

**Module** : Praise and Worship**Session** : Music Team Principles**Focus** : Qualities of Music Team MembersWord to the World  
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## People Called to Facilitate Corporate Praise and Worship

There are some whom God has uniquely anointed specifically to facilitate and lead His people in corporate praise and worship. Traditionally, these people will constitute today what we term a 'worship team'. The term '**music team**' is preferred since the 'worship team' reserves the experience of 'worship' to a specific group of singers and musicians. In essence, the entire church gathered together is really what we would call a 'worship team'.

The music team is normally comprised of a leader, singer(s), instrumentalists (musicians, with one key musician or music director), key or group vocalists and/or a choir. A music team can be as small as two individuals or as large as 100 members.

The **spiritual father of the house** is in principle the **leader of the music team**, who may or may not be part of the team, but who determines the spiritual dynamic of the worship environment. Whether he is actually part of the team, he will usually designate someone to give leadership and direction to the team, but under his overall oversight. **Spiritual fathers determine the feel and flavour of every worship experience. This is borne out of the interactions of the spiritual father with God.** The most popular or most recent CD on the market does not determine this. Do not gather songs recklessly.

Music must be like your person in the Spirit. The nature of your **spirit must determine the nature of your worship**. The nature of your worship must fit you like a hand in glove. Worship must be 'in spirit' – it must emanate from the spirit and not from the soul. True worship starts in your spirit and then filters through the soul and body. Yet there are many whose 'worship' starts in the soul realm, devoid of the Holy Spirit's influence in your spirit. The soul will appeal to the external, the sensual, the emotional and what 'feels' good. True worship which proceeds from the spirit is certainly not boring, dull or stale, but it is not soul-rooted nor soul-dependant. Your spirit must be connected to the primary grace resident within your spiritual father, who releases the WORD of God to your spirit. From this platform – true worship in TRUTH (word) and spirit is released.

**David was the one who determined the nature of worship in his day.** Asaph, one of his key musicians and songwriters, caught his spirit and replicated this. David directed the songs in his day. There must be fluid mutual respectability between the music team and the senior elder/ pastor / spiritual father or leader. Catch the 'feel' of the song in the heart of your spiritual father. Do not choreograph a Sunday morning meeting; rather lead it. This does not negate the need for thorough planning and rehearsal to develop excellence and synchrony, but seek to flow – be fluid. **Do not try to be too perfect to the point where you factor out being sensitive and nimble-minded to subtle twists and turns that the Spirit of God would initiate.**

The music team is not to be a disparate group functioning on their own apart from the specific emphasis of their spiritual leader. **They are not to develop their own vision contrary to that which their spiritual father is seeking to build and develop with the household of faith.** They, more than anyone in the house, **must demonstrate mature and committed sonship** toward their spiritual father and seek to amplify and enhance the specific purposes of God that is placed within his heart. **Thus, they ought to thoroughly understand the power, influence and effect of vocal and musical expressions of thanksgiving, praise and worship.** This would regulate their function and tailor it to be in compliance with accomplishing the intent of God for the people they are leading. This presupposes that they fully comprehend the role of music aiding the swift attainment of divine purpose.

### Generally Accepted Traits of Music Team Members

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ♫ Function as like-minded sons to their spiritual father who is connected to authentic apostolic grace | ♫ Humble, not Proud   |
| ♫ Sound Moral Character  | ♫ Teachable, not arrogant   |
| ♫ Sound Spiritual Character  | ♫ Servant's Heart   |
| ♫ Holy Spirit Filled / Baptised  | ♫ Responsible   |
| ♫ A Student of the Word of God   | ♫ Faithful  |
| ♫ Prophetic Capacity   | ♫ Punctual  |
|  | ♫ Reasonable but ever developing Technical Proficiency - vocally and/or musically |

### The Caliber of David's Music Team

Music teams today which serve to facilitate the corporate expression of praise and worship would do well to study the calibre of David's music team. Read 1 Chronicles 25:1-31.

#### 1 Chronicles 25:1-8

- 1 Moreover, David and the commanders of the army set apart for the service some of **the sons of Asaph and of Heman and of Jeduthun**, who were to prophesy with lyres, harps and cymbals; and the number of those who performed their service was:
- 2 **Of the sons of Asaph**: Zaccur, Joseph, Nethaniah and Asharelah; the sons of Asaph were under the direction of Asaph, who prophesied under the direction of the king.
- 3 **Of Jeduthun, the sons of Jeduthun**: Gedaliah, Zeri, Jeshaiah, Shimei, Hashabiah and Mattithiah, six, under the direction of their father Jeduthun with the harp, who prophesied in giving thanks and praising the Lord.
- 4 **Of Heman, the sons of Heman**: Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shebuel and Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti and Romamti-ezer, Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir, Mahazioth.
- 5 All these were the sons of **Heman the king's seer** to exalt him according to the words of God, for God gave fourteen sons and three daughters to Heman.
- 6 All these were under the direction of their father to sing in the house of the Lord, with cymbals, harps and lyres, for the service of the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun and Heman were under **the direction of the king**.

7 Their number who were trained in singing to the Lord, with their relatives, all who were skillful, was 288.

**1 Chron.25:1a** Moreover, David and the commanders of the army set apart for the service some of the sons of Asaph and of Heman and of Jeduthun, who were to prophesy with lyres, harps and cymbals.

David appointed 288 singers and musicians to minister unto the Lord and lead Israel in the worship of God. Note the specific mention of 'the sons of'. These music teams operated in sonship in reference to their father. They were not loose canons doing their own thing. They functioned in intimate relationship with their spiritual father and fulfilled the emphasis of his heart for each 'service'. **They were submitted and teachable and only 'performed' so as to accomplish divine purpose. The constant use of the term 'sons' in the scriptural passage cited above is noteworthy.** The father-son dynamic or wineskin is the medium in which God is locating His divine purposes, and the means through which He is executing his will and intent.

David was the king and functioned as the primary fathering resource through which God would work.

**6** All these were under the direction of their father to sing in the house of the Lord, with cymbals, harps and lyres, for the service of the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun and Heman were under the direction of the king.

They were all under David's leadership and direction. No-one could do their own thing. The word 'direction' is translated from the Hebrew word, 'yad' meaning 'hand'. So they were under the 'hand' of David. The hand is the symbol for impartation of grace and strength. They operated under the very strong influence of David, their set man or spiritual father. **Music teams must function under the predominant anointing and grace of their spiritual father.**

Very often David would write songs (psalms) and hand this over to Asaph to be taught to the team and then to be sung before the Lord and Israel (**1 Chronicles 16:7ff**). Soon, Asaph functioned so strongly in David's grace and anointing for this purpose, that he began to write his own psalms, which are actually recorded in the book of Psalms and which are written in the same spirit as the Davidic psalms.

Spiritual fathers determine the entire emphasis and flow of their music teams and must engage and monitor things like the choice of songs, the specific style of songs, etc. and even at times present material to the music team to be developed into song (if the set man is not musical or has limited songwriting ability). **BUT if the spirit of sonship is very strong, and the music team operates in matured sonship in reference to their spiritual father, then it is possible, that even without conferring one with the other, that the team under the leadership of the team leader, will choose or write songs that are in keeping with the emphasis and leading of the Lord within their spiritual father.** Ultimately, all singers, musicians and songs sung must serve to facilitate the purposes of God for that locality of people as it is revealed to the spiritual father of the house.

**The 'hand' is also symbolic of power, authority and possession.** The music team must function representatively of the spiritual authority resident in their set man.

There were four key people in David's music group: Three of these individuals were: **Asaph, Heman and Jeduthun** (Shortened form is 'Ethan'). The fourth is **Chenaniah**. The meanings of their names highlight some of the traits that should characterise those called to this function:

**ASAPH = Gatherer or Collector; to collect together; to draw up;  
To gather up the rear; he that gathered and removed reproach**

The capacity to bring people together and to focus their attention in praise and worship on a specific aspect of God's nature or work, should be a characteristic of church music team members in general and worship facilitators in particular. Those called to this ministry must understand the principles of **love, covenant and one-ness** within the team and amongst the Body. They should **not be divisive or schismatic in nature**. They should be **'gatherers of the people'**, and not **'scatterers of the people'**. They also have the capacity to **'gather and remove reproach'**. **Reproach** has reference to the sense of **shame, disgrace and humiliation that people for various reasons might be feeling**. The very substance of the spirit, personality, and resident anointing of the music team must be such that it is powerfully able to lift this sense of disgrace or discredit that people may feel.

**HEMAN = Faithful; Raging; Right-Handed**

**Faithfulness** to God and then to this ministry is vital. Faithful in terms of **waiting upon your calling and seeking to develop it as best you can**. Also, be faithful in terms of the **practical commitments** that this ministry demands, e.g. being early before meetings; preparing adequately both spiritually and practically; displaying servanthood in assisting, for example, with the set-up and set-down processes of instruments, etc. Be **dependable and trustworthy**. 'Heman' also means **'raging'** in that he is violently focused upon his assignment. He possesses a **militancy and vigour in the execution of his task**. He is not nonchalant and casual.

**He is also 'right-handed'**. The right hand is a reference to the principle of the **strong ability to execute and carry out divine assignments with strong governmental strength**. The 'right hand of the Lord does valiantly', the psalmist declared. Music team members must display strength and force, with humility, in seeing the link between their function and the **way it facilitates and is fast-tracking the purposes of God**.

**JEDUTHUN = Perpetually Praising; a choir of praise; friendship; full of love**

It goes without saying that those called to facilitate the corporate expressions of praise and worship should excel more than others in it. Jeduthun actually implies a **consistency in praise**. Whether or not you are actually actively involved in leading a worship service, your very state of being should be an inspiration to others to praise the Lord. Some singers on music teams only an expressive of the worshipful devotional when a microphone is in their hands and they are on a public platform. This ought not to be the case. Your very presence, whether you are on stage or not, should activate others to praise and worship God.

It is often said that you cannot lead people to places you have not been yourself. Generally, the heights that congregational expressions of praise and worship can attain will largely be determined by the



strength, skill and spirituality of those leading the praise and worship. This actually should not be the case as people should not be dependent upon the music team to determine the intensity by which they engage God corporately in expressing praise and worship, but it still remains true that the spiritual standing and focus of the music team can play an important role to affecting the corporate atmosphere.

'Jeduthun' also means '**a choir of praise**'. He singularly represents and embodies an entire choir of praisers. **He has the capacity to express the strength of a large group singularly**. The power of numerical strength is in him. Each music team's member must be **substantive in the quality and disposition of their spirit**. They must be people who carry the **resident glory of God – His 'weightiness and grandeur'**.

Jeduthun also means '**full of love**' and '**friendly**'. God is love. The Music Team must ooze the love of God. This presupposes that they are united and actively express love for each other and for the people they are leading. I have personally observed over the years how significant facets of God's purposes in churches are aborted because of **divisions, envying and jealousy in music teams**.

Asaph, Heman and Jeduthun each had sons of their own, all involved in this music team. Asaph had four sons; Heman had fourteen sons, and Jeduthun had six sons. Each of their sons had twelve sons or relatives. I challenge the reader to explore further the meanings of each of their names to extend your understanding of the quality of people involved with corporate expressions of praise and worship – see 1 Chron. 25 (See the appendix at the end of this study). An important principle to stress is that all of the individuals functioned as **SONS** first, before they functioned as **musicians or singers**. All spiritual activity in the house of God is built on the principle of sonship.

### **CHENANIAH**

Apart from Asaph, Heman and Jeduthun, **Chenaniah** seemed to occupy the position of leader of the entire group. In the movement of the Ark back to Jerusalem, Chenaniah was appointed as chief of the Levites.

**'CHENANIAH', = 'Established or planted by Jehovah; Whom Jehovah supports; As perpetuated by Jah'.**

This highlights the **solidity and firmness that should be evident in music team members**. Team members should not be given to **vacillation in soul or in spirit**. They should be strong and anchored and manifest a reasonable level of spiritual maturity and stability. This does not exclude young people from this ministry, but must they seek to grow and become immovable in God – not easily swayed by trials or circumstances.

Chenaniah was a **highly skilled** musician and singer:

**1 Chronicles 15:22** **Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, was in charge of the singing; he gave instruction in singing because he was skillful.**

Chenaniah was the leader of the singers because he was skillful. Musicians and singers should have a **reasonable level of proficiency in their singing and /or playing their musical instruments**. Also they should seek to excel in these dimensions in a technical sense and also in the spiritual sense in terms of

cultivating greater spiritual sensitivity to the Holy Spirit to anoint and lead through their singing and playing (see 1 Chronicles 25:7). **Both elements of technical expertise and spiritual sensitivity must be developed.**

**1 Chronicles 15:27** And David *was* clothed with a robe of fine linen, and all the Levites that bare the ark, and the singers, and Chenaniah the master of the song with the singers: David also *had* upon him an **ephod of linen**. (KJV)

In 1 Chronicles 15:27 Chenaniah is called the '**master of the song**'. The Hebrew word for 'song' here is massa, which means '**burden**' and relates to carrying a prophetic burden or responsibility. Hence the music team members should carry a **prophetic burden to release God's intentions** musically or seek to capture musically present truth which God is releasing to the earth.

Note also that Chenaniah wore **fine linen**, which is a picture of righteousness. Practical righteousness and **moral purity must characterise music team members**. Linen also does not generate unnecessary sweat or perspiration, indicating the reliance upon the **grace and anointing of God, rather than of human endeavour**.

#### **MUSICAL LEVITES WAITED ON THEIR MINISTRY.**

**2 Chron. 7:6** And the priests waited on their offices: the Levites also with instruments of music of the Lord, which David the king had made to praise the Lord, because his mercy endureth for ever, when David praised by their ministry; and the priests sounded trumpets before them, and all Israel stood (KJV)

**2 Chron.13:10** But as for us, the Lord is our God, and we have not forsaken him; and the priests, which minister unto the Lord, are the sons of Aaron, and the Levites wait upon their business (KJV)

'Wait' upon your ministry as a musician and / or singer. The word **wait = amad = to stand as in the sense of standing to wait for orders and direction.**

Asaph is called a 'seer' in 1 Chron. 25:25. The Hebrew word for 'seer' = **chozeh = to see the message come.**

Thus musicians and singers have a **prophetic responsibility** to wait before the Lord in prayer, meditation and in the study of the Word; in seeking after Him, for direction and His leading; to develop the capacity for seeing / perceiving the Word or specific emphasis of the Lord for the time of corporate worship.

**The music team must be in a place of constant preparedness.** Each member should practice privately frequently; and also rehearse corporately often. Part of the corporate rehearsal time should be devoted to prayer, and developing the spiritual sensitivity to listening to the voice of the Lord and practising the 'prophetic song' (e.g. singing spontaneously through portions of Scripture or unrehearsed singing around a spiritual theme presented to the worship team at the practice session).

One could receive direction or even a prophetic song way before the service commences. At times, 'Holy Spirit led' does not necessarily mean 'spontaneous'. God can speak to you way before the specific worship service.

May all you singers and musicians seek to grow in your capacity to be excellent in the technical skill as well as the spiritual capacity to exercise this function with great spiritual sensitivity, carrying a prophetic burden through which God's Word will be transmitted, re-enforced and echoed musically.

## **JUBAL – FIRST MUSICIAN IN SCRIPTURE**

The first musician and inventor of musical instruments was Jubal, the son of Lamech.

**Genesis 4:21** His brother's name was Jubal; **he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe.**

**JUBAL = A stream; joyful Sound; jubilee; he will be carried.'**

Musicians and singers in God's Kingdom must literally be a 'stream' for God. Let your function as a singer and/or musician be characterised as a 'stream' - a '**flow in and through which God can move - a fluid and sensitive 'conduit' through which God's anointing and leading may work through.**

Remain a stream - a continuous flow of God's power and purpose within you as you function as part of a music team. **The music team should be a prophetic stream of life and power, which flows from the throne of God to the people of God.**

Allow the Spirit of the Lord to CARRY you – be 'borne along' by the Spirit of God as you execute your function. Do not rely upon your own natural expertise or preparation (whilst these are important) – but be constantly aware of subtle twists and turns that the Lord may desire for you to follow through on.

The sound of jubilee must be echoed – a sound of joy that brings liberty and freedom from various vices and shackles. Musicians and singers should exemplify super-abundant joy. Joy is infectious and so they that occupy frontal roles in a corporate setting must model joy exuberantly.

Note that Jubal is a 'stream'. Streams are connected to a river. They are the outflow – a shoot off from the main river. Their source is the river. This river for the singer and musician is nothing but the Holy Spirit Himself.

**Psalms 46:4** There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God,

As a 'STREAM', singers and musicians must 'make glad' the city of God, which is the church, the Body of Christ. The effect upon the church by singers and musicians must be one of gladness. This is true even when there is corporate repentance, abasement or humility. The ultimate effect even of a sombre and introspective musical expression is that divine joy might ultimately be brought to fruition.

Note also **Jubal functioned as a 'father'**, implying also that he embodied the principle of sonship forcefully. The relational dynamic of fathering and sonship are embodied in who Jubal is and what he represents. Singers and musicians must be properly located within the father-son wineskin to legitimate their function.

**'STREAMS'** also indicate waters flowing, which is symbolic of the **WORD of God** (John 15:3; Eph. 5:25-27; John 3:5; 1 Pet.1;22-23; John 17:17; Rev. 1:15; Ezek. 43:2; Rev 14:2; Ps. 46:4; Ps. 36:8; Ps. 65:9). Musicians and singers must be Word-centred. They must love God's Word more than anything else. The power of God's Word, to which they are obedient, is actually the very source of their empowerment and the platform upon which the Holy Spirit will work in and through them.

The singers and musicians in the worship team must consecrate themselves for the function of facilitating corporate praise and worship. David's music team wore fine linen, which is a picture of righteousness. The musicians must not simply function in this capacity because they are gifted vocally or musically. They must view it as a serious calling and responsibility.

In **David's time**, singers and musicians were :

♫	<b>'appointed'</b>	(2 Chron. 20:21),
♫	<b>'separated'</b>	(1 Chron. 25:1),
♫	<b>'instructed'</b>	(1 Chron. 25:1-7; 2 Chron. 23:13),
♫	<b>ranked</b>	(1 Chron. 15:16-18),
♫	<b>chosen by name</b>	(1 Chron. 16:37-41),
♫	<b>skillful</b>	(1 Chron. 15:22; 2 Chron. 34:12; Ps. 33:3);
♫	<b>honoured financially</b>	(1 Chron. 9:22,26-33; Ezek. 40:44; Neh. 7:1,44,73; 10:28, 39; 11:22-23; 12:28-47; 13:5,10)

Functioning as a singer or musician is a serious one. We need to accord this function with the scriptural import that it deserves. A new breed of singers and musicians are being raised in the Kingdom of God presently – those who understand the gravity of their calling in terms of their function within the overall eternal purposes of God.

To every singer and musician, may you "fulfill your ministry" (2 Tim. 4:5).

***Sing to Him a new song;  
Play skillfully with a loud noise  
Psalm 33:1 (KJV)***

## **APPENDIX : SON'S OF ASAPH, JEDUTHUN AND HEMAN**

### **Asaph's FOUR SONS :**

Zaccur	=	Mindful; well remembered; pure (root = to remember)
Joseph	=	May God adds; he adds; increasing (root = to add)
Nethaniah	=	Whom Jehovah gave; Gift of Jehovah; Gift of God; Gift of the Lord
Asharelah	=	Upright to God; Upright toward God; Right before God; Guided towards God

### **JEDUTHUN'S SIX SON'S :**

Gedaliah	=	Magnified of the Lord; Whom Jehovah has made great; Jehovah is great; Brought up by God.
Zeri	=	Frame; form; i.e. of his parents; anything made (root = to form, to fashion)
Jeshaiah	=	Jehovah is opulent; Jehovah has saved; Salvation of the Lord
Shimei	=	One who harkens; my listener; my fame; Jehovah is fame/famous
Hashabiah	=	Esteemed of the Lord; Whom Jehovah esteems; Jehovah is associated; Jehovah has devised
Mattithiah	=	Gift of the Lord

### **HEMAN'S FOURTEEN SON**

Bukkiah	=	Emptying of the Lord; Wasting of Jehovah; Mouth of Jehovah; Devastation sent by Jehovah
Mattaniah	=	Gift of the Lord; Gift of Jehovah
Uzziel	=	Strength of God; Power of God; God is strong; God, my strength
Shebuel	=	Captive of God; God is Renown; Return O God; Led Captive of God Abide with God
Jerimoth	=	Heights; High Places; Lifting Up; Elevation
Hananiah	=	Jehovah is Gracious; Gift of the Lord; Graciously given of the Lord.
Hanani	=	Graciously given of the Lord; Gracious to me; Gracious; The mercy of God
Eliathah	=	God comes; To whom God comes; God of the coming (one)
Giddalti	=	I have trained up; I have increased; I have magnified; I magnify God
Romamti-ezer	=	I have lifted up help; I have exalted help;
Joshbekashah	=	A seat in a hard place; Seat of hardship; Seat of hardness
Mallothi	=	Jehovah is speaking; Jehovah is splendid; I speak; I have spoken
Hothir	=	Abundance ; Whom God 'let remain'
Mahazioth	=	Visions; Visions of Significance (root = to contemplate ; to see)

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