

Singing—Who? Why? God's View

1. Is singing “manly”—do “real men” sing?

- a. How is David described in the last line of **2Sam 23:1**?
 - i. What kind of things did he do as a young man? **1Sam 17:34-36**
 - ii. What did he become as he matured? **1Sa 18:5,7**
 - iii. What role did he fill when 30 years old? **2Sam 5:3-5**
 - iv. What was God's nation's “songbook”?

This songbook was divided into five “Book”s —Note the line at the end of the 2nd Book, **Ps 72:20**
- b. Other men—courageous, men of faith, leaders, men of position—who unashamedly either sang and/or wrote songs
 - i. **Ex 15:1f; Dt 32:44; Ps 90** (superscription)
 - ii. **Ps 72,127** (superscription); **Song of Solomon 1:1**
 - iii. **Mt 26:30**
 - iv. **Ac 16:25**

2. Songs reflect the heart and soul of a people, and as such, exerts power and influence in their lives

a. In secular history

“Yankee Doodle” - Revolutionary War ... “Steal Away” - Anti-Slavery Movement ... “Sixteen Tons - Labor Movement ... “We Shall Overcome” - Civil Rights Movement ... “Where Have All The Young Men Gone?” - Anti-Vietnam War Movement ... “I Am A Woman” - E.R.A. Movement
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b. In Biblical history

National destiny - Prophetic of the destiny of Israel **Gen 49:1f** ... National praise, thanksgiving - On occasion of national blessing, victory, prosperity **Ex 15:1f; Ps 126; Jud 5:1f** ... National lament - On occasion of nat'l punish., defeat, adversity **Ps 137** ... Personal praise, thanksgiving - On occasion of personal blessing, prosperity **1Sa 2:1f; Lk 1:46f; 1:67f** ... Personal lament - On occasion of personal trouble, adversity **Ps 41** ... Royal psalms, focusing attention on the Israelite king as servant of Jehovah. Messianic **Ps 72; 110**

c. In the Christian's life

Strength in times of difficulty - **Ac 16:25** ... Joy in times of blessing - **Jam 5:13** ... Reflect moral and spiritual life - **Eph 5:18-19** (note context); **Col 3:15-17** ... Edifying fellow Christians - **1Co 14:15-17,26** Observe that this gift was to be used in the best possible way to edify others. Compare natural gifts today. (Note **11:17**, and the aim of assembling. This idea also in **Eph 5:19**, “speak. to one another,” and **Col 3:16**, “teaching and admon. on another”)

NOTE: Nothing said about **voice quality, knowledge of music**, etc....“good singer.” Not a spectator sport—every worshipper participates (**Col 3:16**)

3. Note what “psalms” are also called - **Psa 72:20**.

Apply to:

- Half-hearted efforts in singing, or even not singing at all.
- Putting on coats, gathering books, passing notes, clipping nails, leaving the assembly, etc., during singing.
- Levity in singing whether in the assembly or in the home. Not merely for entertainment or to be entertained.

4. God's view of singing

- a. Book of Psalms - Psalms
 - Largest book in the Bible
 - NT quoted 340 times in NT. Psalms 78 times, Isaiah 69, Deuteronomy 46. (*A Cappella Preservation Newsletter*, Vol. 1, No. 2)
- b. Other psalms inspired of God throughout the Scriptures by godly men, women, and even angels
- c. Accepted as a means to express our worship (“worth-ship”)
- d. Expected of saints - **Col 3:16, Eph 5:19; Jam 5:13**
- e. Associated with great events
 - Exodus - **Ex 15**
 - Birth of Jesus - (Mary, Angels, Simeon)
 - Worship at the throne of God - **Rev 5:9, 14:3, 15:3** (note, “song of Moses...and the song of the Lamb” - note first two events listed here)