

Psalm 150

Read Psalm 150:1-2: We have finally made it to our last psalm. We have arrived at the temple; after trekking through a lot of valleys and hardships and fears. All of that is now pushed aside in our mind. Now our thoughts and emotions are filled with what is right in front of us. Many times, we see God amidst our problems. I see God in my storm. It is even better to voluntarily admire God as he is; without my fix-it list in my hand. We finally can see God as he really is. This psalm begins by telling us to praise God in his sanctuary. That means that we have to come to him. God does not change. He does not become more like our way of thinking.

“For I am the LORD, I do not change; (Malachi 3:6)

The more that we see God clearly, the more that we feel like praising him. People who do not feel like praising God just are not seeing him. It is one thing to praise God for what he has done for us. It is another thing to praise God just for who he is. That has a lot to do with my level of fellowship with God. Am I just handing him my grocery list (of my needs); or just thanking him right now? My morning prayer list looks an awful lot like a checked off grocery list. Everything that I am thanking him for seems to somehow relate to *me and mine*. That is one thing that holds us back from knowing God better right now. We are so oriented to what we need him to do for us, that we miss out on who he really is.

Paul knew a man (perhaps himself) who had a glimpse of heaven. He really was unable to put it into words. It is possible that our current eyes cannot even identify the added colors to the visible spectrum of heavenly colors. It is possible that our current hearing ability cannot even pick up on all the sounds that God is hearing.

But there is nothing [so carefully] concealed that it will not be revealed, nor so hidden that it will not be made known. For that reason, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be proclaimed on the housetops. (Luke 12:2-3)

It is also true that our current body could not even handle the intense light and loud noises and fire associated with God's presence.

I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, [only] God knows—such a man was caught up to the third heaven. And I know that such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, [only] God knows—was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words which man is not permitted to speak [words too sacred to tell]. On behalf of such a man [and his experiences] I will boast; but in my own behalf I will not boast, except regarding my weaknesses. (2 Corinthians 12:2-5)

behold, a throne stood in heaven, with One seated on the throne. And He who sat there appeared like [the crystalline sparkle of] a jasper stone and [the fiery redness of] a sardius

stone, and encircling the throne there was a rainbow that looked like [the color of an] emerald. Twenty-four [other] thrones surrounded the throne; and seated on these thrones were twenty-four elders dressed in white clothing, with crowns of gold on their heads. From the throne came flashes of lightning and [rumbling] sounds and peals of thunder. Seven lamps of fire were burning in front of the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God; and in front of the throne there was something like a sea or large expanse of glass, like [the clearest] crystal. In the center and around the throne were four living creatures who were full of eyes in front and behind [seeing everything and knowing everything that is around them]. The first living creature was like a lion, the second creature like a calf (ox), the third creature had the face of a man, and the fourth creature was like a flying eagle. And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes all over and within [underneath their wings] (Revelation 4:2-8)

We are also told that God is a consuming fire; and that only our spirit can stand in those flames without being consumed. Our body could not.

But He said, “You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.” (Exodus 33:20)

See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, “Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.” Now this, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire. (Hebrews 12: 25-29)

We are blessed to have limited awareness and modest intellect and limited hearing ability right now. We worry so much about the few things that we do see and hear. Hearing the noises across the galaxies like God hears would be too distracting. Hearing the thoughts of our neighbors thoughts against us would put us all at each other's throats. Social media is essentially providing a means to advertise every whim that we have. It is causing a civil war of ideals. What if we had a TV screen to watch the armies of white blood cells and t-cells attacking the wicked viruses and tumors in our body? We would never step away from the TV screen. CNN has essentially invented 24 hour late breaking news; that now is the norm. It is designed to captivate you.

The angels have a different view of God than we do. They see his power and majesty. We see him saving us.

I saw [in a vision] the Lord sitting on a throne, high and exalted, with the train of His royal robe filling the [most holy part of the] temple. Above Him seraphim (heavenly beings) stood; each one had six wings: with two wings he covered his face, with two wings he covered his feet,

and with two wings he flew. And one called out to another, saying, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is filled with His glory." (Isaiah 6:1-3)

Angels are far more difficult to impress than we are.

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Here is an Israelite indeed [a true descendant of Jacob], in whom there is no guile nor deceit nor duplicity!" Nathanael said to Jesus, "How do You know [these things about] me?" Jesus answered, "Before Philip called you, when you were still under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered, "Rabbi (Teacher), You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel." Jesus replied, "Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe [in Me]? You will see greater things than this." Then He said to him, "I assure you and most solemnly say to you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man [the bridge between heaven and earth]." (John 1:47-51)

Then Elisha prayed and said, "LORD, please, open his eyes that he may see." And the LORD opened the servants eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire surrounding Elisha. (2 Kings 6:17)

Read Psalm 15:3-6: Why are we encouraged to use so many different types of musical instruments to praise God? The first instrument mentioned here is translated as **trumpet**; but it is actually a shofar (ram's horn). A shofar represents *a cry out to heaven*.



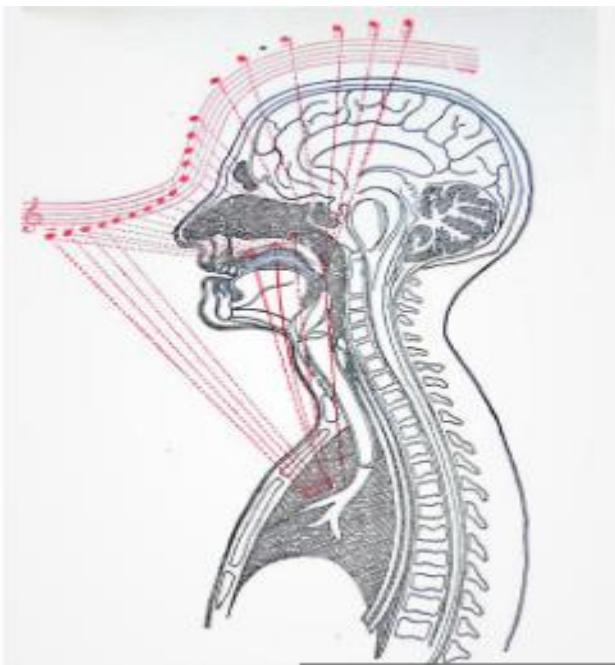
The **psaltery** is the next instrument mentioned. Normally a psaltery is normally defined as a stringed box like a zither; but this usage is more in line with a bottle made of skin. The

scriptures compare our body to a tent or a ceramic jar. An empty bottle made of animal skin is essentially the same idea. We are just a *skin bag*, until God blows his spirit into our lungs.

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. (Genesis 2:7)

In other words, the human body is designed to be *an instrument* of praise. There is nothing exceptional about an empty wind bag; but it can contribute to a pleasant sound when it is properly used.

The next musical instrument used here is a **harp**. A harp has *strings under tension*. Different notes can be made as the string tension, string length and string thickness are altered. We live in a world of tension. As our lives come under increasing stress, we cry out to God. That is music to his ears.

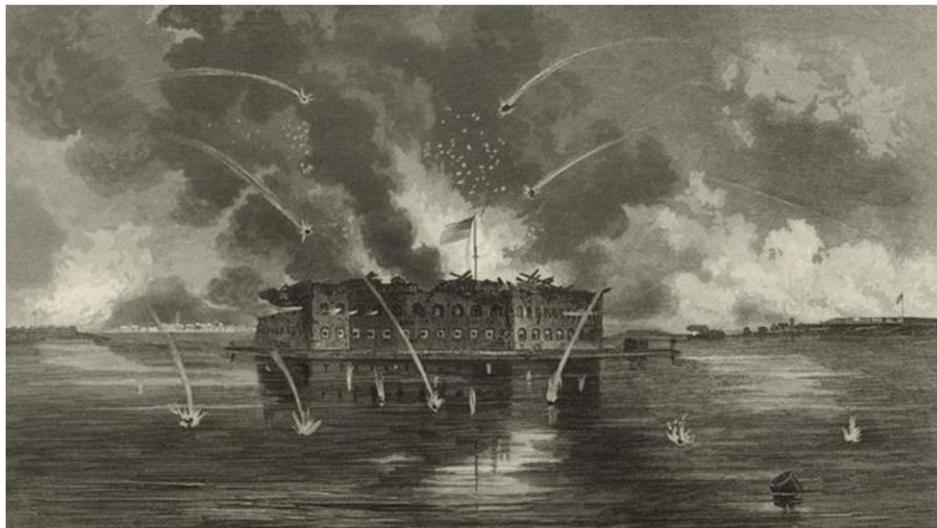


The next instrument is a **timbrel**, tabret or tambourine. Tambourines make music when it is *struck* with the hand. So do we. When we get blindsided or hit by something, we make noise. We voice whatever is in our hearts.

The word used here for **cymbal** is the same word used to describe *things that buzz*; like a swarm of locusts. It also is used to describe the noise of a flying harpoon as it *whirs through the air towards its target*. We live in a world where maliciously directed hazards and evil tidings are flying all around us. We live in a spiritual war zone. It is as if God is saying that the flying bullets are part of the background music to the Battle Hymn of the Republic.

you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, (Ephesians 2:2)

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. (Ephesians 6:11-13)



On April 12, 1861, a Confederate cannon fired on Union forces at Fort Sumter, South Carolina, igniting what northerners referred to as the Civil War, and most southerners called the War Between the States.

1 Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword:
His truth is marching on.

Refrain:
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.

2 I have seen him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps;
They have bulded him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read the righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps;
His day is marching on. [Refrain]

3 He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of all before his judgment seat;
O be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on. [Refrain]

4 In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me;
As he died to make us holy, let us die that all be free!
While God is marching on. [Refrain]

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In essence, there is no music being made where things are not being struck or beaten. There is no music where our lives are not under tension. There is no music being made where there are no threats or bullets whizzing about. We are just skin bags who have God's breath inside of us.

We come in different sizes and shapes. Individually we are a little bit ridiculous, but as a part of a chorus we are perfectly made.