident as an important part of the victories of God's people, whether it was the triumph at the Red Sea or the praises that were sung before going into battle. Music plays an important roll in conveying the message of the authority of God. And the use of music in proclaiming of the power of God is, in itself, the wielding of that power.

When the temple in Jerusalem stood, the job of thousands of Levites was to worship God with their voices and with instruments, especially the harp. It was when King David, who was responsible for setting up the use of music in his Tabernacle, and later his son Solomon, in the glorious music of worship in the temple, that Israel was brought to the height of its power. It is no accident that God chose a harpist and brilliant composer of most of the Psalms as the one to whom the Messianic promise of the throne of David was to be established forever.

Even Moses was the author of music that is enshrined in scripture, not just during his time on earth, but also in the mystery of the end

times in the book of Revelation chapter 15...

They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested."

Very few people associate Moses – the Giver of the Law, specifically as being a composer of music, but there is an aspect of the actual written text of the entire Old Testament that is musical. God intended His Word to be sung. This little known component of the literal characters of the Hebrew text is called "Cantillation Pointing", trope symbols or, in Hebrew "te'amim". These markings are found above and below the Hebrew letters that make up the writing of the Torah (the first five books of the Bible authored by Moses), the Prophets and the other writings in the Old Testament or TaNaKh.

Here is an image that shows the Hebrew letters which are consonants and the marks that indicate the vowel pointings, but the additional marks that are highlighted in yellow are actually musical notes. This was rediscovered by a Jewish musicologist named Suzanne Haik-Vantoura who reconstructed the scale that these musical note markings represent. She compared this decoding of the music to the way that the scriptures were being sung in the more ancient synagogues in the middle east and they were the same! This astounding musical notation makes it possible to hear how the text was intended to be sung.

I will now sing for you the original ancient tune and words for this most important scripture that Jesus called "The first of all the commandments." from Deuteronomy 6:4

SING Sh'ma Yisrael Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Ehad: "Hear, O Israel: the LORD is our God, the LORD is One..." Which goes on to say And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart..."

If you would like to hear the beauty of this ancient melody you can

visit my personal website at www.michael-david.org/shema

I will now sing for you the original ancient tune and words for this most important scripture that Jesus Himself referenced. In Mark 12 He calls this portion of scripture “The first of all the commandments”. It is called the Shema from Deuteronomy 6:4 Sh'ma Yisrael Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Ehad: **“Hear, O Israel: the LORD is our God, the LORD is One...”** Which goes on to say **And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart...**

Throne Room Worship 24

Every Kindred Every Tribe

Welcome to Throne Room Worship where we examine how the Throne of the King of the Universe is coming to earth. This happens as we establish the Kingdom of God right now and as we anticipate in the future the glorious day when the King Himself will return. And the question of the day is when might that return take place? Believe it or not Jesus let us know when that would take place and under what circumstances.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 24:36 **“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.**

It’s true that we do not know the day or the hour, but we can know the season. He goes on to say in verses 37 to 39...

But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

So we know that the conditions that will be present at the time of the coming of the Lord will be just as it was at the time of Noah. Let’s take a look at what the scriptures say that was like. In Genesis 6:5 we read...

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

We can therefore conclude that at the time of the Lord’s return the depravity of mankind will be at an all time high. They will be carrying on eating and drinking and getting married as if nothing unusual were happening and there is no sense of the impending judgment.

A few more indicators for the Lord's return are found in Matthew 24:6-7

And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.

It's like we are reading the headlines for today's news right from Holy Scriptures written thousands of years ago.

We are given further clues as to when the return of the Lord is imminent in Matthew 24:15 **“when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place”**. This is in reference to a great world leader known as the anti-Christ who would stand up in the temple and proclaim himself to be the Messiah. This event infers that one, there would be a temple and two, that there would be an Israel for the temple to be in. Of course this became possible when in 1948 Israel became a nation for the first time in 2000 years, and in 1967 when Jerusalem and the temple site came back into the hands of the Jewish nation. So the time clock is ticking and the pieces of the puzzle are coming together.

However, the one sign of end of the age that can be quantified and calculated is stated in verse 14 of this chapter in Matthew 24...

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

When will the end come? It will come when the gospel of the Kingdom has been preached throughout the whole world... which at the time was quite the statement considering that at the time Jesus said this there were only 12 disciples and a hand full of followers. Notice that the scripture specifically says “as a witness to all the nations” – this means that all the people groups in all the world will be reach before the end. So how close are we to this happening?

In an article published in “Decision Magazine” in October, 2011 by Jerry Root, he said... “at meetings in Orlando, Fla., organized by the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College, it was announced that the world could be only 10 or 15 years away from seeing the Great Commission fulfilled. In other words, it is possible that every people group on Earth will have had the Gospel preached to them and some portion of Scripture translated into their language.”

Technically speaking, once the Great Commission has been fulfilled, then the end can come, but there is not an exact moment that determines that the Lord must come back. Surely, when the last of the great end times harvest of the souls of men has been reaped then one of the final conditions for the Lord’s return will have been met. I have often thought wouldn’t you like to be the one who shared the Gospel to that one last person that hastens the day of the Lord’s return?

Back in Mathew 24, this time in verse 8, Jesus tells us in regards to all the troubles befalling the world that **“All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.”** One thing that is significant about birth pains is that they gain in intensity and in frequency... and that is indeed what is occurring on planet earth. So we may not know the exact day, but we sure can tell that we are in the season of the imminent return of the Messiah.

In verses 42 - 44 of this chapter we have this take away that we can take to heart. It says...

Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

So we are to watch and be ready for His return and be busy about the work of the Kingdom.

I'd like to leave you with this thought from 1 John 3:3

And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

The hope of His coming helps us to live with the right priorities in living a life of purity before the Lord, truly making us ready for His return and making us fit to serve Him in these historic times.

And as we return our thoughts to the Throne Room we see this amazing scene from the book of Revelation 7:9-10

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Throne Room Worship 25

Prodigal

Welcome to Throne Room Worship where we look into the plan of God as He seeks to bring the culture of heaven right here to earth. We learn in Revelation 13:8 that from the beginning of time, before mankind even existed, the Lamb of God was slain to bring redemption to a lost people. The implications of this are staggering. In God's great foreknowledge of all time, He sees, even before He creates mankind, that we would be a prodigal people. He knew that when given the marvelous gift of free will, which gives us the capacity to love – which is God's greatest gift to us, that we would choose unwisely. This is quite an understatement. Adam's choice in the Garden of Eden caused a cosmic cataclysmic consequence that would plunge all mankind into a downward spiral of sin and misery. This is the sad state of humanity when separated from God and our history is testimony to this reality.

However, a loving Heavenly Father waits for us like the earthly father in the wonderful story of the Prodigal's Son as told to us by Jesus in Luke 15. But in verse 20 we see the magnanimous heart of God as expressed in this parable when we see the father's overwhelming reception of the wayward son...

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

You could say that God looked at us in eternity past and saw each one of us, like a Prodigal's Son. And because the issue of redemption through the blood of His Son was already settled, His love for us reaches out from Heaven and embraces us from afar... Across time and space Jesus saw you and I, as He hung on that cruel cross, literally throwing His arms wide open to receive us even though we were “still a long way off.”

We can learn so much from this parable about the character of God. We learn of the limitless love of a God who does not want to sit in judgment against us, even though He is a Just and Holy God. We learn of a sovereign and wise God who knows our pitiful condition, yet proactively devises a plan that expresses His deep love for us, even though we don't deserve it. This parable so powerfully addresses the human condition. We are so prone to selling ourselves short of our true inheritance as sons and daughters only to settle for a pot of stew, giving in to the pleasures of sin for a short season.

If we don't see ourselves as a prodigal, perhaps we have become equally distant from the heart of God by being like the older brother. What was his tragic problem? We can see it in Luke 15:28 and 29

“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders.’”

Sadly, many church-going people fall into the other side of the ditch and become like the older brother. They sit in judgment of sin and condemn their brother because he did not “obey” the father's orders. This self-righteousness sadly is far from the heart of our Heavenly Father who longs to take us all in.

We have the great privilege of taking on the role of the servants who put the ring on the finger of the restored sons and daughters. We help the Father to place the family robe of dignity on to those who were once disgraced. We get to minister the healing that comes when we share how our identity in Christ changes our destiny here on this earth and for all eternity.

Throne Room Worship 26

The Bride of Christ

Welcome again to Throne Room Worship where we glimpse into Heaven and see a vision of the plans of God for planet earth. From the beginning of time God had a plan. You could say that God is the ultimate wedding planner. He formed the universe as a stage for a divine romance to take place. He created Adam, caused a deep sleep to come upon him and took out from his side a part of Adam... and from that, formed a woman that was a deeply intertwined component of his very DNA. When Adam awoke, he beheld his helpmate who was created just for him.

I've often mused about how God brought the animals to Adam for him to name, only for him to realize that there was something missing after seeing each animal with its own mate. For each pair every he had his she. I wonder at what point Adam said to himself, "wait a minute, what's wrong with this picture?... where is my she?" I think, at times, that God has an amazing way of showing us what we have needed all along.

God gave us the wonderful gift of free will that enabled us to have the capacity to love and experience being loved. He gave us bodies that would have the gift of creating new life in procreation that was sanctified in Holy Matrimony. Children are the fruit of that most loving relationship as husband and wife. Yet even in the mystery that is expressed in this most intimate of relationships, God had a plan that was to be understood in the parable of life itself. What was at the heart of this plan? It was, that the Triune God, pre-existent in eternity past, had a desire for a bride for Himself. In Ephesians 5:31 Paul the Apostle says...

31“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

It is evident that God was complete in Himself, lacking nothing in divine perfection. Wondrously, He chose to identify Himself in the male gender, even when the idea of gender only came into existence when He established His living creation. But this was a part of the Revelation of His love, to reveal through the picture of our own humanity that He is a loving Father, and that God the Son was to be a Heavenly Bridegroom and we are to be His Bride. How awesome and wise to help us to understand His desire for us through the parable that is pictured in our most intimate human relationships.

How is this great mystery of Christ and the Church revealed? As a part of the greatest sacrificial act of love conceived in the heart of God, when Jesus was hung on the cross for our sins, He was pierced in His side and like Adam. This opened a way for His bride to come into existence. You could say that out of the deep sleep of death, the Risen Bridegroom awoke from the dead only to have gained His bride.

And so we see at the end of time and at the end of the book of Revelation, the consummation of God's plan, when the spotless bride of the King of the Universe is revealed at the Marriage Feast of the Lamb in Revelation 19:7-9

7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’

Throne Room Worship 27

Healing: Past, Present and to the Nations

Welcome to another segment of Throne Room Worship where we explore the realities of God's authority that extends to the world from His Throne in Heaven. Today I want to discuss a wonderful aspect of the heart of God as expressed through His power to heal. We read in the Bible about how God did miraculous healings in both the Old and New Testaments. Here we learn of God's power to heal in the past.

In the book of Numbers we learn that the children of Israel were afflicted by serpents because they spoke out in complaint against the Lord.

Numbers 21:7-9

Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live." So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

Even to this day the medical community has used the familiar symbol of the snake wrapped around a pole called the "Rod of Asclepius" from the Greek mythology and healers of their day. God's command to Moses regarding the bronze serpent certainly pre-dates the Greek use of this symbol and most likely finds its origin from the Biblical account in the book of Numbers. However, in John 3 God makes the connection between redemption that came to the world through the Cross of Jesus and the lifting up of the serpent on the pole...

John 3:14-16 says...

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Jesus definitively makes the connection between the forgiving of sin and healing in Matthew 9 when he says...

For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

Some may say, "God's power to heal was only for the past and the days of miracles is over", however, the power of the cross and the Gospel message is very much for today!... in fact God's power to heal is actually part of the Great Commission. In Mark 16 Jesus commands us

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

In my own ministry I have had the great joy of seeing blind eyes open and the lame healed jumping for joy – might I say, that some cases, they were actually running... And in a much greater measure my friend David Yanez is known as a healing evangelist and he has seen thousands of people healed all around the world as they received Jesus as their savior. So may I unequivocally say that healing is for today!

However, what is truly thrilling is that God not only has healed in the past, and still heals for today... but also makes a great promise in the future for healing for the whole world in the book of Revelation. Here in our times together on Throne Room Worship we have been sharing how, where – heaven and earth intersect, the power and authority of God brings wonderful supernatural blessings. But the great hope that we have is that one day heaven is coming to earth. In chapters 21 and 22 of the book of Revelation we read about the New Jerusalem descending from heaven to earth. God is going move his headquarters from heaven and bring it to earth, and along with it the greatest healing that has ever been known to mankind. The first few verses of Revelation 22 gives us a beautiful picture of the bright future that is in store for us...

And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.

This is the culmination of history where the Throne Room of God is not just a room where the Lord holds court, but a river and a tree of life that flows from His seat of power to bring healing to the nations!