



## Music: Biblical analysis and perspectives

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### Abstract

The aim of our study is to analyse the concept of music from a biblical perspective. To achieve that goal, the methodology used is based on critical literature review, phenomenology and Biblical methodology which is a method that seeks to shed light upon the historical processes which give rise to the biblical texts. It proceeds from textual criticism to redaction criticism, operating with the help of scientific criteria. The objective of our study is to answer a number of questions useful to shed more light on the impact of music on the physical, psychological and spiritual lives of people and ultimately to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. The interest of this work is spiritual, philosophical and social. The results of our analysis show that the music industry around the world is promoting worldly music which is not in conformity with Godly principles and plans of happiness for humankind. It appears that the decadence and instability in the present world is at the image of abandoning God's laws especially in terms of gospel and spiritual music as the gateway to our soul. Music is one of the main instrument used by the devil to lead astray to spiritual and physical death. We should pray and work hard to save ourselves and the world around us, listening exclusively to gospel, hymns, psalms to the glory of God is indispensable for our spiritual growth and overall wellbeing.

**Keywords:** Yahweh; music, order, depravation, soul, health

### 1. Introduction

The word music comes from the Greek word (mousike), which means "(art) of the Muses". In Greek mythology, the Muses were the goddesses of literature, science, and the arts. Hence music is divine from the onset. Heaven the dwelling place of our creator Yahweh is filled with worship and praise (Revelation 4 & 5). In Revelation (14:2) it is said: "And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps."

Today our society is characterized by a context marked by ungodliness, people no longer share the same values of virtue. Moral decadence has become something normal. A study by Humanity publications reveal that inadequacy of religious education, the influence of media, poor parenting, injustice in society, economic disparities, materialistic approach, discriminatory rule of law and absence of content in school curriculum are the main causes of the moral decay in society.

Decay of morality means moral corruption or depravity and imply practices such as sexual immorality, idolatry, falsehood, hypocrisy, crime, occultism, jealousy, hatred, excess love of money, etc. are the order of the day. If there is a domain having a powerful influence in society it is surely music which cannot as such be completely detached from the moral decay of our society. Taking the example of famous mogul singer P.Diddy concerning sex trafficking, forced labor, kidnapping, arson, bribery and obstruction of justice. As such we need to ask a number of questions below to analyse the link between music, money and social moral decadence.

1. What is the definition of music ?
2. What is the origin of music ?
3. Why did God create music ?
4. What is the spiritual force of music ?

5. What is the psychological, moral and physical power of music ?
6. What is the link music and glory ?
7. Is there a Holy and unholy music ?
8. Is there a relationship between music and sin ?
9. Is God singing ?
10. What does that mean God dwells in praise and worship ?
11. What is Gospel music ?
12. Is there anything like the devil's music ?
13. What about the industry of world music ?

## 2. What is the Definition of Music ?

Music is defined in various ways such as an art or a form of science aiming at producing sounds in a harmonious way through melody, rhythm in order to express and influence emotions, feelings, beliefs, ideas and affect someone's state of being by joy, excitement, happiness, sadness. Music is an emotion or person's control, it directs, guide and determine in the run the character and the being of a person. Music is first of all spiritual and indicates which spirits surrounds us. Music is a being and a heart to heart instrument into human lives. Music is the realm of beauty by excellent that can lead to worship God or something else then become the greatest channel of idolatry. Just like a Bible or word of God music communicates through words, sounds or content. Music is organisation, order or organized chaos. Music is sounds created by creatures who either worship God or oppose him as there is no middle ground. Music is meant either to be pleasant in God's ears or to abhorre him. Music is either therefore godly or ungodly.

## 3. What is the Origin of Music ?

Scientifically, it is unclear exactly who first produced music. There are assumptions that some of the earliest music was probably produced using drums-based (sticks, rocks) instruments. The antecedents of musical theatre in Europe can be traced back to the theatre of ancient Greece. Eventhough researchers confirm that music is traced back thousands of years ago, no one knows who played music first and where it originates.

However, we can have an answer to this mystery Biblically in the sense that Yahweh is the beginning and the end (Revelation 22:12-13). God is thereby the creator of everything including music (John 1:3). All was created for God's glory alone (Romans 11:36). Genesis 4:21 is the earliest recorded instance of human musical activity on the earth. It states that Jubal was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ. Jubal is Lamech's 2nd son by Adah, and a descendant of Adam's 1st son Cain. Jubal was the inventor or master of 2 classes of musical instruments, and is called the father of all who play them i.e the harp and the flute.

But before then music seemed to have existed as Ezekiel 28:13 of the KJV and NKJV seems to hint that Satan was involved with music in Heaven. « *Music is a vital part of heaven and the throne of God. It has been part of the worship and praise of God since the beginning. Lucifer was created as a beautiful and wise archangel, an anointed cherub, and music was an integral part of his being. In Ezekiel 28:14, it appears that God created Lucifer with supernatural abilities and talents in music, to be used daily for the glory of God. His musical abilities were in such perfection that they were far above human comprehension* ».

As we can read in the publication of Goodness of God ministry (2016), « *The Devil did not lose any of his musical*

*abilities and talents when he rebelled against God. They just became corrupted. And now he uses his musical abilities for his own wicked purposes... Satan fully understands musical composition, as he was originally a living musical instrument, and he still carries music as an integral part of his spiritual being. He knows how to compose and inspire music that will seduce the human heart away from God. »*

*« Lyrics are a powerful medium to convey a message. Yet many people don't pay much attention to them. The message in a song is rarely checked at the entrance to the heart. Instead, we allow the words and sounds to flow in freely. Many song lyrics promote the works of the flesh and encourage self-mutilation, suicide, lust, greed, sexual perversion, and rebellion. »*

*« Music can be a powerful idol builder. It can drive the heart to worship love, sex, money, self, and power while leaving God out of the picture. The Devil was the first idolater, and he uses music to get people to worship anything but the one true God. ».*

## 4. Why Did God Create Music ?

The reason why God created music is to bring Him glory and nothing or anybody else (cf. Rom. 11:36). Music predates creation (Job 38:7) and is meant to be a channel for the worship of God (Rev. 5:9; 15:3). As such the choice of men to lead the worship of God is made by God. Kinds of music that are acceptable in the worship of God are clearly described and selected in the Bible precisely in Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16 list "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.". Martin Luther once said concerning music that it is a precious gift that has been given to man alone that he might thereby remind himself that God has created man for the express purpose of praising and extolling God.

Some of the salient points concerning the reason why God created music is as follows:

- Music as a reflection of the goodness and beauty of His presence;
- Appealing to our human emotions to holiness;
- Prepare the heart for the preached Word of God;
- Draw sinners to God;
- Rejoicing while praising God;
- dance for God;
- Accompany Holy rituals;
- Entertainment personal but with God;
- social cohesion through praise and worship of the creator;
- Its ability to impact emotions positively;
- Create altered states of consciousness;
- And promote Divine healing;
- Promote Jesus' teaching;
- Express their praise, love, and devotion for God.

## 5. What is the Spiritual Force of Music ?

According to Bartleby.com (2024), music has the power to control the emotions and thoughts of its listeners. Furthermore, religious music is able to initiate or deepen the spiritual connection between the listener, performer, and the higher being regardless of sect.

Music has the power to transform all the hatred in the world into love. The spiritual power of music is so matchless that it is able to cure innumerable ailments. It is music that makes the human spirit fly by transforming a personality from dense to subtle, and proximity to God is possible through it. hatred in the world into love.

Therefore, music transforms people's personality. Music has the ability to create an atmosphere of peace and calm, even in the most chaotic of situations through the presence of the type of spirits and musical content. Gospel music spreads a message of christianity of God, it expresses a message of good news. Gospel Music is joy and hope; it is helpful in times of depression, trials when we go through their daily challenges in order to still have hope and faith.

On the contrary, Many blues musicians simply used Satanic words and supernatural images to help make their music more powerful. Caneva warned about the influence that rock music and other subgenres such as heavy metal, death metal, or death rock have on the behavior of youth. "i sold my soul to the devil," a phrase expressed by various high-profile artist. Worldly music not to talk of some recognized ungodly music has as effects to promote ' themes of hardship, rebellion, and sensuality contrarily to religious and moral norms in order to lead people astray to hell.

### **6. What is the Psychological, Moral and Physical Power of Music ?**

According to Sarah Whitfield music is tightly wound with human emotion, character, and experience. Music arouses sentiment and cannot be underestimated as a powerful shaper of human virtue, character, and emotion. Therefore musicians possess the ability to profoundly influence an audience for good or for evil. It depends on the nature of music and the manner in which musicians utilize it.

Moral, spiritual harmony and order in the soul are conducted most often by intrinsic elements contained in music as stated by prominent Greek philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle. Theorists throughout history have agreed that music profoundly influences human character and shapes morality. It appears that music can profoundly desensitize, influence, condition, and inspire audiences.

Music has both positive and negative effects on morality implies that it is possible to distinguish between the music associated with the concepts of moral and immoral. The lyrics of a song can definitely be either moral or immoral. Some music praises God's creation, while other music praises fornication. According to S Whitfield Music either habituated specific pleasurable notions, which encouraged good character, or unpleasant notions, which facilitated the maturation of immoral thoughts and deeds.

### **7. What is the Link Music and Glory ?**

It appears from Holy scriptures that music was aimed at his creation to glorify God for his beauty and awesomeness as well as his powers and riches beyond human imaginations. Thus all the creation was to indulge in this sacred art of praising and worshipping God. Music was the instrument of instrument, the way by excellence to do so. We can read it from 1. Psalm 150:1-6.

God created Lucifer with supernatural abilities and talents in music, to be used daily for the glory of God (Ezekiel 28:14). Lucifer is a fallen angel who was the head of the ministry of music in Heaven when he was in heaven. It has been said of him he was the most beautiful of ALL as the beauty of everything lies in music that rhythms all things. The danger is that once our heart is no more longing for God, music becomes instead an instrument of fall, failure, sin and ultimate destruction. There is a constant and obvious glorification of Lucifer and glamourization of Hell in today's modern music industry.

Today, the devil is using music to defile and turning away multitudes to hell against their creator and source of their joy and happiness. People seek the same thing glory but for themselves. That is wrong because all glory belongs to God alone. Looking for fame, wealth and connections through music has led to deperdition. For instance, Sam Smith performed their newest hit, "Unholy," with Kim Petras, where they were seen wearing a hat with devil horns.

As can be read online, many artists, including (but not limited to) Beyoncé, Travis Scott, Doja Cat, Lil Nas X, Billie Eilish, Lady Gaga, Trippie Redd and so on have been reported to show satanic symbolism within their concerts, music videos and content put out on social media.

Many songs of popular artists seem to glamour hell instead of Yahweh and Heaven, Bobcat multimedia reveal that many other artists have leaned into including satanic symbolism in their music videos. In her song "All the Good Girls Go to Hell," Billie Eilish first appears wearing white angel wings in the beginning of the music video, but after falling to hell, her wings turn black, and her background dancers appear in the flames behind her. In her song "Hold Up," Beyoncé shows a Bible sinking in water after singing lines about meeting the devil.

### **8. Is There a Holy and Unholy Music ?**

According to Hagin Lucifer had something to do with music. Evidently music has always played a part in the program of God, as well as that of Satan? When David played on his harp it quieted that evil spirit in Saul. The right kind of music prepares you to yield to the Spirit of God, while the wrong kind will prepare you to yield to the spirit of the devil. The devil works through the flesh, while God works through your spirit and so is the type of music whether holy or unholy. Hence music will be called holy, Church music, hymnals, gospel and worship music, sacred or religious music when it is performed or composed for religious or Godly ritual use. The Bible says about holy music in Psalm 47:1 "Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with LOUD songs of joy".

Holy music is a channel for the seven spiritual gifts first found in the book of Isaiah which are: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. While holy music leads us to Walk in the Spirit in order not to fulfill the lust of the flesh. Worldly music also referred as unholy is serving the purpose of the evil one and the desires of the flesh.

The lyrics whether soft, hard, direct or indirect will usually promote the fruits of the flesh according to Galatians 5:19-21 NIV which says: « The acts of the flesh are obvious sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage ». Therefore a music whose lyrics, images, videos or symbols are about sexual immorality, exhuberance of wealth, smoking, drug, killing, rivalry, tatoo, immoral dressing and the like is not serving a holy purpose and is meant to be destructive of the soul, the spirit as well as the body. The majority of modern pop, rap and other kinds of music promote themes like pride, lust, alcohol, weed, sexual immorality, drugs, worship of idols.

### **9. Is There a Relationship Between Music and Sin ?**

God is love and music is the vehicle assigned to transport love in the hearts of God and men, bringing communion, love, peace and radiance not to say blessings. There is seldom music whatsoever not referring to love, the same way no

ritual nor assignments, operations, actions, activities, transactions that can be carried out without rhythm. Indeed what we hear determines our sense of directions, our feelings and is stronger than what we see, touch or hear. It is believe hearing is the foremost sign leading the soul, body and heart. This why preaching is about hearing before other things. To convince a man to act or not is mostly what he hears or must have heard then comme the other senses. The word of God is transported through Holy music and determine our character whether we move according to the spirit or by the flesh. David the man after God's heart was a praise and worship master.

The relationship between music and sin is established. As we can read in *Wordpress.com*, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). Is listening to secular music a sin? If it does not glorify God, if it encourages faithlessness and ungodliness, if the lyrics are immoral, then yes, it is sinful. If we are constantly listening to music that is about drugs, sex, murder, guns, disrespect for women, we are not honouring God. Also The third commandment says: "You shall not misuse my name." Misusing God's purpose for music in worship services is both dangerous and sad or using God's name for money making even in music if we are not filled with the holy spirit is ungodly. We have to acknowledge that much of secular music glorifies sinful behavior such as sex, materialism, pride, and the list seemingly goes on.

#### **10. Is God Singing ? God is the only song we should listen**

God is not about a song, He is the song we should dance, rejoice, move and live for. The Bible says that Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. Music is used for glorifying and worshipping God, telling of his great deeds, offering outlets for both lament and celebration. Therefore real music is God himself. Secular music often promotes immorality and violence while belittling purity and integrity. If a song glorifies what opposes God, a Christian should not listen as he must follow only Christ. God is described as "my song" 3 times (KJV, ESV) in Exodus 15:2, Psalm 118:14 and Isaiah 12:2. He is the "strength" of the hearts and lives of His people, and of their "salvation"; and therefore is their "song". He is the subject of their song and praise. A song is what is meant to be listened, followed. Music is defined as a vocal or instrumental sounds (or both) combined in such a way as to produce beauty of form, harmony, and expression of emotion. Who else than Yahweh is the word, the voice, the instrumenter of all creations and our lives. The source of harmony, joy, hope, love. He is therefore not a song to be sung but the song himself to be followed and listened all our lives.

#### **11. What Does That Mean God Dwells in Praise and Worship ?**

To dwell means to settle, to be engaged with or to be fully present in a place or with a person. When we read the Holy Scriptures, it appears that throughout history from Genesis to Revelation God has always been by the side and in our midst to teach, save, bring peace and joy. It appears that God is enthroned in our spirits, soul, body and mind through our worship and praises. This is stated in the Bible precisely Psalm 22:3 which states, "*But thou art holy, O thou that inhabits the praises of Israel.*"

Praise and worship are channels to speak heart to the heart to God about his greatness and his wonderful deeds. Therefore God's throne is not physical but spiritually made of communion, holiness, advancement of his kingdom by seeking good for one another, serving one another. Therefore to sit on the throne or on top of the Holy mountain is to seek righteousness and for he who is righteous far all his creatures to be grateful and express it in their ways of life and through their words as God at the beginning was the word made manifest.

#### **12. What is Gospel Music ?**

Gospel etymologically refers to good news, in Christianity, the term "good news" refers to the story of Jesus Christ's birth, death, and resurrection. Gospel music is heard in church and sung by a gospel choir. It is stated that in past, gospel music involved harmonies and melodies representing the hymns as well as several expressions drawn from African music and the concept of divinity. As such, In the beginning, enslaved Africans sang gospel songs about freedom from slavery and bonded labor, sometimes with a religious connotation of honoring or thanking God.

A key figure in the development of Gospel was Thomas A. Dorsey (1899 -1993). Referred to today as the father of Gospel Music, Dorsey pioneered the form in Chicago. Thomas Andrew Dorsey was an American musician, composer, and Christian evangelist. Hence the four elements of gospel music are: call-and-response; group singing; Instrumentation emphasizing rhythm instruments (drums, rhythm guitar, etc.) and complex rhythms or polyrhythms.

This is in line with Psalm 150: 3-6 that says: « Praise him with trumpets. Praise him with harps and lyres. Praise him with drums and dancing. Praise him with harps and flutes. Praise him with cymbals. Praise him with loud cymbals. Praise the LORD, all living creatures! ». Therefore music has always existed as the Bible says that God created Lucifer as an angel of light who was the bearer of music in heaven meant to worship God. The King James Version of Ezekiel 28:13 states, "The workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created." God created Lucifer with supernatural abilities and talents in music, to be used daily for the glory of God. So Gospel or God's music has always existed from the beginning of the creation.

The first musician in the Bible was Jubal, the son of Lamech. In Genesis 4:21, he is described as 'the father of all who play stringed instruments and pipes'. This verse tells us of his brother Jubal. Jubal became a musician and fathered a line of musicians. Specifically, Jubal and his offspring played the lyre. The greatest songwriter of all time is King David of Israel (c. 1000 BC). There are 150 psalms in the Bible's Book of Psalms. The Old Testament book contains a generous and beautiful sample of the heartfelt prayers from David's devoted heart. David was called a man after God's own heart because he was faithful to the Lord, he was repentant when he did wrong, and he loved the Lord with all his heart. He was competent, he was courageous, he was committed, and he was confrontational.

#### **13. Is There Anything Like the Devil's Music ?**

Contrarily to gospel and Godly spiritual music which are meant to inspire and uplift people through the good news of Yahweh and the saviour his son Jesus Christ. There are other types of music which focus more on emotions and

entertaining people. The most influential are pop, soul, rock, rap, electronic, country, jazz, classical, latin just to name but a few.

According to statista reports, deserving of its name, pop music is in fact the most popular music genre in the world. According to IFPI's latest Music Consumer Insight Report. 64 percent of the 19,000 consumers from 18 countries surveyed listen to pop music, edging out rock and dance/electronic music as the second and third most popular genres.

Pop music is an abbreviation of the word 'popular.' But for some authors with whom we agree, The term "pop" refers to all kinds of genres, such as rock, country, rap, etc. The lyrics of modern pop songs typically focus on such as romance, sexuality, love relationship most often out of wed carnal knowledge. The most popular pop musicians around the world are Michael Jackson; Madonna; Britney Spears; Prince; Taylor Swift; Elton John; Lady Gaga; Harry Styles or Puff Daddy. Most of them are recognized into dubious affairs such as homosexuality, child pornography, occultism, drug abuse, suicides, etc. Though admired around the world by many, their morality is usually not in accordance with the Holy scriptures.

There are a lot of instances where musicians have been said to have made a deal with the devil for their ability. Demons recording even in pop are obvious signs on which god the artists are worshipping. Most often we can have direct messages praising the devil or subliminal messages which are hidden words or images that are not consciously perceived but may influence one's attitudes and behaviors through some music and musicians.

Therefore, it is believed that music from musicians who are not Yahweh worshippers or whose messages are not intended for the spread of the good news should be ignored from believers and those who want to live a successful life. Such music can be classified somehow as the devil's music and films for there is no neutrality either we are from one side or we are from the other.

#### 14. What About the Industry of World Music ?

Music is the gateway to our soul. It can teach us what we don't want to learn, enter our sub conscious without our consent, create a desire for something we would not normally desire. Music has the power to influence our choices in life and to manipulate our beings, emotions and behaviours.

Satan is from th onset a musician. Therefore music is the favoured pathway to destroy the soul of God's creature who chased him from his position as an angel of light to a fallen angel wandering on earth. Aleister Crowley who was a magician and freemason is considered as one of the most influential personality in pop music. Some famous pop music are still in line with Crowley philosophy about a form of lawless life. This is why we can talk of wicked music industry where demonic and evil purpose music are manufactured in the dark to destroy humanity.

To illustrate we need to know that break dancing is similar to egyptian contorsion; graffitis and tatoos to the honour of men are contrary to Yahweh's will Leviticus 19:28, "You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor tattoo any marks on you: I am the Lord."

The world music industry is about false doctrines and evil enticement. As shown by research, music especially one which does not praise God as the source of life, can induce harmful effects, particularly when it comes to rumination.

When a person dwells on negative thinking or feelings, it can contribute to the development of depression and anxiety or worsen existing conditions. Contrarily from what God wants for us.

#### 15. Conclusion and Perspectives

The kingdom song is clear and warns us in distinctive and precise bible references. Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him (1 John 2:15). Therefore music should be in accordance with the word of God as he commands: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God (Colossians 3: 16). Christians and lovers of true life must not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of mind, that by testing may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect (Romans 12:2). World or pop music is compared to the song of fools, that is why it is better for a man to hear the rebuke of the wise than to hear the song of fools (Ecclesiastes 7:5). On the contrary we should not take part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them (Ephesians 5:11).

For our own well being and others, God create us to have a deep relationship with him. That is why he urges us to in Ephesians 5:19 to be addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all our heart. Because we love the glory that comes from man which is futile and destructive instead of the one that comes from God. « God will give us a psalm in our private prayer life for our benefit. On the other hand, a hymn is a song of praise and worship addressed to and directed toward God. A spiritual song brings forth the revelation of the word that the Holy Spirit has given you » (John 12: 43). This is important because we cannot please God by living by the sight and according to the senses of our flesh (Romans 8:8).

As God's temple only a befitting sounds and music should be given attention (1 corinthians 3: 16). We should therefore avoid excitement and passions of the flesh as God is spirit and must be served spiritually first (John 4; 24). This is important to be able to remain faithful and friend to God as friendship to the world is synonymous to enmity with Yahweh ( James 4:4).

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