

# **PURE AND CORRUPT DANCE IN THE BIBLE**

*Scriptural Examination Of The  
Worship Dance In The Church Today*

**PASTOR PAUL RIKA**

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## INTRODUCTION

*Matthew 13:24-25*

*24 Another parable put He forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seeds in his field:*

*25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.*

Many churches of Christ at this end time are sleeping. This gives the enemy of their souls the opportunity to enter in to plant tares among them. These tares are not only fake persons, but include some strange worship activities introduced into the church, which have a form of godliness, but minister mainly to the flesh to the deterioration of spiritual and true worship. As a result of this, it is important to examine every worship activity engaged in by the church of Christ to see it's scriptural root, doctrine and practice among the worshippers of the holy God in the Old and New Testaments.

This book examine - the prevalent worship dance in the church today in the light of the scriptures to show whether those that engage in dancing are doing so in the spirit of true worship or not. The book is an extract from a bigger book entitled "Worshipping God in the Beauty of Holiness" by the same author, a book full of scriptural insights on holiness in Worship, Music and Ministry. Get a copy of this book! God the father has poured the spirit of revival of Holiness upon those that sigh, that hunger and thirst after His truth, righteousness and holiness in this end time. Those raised by God for the revival of biblical truth, righteous and Holiness in this end time must not leave any stone unturned in a bid to return the backsliding church to the scripture.

# Chapter One

## PURE DANCE IN THE BIBLE

Dancing as laughter, smiling, and leaping are ways in which men express the joy of their heart. Both an individual and a congregation can go into dancing in the praise of God. We have biblical accounts where dancing was employed in the worship of God by one or more persons. However the scriptures show the limited practice of public dance in the assembly of worshippers. We shall consider scriptural details on dancing in subsequent chapters. The Psalmists testify and exhort thus:

### ***Psalm 30: 11***

***Thou hast turned for me my Mourning into dancing: Thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness.***

*Psalm 149:3*

*let us praise His name in the dance*

*(Let them sing praises to Him*

*with the timbrel and harp.)*

*(Psalm 150:4*

*Praise Him with the timbrel and dance: praise Him with stringed instrument)*

## **A Theological School of Thought**

Theologians are divided on the appropriate meaning of the Hebrew word which is translated ***Dance*** and ***Dancing*** in the three passages of psalms above. Some say that the Hebrew word can also mean Pipe, a musical instrument used in the praise of God. They see Psalms 149:3 and 150:4 listing instruments of music in the praise of God. Hence these theologians favour ***Pipe*** instead of *Dance* in the translation of the Hebrew word. According to them these verses of Psalms should read as follows:

*Psalm 30:11*

*"Thou hast turned my mourning into piping: Thou hast put off my sackcloth and girded me with gladness." Psalm 149:3*

*"Let us praise His name with the pipe: let them sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp."*

*Psalm 150:4*

*"Praise Him with the timbrel and pipe; praise Him with string instrument."*

This school of thought may be true for the following facts:

(i) Dancing was not among the worship activities carried out by Israel in the Old Testament in their worship assembly. There was no record of dancing in all their solemn feasts and worship meetings.

(ii) From the Babylonian captivity onward the Jews built synagogues to serve as a meeting place for their religious meetings. Jesus many times taught in the synagogues. The apostles also taught in the synagogues. Dancing was not observed by the worshippers of Jehovah who resorted to these places, neither was dancing practiced by the Jews in the temple as a worship activity in the days of Jesus and of the apostles.

(III) Not once was dancing observed all through the earthly ministry of Jesus. There was no record of His dancing. There was no

record of His disciples dancing. There was no record of His audience dancing. Yet God received the highest praise and glory under the ministry of Jesus.

(IV) New Testament constitution and pattern of worship service does not encourage public dance. The early church neither taught nor exemplified dancing in praise, thanksgiving and worship of God.

Although scarcely employed in the congregation of worshippers, the scriptures show how people demonstrated their joy in some circumstances through dancing in the pure worship of God. We shall consider further scriptural facts on dancing to make us gain more understanding that will guide our actions in the pure worship of God.

*Ecclesiastes 3:1-8:*

*1 To everything there is a season,  
and a time to every purpose  
under the heaven:*

*4 A time to weep, and a time to  
laugh; a time to mourn and a  
time to dance.*

The above scripture shows that there is a time the righteous may dance. This of course does not apply to all but to some who have this disposition. The dance of the righteous is a natural and spontaneous reaction of the body following a heart that is thrilled with God's goodness. Pure dance obtains in the life of an individual believer as well as a congregation of worshipers.

As good as this is, it is not carried beyond proportion by the individual believer or the congregation. Some people love dancing in their private praise and worship to God where nobody watches them. This may not be condemned if they do it in purity and good conscience before God.

What one may do in privacy and be blameless may not be done in public without blame. Hence the way a person may express his joy before God in privacy, may not be the same way) he may do so in the sight of others. Except where a particular act of the goodness of God so fills the mind and the Holy Spirit is in control, dancing in the public turns the mind to self for excellence and commendable

performance which breeds pride and self glory. This is one of the reasons why those who engage in regular dance in the church defile themselves before God. The Bible shows that there are moments when the righteous dances in the praise of God as seen in these scriptures.

*Jer.31:13*

*Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow.*

*Lamentation 5:15;*

*The joy of our heart is ceased; our dance is turned into mourning.*

The dance here does not refer to the wild dance in vigorous shaking of the body or the systematic, stylish dance that aims at expertise and excellence. It is the mild and controlled body movement which accompanies a heart of joy. As seen in scriptural examples, the dance

referred to by the above scriptures:

- Is often spontaneous.
- Is provoked by special joy.
- Is not engaged in for too long.
- Does not focus on expertise, excellence, or styles as done by the people of the world.
- Is not practiced by everyone.
- Is often not carried out in solemn worship meeting.

Dancing has its place or time in human life as says the scripture. Let's examine examples of pure dance of the righteous in scripture

### (I) **Miriam Led A Dance**

*Exodus 15:20, 21:*

*20 And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and **all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances.***

*21 And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to Jehovah, for He hath triumphed gloriously; The horse and his rider hath He thrown into*

*the sea.*

Miriam took a timbrel in her hand and played it as she led other women with their timbrels in dances, in praise and worship of God, for His goodness and wonderful works. They were excited and overwhelmed with God's great deliverance. Note that this was the first experience of dancing in the praise of God since they came out of Egypt. To have such a dance quickly organized by the women shows that they were used to it.

It was a cultural practice with the nation Israel when they were in Egypt. Every tribe of people have their cultural dance. Their dance when they were still living in Egypt was definitely not to the Lord, since they knew Him not. But the spirit of the present dance was of the Lord.

The manner of the present dance was definitely different from that of Egypt. Their dance was accepted by God. Notice the following facts about the dance.

- There was a reason for the dance: the great deliverance from their enemies, and the supernatural display of God's presence, power



and faithfulness to the nation Israel.

- The words of the song were clear and showed that they praise God with understanding.
- The dance was spontaneous and was that day only; for the rest of the days the joy of salvation and the praise of God was still celebrated, but not expressed in dances.
- Only the women danced. The men, though full of joy and praise 'to God, expressed it in other ways. Hence, the praise and worship of the living God can find expression in ways that do not involve dancing. The women danced once and afterwards joined the men in expressing praise and worship to God in other ways while the situation lasted.
- The men did not accuse the women for such high emotional display of praise and worship of God which had a clear cause.

The following are other ways of expressing our joy in praise and worship to God:

- Singing
- Sharing testimonies
- Speaking of His great works to one another

- Bowing down before Him
  - Stooping to the ground
  - Clapping the hands
  - Making a joyful noise and shouts
  - Giving sacrifice of thanksgiving to God
  - Giving portions to one another in praise of God
  - Paying your vows
  - Repentance and Holy Living
  - Making vows to serve the Lord
- From this scripture we understand that there can be a dance in praise and worship of the living God when one is overwhelmed with joy of God's special presence or miraculous acts. Dancing may not have to be everyday or to be participated by everyone.

There are other ways to express praises, thanksgiving and worship to God, apart from dancing.

## **(II) Jephthah's Daughter Welcomed her Father With Dances**

*Judges 11:34*



*And Jephthah came to Mizpeh unto his house, and, behold, **his daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances:** and she was his only child; beside her he had neither son nor daughter.*

Jephthah's daughter was his only child. They loved each other dearly. The battle against the children of Ammon was a great challenge to him, so much that he made a vow to the Lord: Imagine how she felt when her father left for that battle! To see her father come back alive and victorious over that battle, her joy was overwhelming and found satisfactory expression in dances, as she came out to welcome him.

Her dance was not for pleasure, In pride or for human praise, but In expression of her joy for her father's safe return and victory. Those around her saw that she had a course for such: expression of joy. Her bodily movement was not stylish, because her focus was not in the dance. She did not aim at dancing in excellence.

Sin and evil had no place in this dance business, both in her and in her viewers. This dance certainly was for a short time only, as it was spontaneous. This happened in their house, not in the temple.

There are some children of God, who being overwhelmed with joy of some particular manifestation of God's special act of mercy and goodness in their lives, spontaneously go into a dance in expression of this joy in the presence of their spouse, children, parents, or friends. Such a dance is brief. The mind is not in the dance, but in God who is worthy to be praised. Those that are around them understand the situation and glorify God with them. Of course, not everybody expresses his or her overwhelming joy in a dance.

### (III) **Women Danced To Meet King Saul After His Great Victory**

*1 Samuel 18:6, 7*

*6 And it came to pass as they*

*came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that **the women came out of all cities of Israel singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick,***

*7 And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.*

The Joy of victory over the Philistines Was overwhelming, especially to the women who quickly organised singing and dancing to welcome king Saul and his army. Men were apparently not involved in this dance. This dance was similar to the one organised by Miriam after the Lord's victory over Pharaoh in the Red Sea. Dancing has to do with emotion and women are more emotional than men. There had been many victories in battle over

Israel's enemies, but we did not read of women always dancing in the celebration of these. This particular war had appeared more challenging.

The overwhelming thing in the battle is the miracle in the victory of David over Goliath the Philistine. This dance had a cause, a motivation, an inspiration and was just for a time. There was no continuity, hence the flesh did not find occasion for interference. The heart was filled with the joy of the victory and the body responded to it. We cannot deny this kind of dancing by the Christian women of our society or churches today. The Holy Spirit can still stir a dance like this in an overwhelming manifestation of God's presence, power and miracles. Glory to His name! During such time He that stirs up the dance will rule the hearts of the people to keep the celebration clean and holy. The hearts of those in the dance will be so absorbed by His presence that the flesh will receive no attention.

When dancing becomes a regular thing, the Spirit of God will not always be in control and the flesh will take over to rule the heart to the defilement of the soul. Carnality and sin will certainly be manifest in those that engage in such dance.

Again we notice that after the victory of Israel over Pharaoh only the women danced. In the feast of the Lord in Shiloh, only their daughters went for a dance. Here again only the women danced. The men did not join them.

These suggest that Israel did not practice nor encourage mix dance, where men and women danced together. This may be because where men and women dance together:

- They become self conscious.
- They consciously or unconsciously seek to impress each other.
- They exert attractive force on each other.

- They tend to watch the performance of each other.
- Their minds are pulled from contemplating on God to admiring each other.
- Many men cannot bear the fascinating body movement of the women without contrary or erotic feelings.
- The holiness of their hearts may be impossible.

**Proverbs 2:10,11:**

***10 When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;***

***11 Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee.***

**Proverbs 4:20-23:**

*20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.*

*21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of*

*thine heart.*

*22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.*

*23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*

*Psalm 119:1, 7:*

*1 BLESSED are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD.*

*7 I will praise Thee with uprightness of Heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments.*

## Chapter two

### CORRUPT DANCE OF THE WICKED

Sinners dance as a way of expressing their joy, pleasures, lust, and pride. Their dance is not unto the Lord, but to themselves and to their father the devil. They are incapable of dancing pure dance before the Lord. Unholy Christians and backsliders who dance in the church are not doing so in worship of God, because they are incapable of worshiping Him. Rather, they dance in expression of their personal pleasure and in entertainment of themselves and others. Such is corruption before the Lord. The church should not condone with this because of the effects it has on the worship service and on true believers. We shall go through scriptures to see the corruption in the dance of the wicked.

## (I) The Idolatrous Dance Of Israel In The Wilderness

### *Exodus 32:1-19:*

*1 And when the people saw that Moses 'delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.*

*6 And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and **the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.***

*7 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; **for thy people**, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, **have corrupted themselves:***

*8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed*

*thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.*

*19 And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that **he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot**, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.*

The men who did not join the women in dances to praise and worship God for the miracle of the Red Sea, fully went into dancing at the feast of idolatry. This was easy for them to do because it was their lifestyle in Egypt. Idolatry appeals more to the flesh than the heart. The worshippers satisfy the lust of their flesh through, feasting, eating, drinking, dancing, fighting, immorality, etc.

The worship of God deals with the heart and draws the heart to contemplation on God for His uniqueness, majesty, holiness, awe, power, excellence, glory, goodness, and love. The spiritual understanding gained from the

adoration, admiration and Delightful contemplation on God makes the heart of the worshipper sober, holy, joyful and full of praise and thanksgiving to God. Emotional display in dancing is rare in such circumstance.

## **(II) Idolatrous Dance Of The Heathen**

### ***1 Sam. 30: 13-18:***

*13 And David said unto him, to whom belondest thou? And whence art thou? And he said, I am a young man of Egypt, servant to an Amalekite; and my master left me, because three days ago I fell sick.*

*14 We made an invasion upon the south of the Cherethites and upon the coast which belongeth to Judah and upon the south of Caleb; and we burned Ziklag with fire,*

*15 And David said to him, Canst thou bring me down to this company? And he said, Swear unto me by God, that thou wilt neither kill me, nor deliver me into the hands of my master and I will bring thee down to this company.*

*16 And when he had brought him down, behold, they were spread abroad upon all the earth, eating and drinking, and dancing, because of all the great spoil that they had taken out of the land of the Philistines, and out of the land of Judah.*

*17 And David smote them from the twilight even unto the evening of the next day: and there escaped not a man of them, save four hundred young men, which rode upon camels, and fled.*

*18 And David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away: and David rescued his two wives.*

These heathen warriors had gone out for invasions against several lands in order to amass wealth for themselves. They attacked Judah and other places, including Ziklag where David and his people lived.

They came against that place when David and his men of war were away and burned it and

carried away captive the women, children and much spoils. David and his men pursued after them and found them in festivity and dancing. They were attacked unawares because they were absorbed with fleshly gratification of eating, drinking and dancing. These heathen celebrants were dancing for the following reasons:

- To honour their gods for the victories they enjoyed.
- To rejoice for their bounties, riches and wealth.
- To express their personal glory and pride.
- To arouse themselves for sexual immorality which go with idolatrous feasts and dancing.
- To display their drunkenness and foolishness in pleasure of the flesh.
- To show their dancing might in competition with others.

Notice that the spirit that inspired and controlled the heathen in their dance here was

the same spirit that inspired and controlled the dance or Israel in their backsliding. The scripture said this of the heathen: ***they were spread abroad upon all the earth, eating and drinking, and dancing. The scripture also said this of Israel in their backsliding: And the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play ... dancing.*** We understand from here that when a congregation has turned away from the Lord, the spirit that inspires and controls the social life of the people of the world will inspire and control them.

Many Christian Assemblies have rejected the truth of Christ and have turned away from Him. They are backslidden, yet they engage in singing, playing and dancing in praise and worship of God. This is vain worship. The spirit that inspires and controls them is the same spirit that inspires and controls the sinners in the world. This explains why the music, body movement and display in dances are those of



the world. The church is suffering from universal backsliding, that explains why church dance is everywhere in the world.

*Hosea 7:8. 9:*

*8 Ephraim (the church), he hath mixed himself among the people (the world): Ephraim is a cake not turned.*

*9 Strangers (sinners) have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not: yea, grey hairs (worldliness) are here and there upon him, yet he knoweth it not.*

*Proverbs 21: 16*

*The man (church) that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead.*

### **(III) The Daughters Of Shiloh Celebrated an annual Feast with Dances**

*Judges 21-25:*

*19 Then they said, Behold, there is a feast of the LORD in Shiloh yearly in a place which is on the*

*north side of Bethel, on the east side of the highway that goeth up from Bethel to Shechem, and on the south of Lebonah.*

*20 Therefore they commanded the children of Benjamin, saying,*

***Go and lie in wait in the vineyards;***

*21 And see, and, behold, if the daughters of Shiloh come out to dance in dances, then come ye out of the vineyards, and catch you every man his wife of the daughters of Shiloh, and go to the land of Benjamin.*

*23 And the children of Benjamin did so, and took them wives, according to their number; of them that danced, whom they caught: and they went and returned unto their inheritance, and repaired the cities, and dwelt in them.*

***25 In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.*** The children of Israel were deeply backslidden at this time. ***In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.***

The feast of the Lord had been year to year. During this time in Shiloh, the daughters of Shiloh went to a particular place to dance. The dance was in celebration of the feast of the Lord. Hence, it was considered a dance for the Lord. It was considered a worship dance. The people engaged in this dance were backslidden and ungodly. They had nothing to show in their lives for God. Their spirits were dead in sin. What they had to rely on now was their flesh!

Is it body movement in dances that will please God? Has the Lord as much delight in bodily dances as in obeying the word of the Lord?

Certainly God was not in their midst. Those who engaged in this dance made a show of themselves. They danced stylish and excellent dances that inspired others and made them clap and shout. But the Lord was not among them.

What a people like this needed was soberness of heart to receive the word of God for their repentance and restoration. They needed to spend much time in prayer for their spiritual cleansing and revival.

Little did they know that some men were lying in ambushment against them in the course of their dance. Many of them were caught and taken away!

Many churches are in the condition of Israel at this time. They are disobedient to the word of God. They are backslidden from the faith. Instead of seeking for the word of God and giving much time to it and to prayer for true repentance and restoration, they resort to

fleshly gratification of dancing and call it *praise worship to the Lord*. Much time is being created for dancing activity in the worship service:

- They dance with great might
- They dance wild dances
- They dance stylish dances
- They dance uniform dances
- They dance excellent dances
- They dance innovative dances
- They dance new dances

The question is, since the Lord is not among them, who inspires their songs and music? Who inspires their instrumentalists and singers? Which spirit stirs the congregation to such great dances? They play the instruments of music, sing and dance with great shouts. Prophecies flow, miracles are performed and the people testify of the blessings of prosperity and healing, without manifest change in their lives and character week to week, month to month and year to year!

We must not associate the true and holy God

with such Assemblies. Rather we must see the arch enemy of God, Satan, in charge and in control.

1 Samuel 15:22

*And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings (music) and sacrifices (dancing), as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold to Obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.*

The daughters of Shiloh went to dance and celebrate a feast of the Lord: The Lord's name was used as a cover up for their display of carnality and fleshly gratification. Similarly today, many go to dance in celebrations that carry the name of the Lord, such as, Christmas celebration, Easter celebration, Christian wedding, Naming ceremony, Thanksgiving service, Dedication etc. They find these occasions good avenues to satisfy the flesh in dancing. Such dances are not to the Lord, but to satisfy the lust of the flesh, the

lust of the eyes and the pride of life.

As the daughters of Shiloh were ambushed and many were caught and taken away in the course of their dance, so Satan takes advantage of this dance worship and celebrations to spread lust, pride, competitive spirit, fleshly pleasure, immorality, envy ,etc., which defile and destroy many believers.

Both those who engage in such dances and those who watch in pleasure are affected. Believers cannot attain to or maintain the holiness of Christ in the face of this corrupt practice. Holy believers behold with dismay, deep sorrow and weeping, the tragedy of the spirit of dancing that is swallowing up Christianity!

**2 Peter 2:8**

*(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vex his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds.)*

*Jeremiah 9:1*

*OH that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughters of my people!*

**(IV) John The Baptist Was Beheaded To Reward A Dancer!**

*Mark 6: 14-28*

*21 And when a convenient day was come, that Herod on his birthday made a supper to his lords, high captains, and chiefestates of Galilee:*

*22 And when the **daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danced, and pleased Herod and them that sat with him**, the king said unto the damsel, Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give it thee.*

*23 And he sware unto her, Whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give it thee, unto the half of my kingdom.*

*24 And she went forth, and said unto her mother, What shall I ask? And she said,*

*The head of John the Baptist.*

*25 And she came in straightway with haste unto the king, and asked, saying, **I will that thou give me by and by in a charger the head of John the Baptist.***

*26 And the king was exceeding sorry; yet for his oath's sake, and for their sakes which sat with him, he would not reject her.*

*27 And immediately the king sent an executioner, and commanded his head to be brought: and **he went and beheaded him in the prison,***

***28 And brought his head in a charger, and gave it to the damsel:***

***and the damsel gave it to her mother.***

Let us study the properties of worldly dance in this real life account. Herod had a birthday and invited dignitaries to come and celebrate it with him. The scenes of pleasure were set, one of which was dancing spree. Herod had a wife by name Herodias who was of the following

characteristics

- (I) An adulterer
- (II) A defiant of God's commandments
- (III) A hater of godliness and truth
- (IV) An angry woman
- (V) A hater of men of God
- (VI) An evil schemer
- (VII) A murderer

The said Herodias had a daughter who came in and danced before Herod and the spectators. She had been a skillful dancer. She employed sophisticated dancing techniques and demonstrated dancing expertise. She displayed excellent performance. Dancers always make effort to improve on their performance to show expertise and excellence.

We see in this account the inspiration and power of dancing. Herod and the others who watched her were pleased, inspired, fascinated, absorbed and captured by her performance. Her dance highly aroused their emotions and Herod was moved to utter a

promise which he would not have made in his sound mind. Alas, it was an evil utterance that led to a great evil action. John the Baptist was beheaded and his head was given to her to reward her dance! The daughter of Herodias, the dancer, achieved to the full the aims and objectives of dancing:

- To display expertise and excellence in body movement.
- To achieve emotional arousal of the dancer and the spectators.
- To receive commendation and praise of self and of the spectators.
- To enjoy the pride of distinction in performance.
- To achieve personal satisfaction and pleasure.
- To beat others in dancing competition.
- To win a price.

We can see in this account like-mother like-daughter. This expert dancer was an ungodly rebel, a hater of God and righteousness, a robber of the glory of God

in men and churches.

The unrepentant daughter of Herodias dance not only in naming and wedding ceremonies, birthday and other parties, but also now in the church! Her dance is not for God and His worship; for she knows not the Lord. Her dance in the church is in the same spirit with her dance in the worldly parties and achieves more or less the same result! We must forbid her!!! The church is not a place for dancing, but for the worship of the holy God. The dancing church today opens the door to the sons and daughters of *Herodias*:

- To come and *display their* dancing expertise.
- To inspire and arouse the ministers and *worshippers* to all ungodliness by their dancing powers.
- To corrupt or weaken the *mental* and *spiritual* judgment of ministers.
- To murder the saints in the church by

*spiritual* defilement occasioned by their dance.

- To rob God of His *Glory* in the church.
- To rob the church of the *glory* of the *Lord*.

- To send church members to hell!

Worship God in the beauty of holiness. Do not open your church to dancing spree, *otherwise the sons and daughters of Herodias* will come in and do destruction in the Church! The present wild dance and music going on in the churches of Christ in the name of praise worship to God have no scriptural base. The New Testament believers and apostles of the early church neither exemplified this nor taught it. The reasons why this wild dance in the church was not practiced in Bible time and should be stopped today are obvious.

#### (V) The Children Of The Wicked Dance For Pleasure

*Job 21:7-15:*

***7 Wherefore do the wicked live,***

***become old, yea, and are mighty in power?***

*8 Their seed is established in their sight with them, and their offspring before their eyes.*

*9 Their houses are safe from fear, neither is the rod of God upon them.*

*10 Their bull gendereth, and faileth not: their cow calveth, and casteth not her calf.*

*11 They send forth their little ones like a flock. and **their children dance.***

***12 They take the timbrel and harp, and rejoice at the sound of the organ.***

*13 They spend their days in wealth, and in a moment go down to the grave.*

***14 Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways.***



**15** *What is the Almighty, that we should serve Him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto Him?*

16 *Lo, their good is not in their hand: the counsel of the wicked is far from me.*

17 *How oft is the candle of the wicked put out! and how oft cometh their destruction upon them! God distributed sorrows in his anger.*

This passage of scripture portrays the wicked in their worldly pleasure. They prosper and have more than their heart can wish. They are not in any trouble. Their children enjoy the wealth of their parents and live in pleasure. Among other things they *indulge* in to express their *lust* and pride is music and dancing. They dance to show their enjoyment of life. Their sinful acts are *yielding* good profits for *them*. They are not in pains or in sorrow and are not *presently* passing through divine judgment.

They dance to express their joy for the *accumulated wealth* which *spells* a good future for them. Here we see dancing as an act of pleasure of the flesh embarked upon by the children of this *world*. They organize feasts, disco parties etc. in pursuit of *sensual* pleasure.

- (I) They have *told* God to depart from them.
- (II) They have *declared* that they have no desire for the *knowledge* of His ways.
- (III) They *challenge* the personality and authority of God.
- (IV) They have not seen any benefit in God.
- (V) They have decided not to pray to God in their life.

When a people like this give themselves over to the pleasures of music and dancing, how do you think the music and dancing will look like? The following characterise them:

- (i) They design the music to their taste.
- (ii) The songs are composed and sung in ways that will give them inspiration and satisfy their sensual and illicit pleasure.
- (iii) The musicians dress funny, shabby, funky and naked, to provoke and promote sensual pleasure.
- (iv) The musicians take drugs for bold and shameless display of their nakedness.
- (v) They go on course, both in the real world and to the underworld, to perfect the art of erotic music and dancing.
- (vi) The men and women embrace themselves in dances.
- (vii) They dance all styles of dances, displaying professionalism, expertise and excellence.
- (viii) They dance naked in sexual leasure.
- (ix) They employ demonic power and inspiration for their performance.
- (x) They make a shameless show of themselves to the world.

These are children of Satan and are controlled by him. Satan and his demons manifest themselves in the real world through them. Their miseries follow them and divine judgment is upon them.

*John 8:44*

***Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own; for he is a liar and the father of it.***

*Ephesians 2: 1- 3:*

*1 AND you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;*

*2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of*

*disobedience:*

*3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past, in the lust of our flesh, fulfilling the desire of the flesh and of the mind,' and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

*Matthew 25:41*

*Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, **Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.***

Believers are warned not to love the world, nor copy their lifestyle. Christian youths must not allow the devil to use them as a door-way into the holy church of God to destroy it through satanic music. Church music and worship must be distinct from that of the world.

*Jeremiah 10:1, 2:*

*1 Hear ye the word which the LORD speaketh unto you, O house of Israel:*

*2 Thus saith the LORD, Learn not*

*the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. 1John 2: 15-17:*

**15 Love not the world, neither things that are in the world, if any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**

*16 For all that is in the world, **the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life,** is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

*17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*

Unfortunately, many churches love the world and the things of the world. They have allowed the spirit of the world to come in among them. The spirit of the world manifests in their music, praise and worship.

- \* Church music now takes the form of the world, generating the same inspiration.
- The praise sessions now are moments of

pleasure; the focus is not on God, but on personal pleasure.

- The wordings of worldly songs are being replaced with religious words for conscience sake.
- The worshippers now dance to the pleasure of the flesh inside the church under the cover of dancing unto the Lord.
- Christian musicians now seek to dress, talk and behave like their counterparts in the world. They keep ruffled hair, wear shorts, tattered jean trousers, and body revealing dresses. They keep long nails, fix artificial nails; the women perm their hair, wear artificial hair, wear trousers, use cortex and lipsticks, paint their face, decorate themselves with earrings, rings, chains, beads and all kinds of ungodly adornments and appear ungodly in the spirit of music.
- The church organises dancing competition among the worshippers of the holy God.
- Many things in worldly music are being

employed directly or indirectly by the church.

Except the church repents of these things, the true and righteous God will judge her with the same judgment with the people of the world!

*Revelation 2: 14-16*

**14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication**

**15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.**

**16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth."**

## Chapter Three

### THE INSPIRED DANCE OF DAVID

*2 Samuel 6:1-23*

*5 And David and all the house of Israel played before the LORD on all **manner of instruments made of fire wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals.***

*12 And it was told King David, saying, The LORD hath blessed the house of Obededom, and all that pertaineth unto him, because of the ark of God. So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obededom into the city of David with gladness.*

*14 And David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod.*

*15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.*

*16 And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, **Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.***

*18 And as soon as David had made an end of offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts.*

*20 Then David returned to bless his household. **And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel to day, who uncovered himself to day in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as***

*one of the vain fellows  
shamelessly uncovereth  
himself!*

*21 And David said unto Michal, **It was before the LORD**, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: **therefore will I play before the LORD.***

*22 And I will yet be more vile than, thus, and will be base in mine own sight: and of the maidservants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honour.*

*23 Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death.*

### The Dance Of David

David the man after God's heart prepared a tabernacle for the ark of the Lord in the city of David and went to the house of obed-edom and brought

up the ark of the Lord to put it in the tabernacle. They brought the ark of the Lord with instruments of music. The ceremony of bringing the ark of God to Jerusalem happened twice.

The first terminated with the death of Uzzah, who was smitten by the Lord because he touched the ark with his hands. When the ark was being transported up from the house of Abinadab to Jerusalem, David and all the house of Israel accompanied it with music, praising and worshipping God as stated in verse 5 of our text:

*2 Samuel 6:5*

*And David and all the house of Israel played before the LORD on all manner of instruments made of fire wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals.*

Notice in the account above that the first time the ark was being brought up to Jerusalem, various instruments of music were played in praise and worship of God. The people did not

dance. David did not dance. A careful study of activities and manner of praise and worship to God during Israel's festivities and celebrations in the Old Testament showed the following:

- The trumpets were blown
- Various instruments of music were played
- The congregation sang songs of praise and worship to God
- There were joyful noise and shouts to the praise of God
- There was bowing, stooping, kneeling, clapping, raising up of hands to the Lord

The scripture nowhere recorded dancing as one of the worship activities performed by the congregation of Israel in all the solemn feasts, celebrations and gatherings before the Lord recorded in the scripture.

The second time David was bringing up the ark the Bible says **And David danced before the LORD with all *his* might ... leaping and dancing before the LORD**. The dance of David

during this occasion was something strange and unprecedented which require proper understanding. Those who were around him understood the situation because of the following reasons:

- (i) They knew David's burning desire to bring the ark of God to its tent in Jerusalem.
- (ii) They knew the preparation he made the first time the ark was brought up from the house of Abinadab.
- (iii) They knew the great sorrow that filled his heart when his desire and effort were frustrated by God's judgment against Uzzah and God's condemnation of Israel's method of carrying the ark.
- (iv) They knew the further painful task David undertook to comply with the scriptural requirements of carrying the ark.
- (v) They saw the great presence of God among them this time that the scripture was being complied with.
- (vi) They experienced the heart of gladness God gave to David and all Israel



accompanying the ark.

(vii) They saw the special and unique inspiration David received at this time, which manifested in his leaping and dancing before them all. This they knew was a peculiar manifestation of the Holy Spirit in his life.

### **Michal David's Wife Reacted Against David's Dance**

A careful study of our text shows that only David went into dancing the second time they were bringing up the ark. The rest of the people did not dance. This was because it was not their practice to dance in worship celebrations and solemn occasions as this. The reaction of Michal showed that what David did was strange in Israel and to David himself. She expected David to be ashamed of what he did.

*14 And **David danced before the LORD with all his might;** and David was girded with a linen, ephod.*

*16 And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; **and she despised him in her heart.***

*20 Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel to day, who uncovered himself to day in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, **as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself!***

It was indeed something unusual that happened to David. The Spirit of the Lord descended upon him in an unusual way. He was so full of joy and excitement that his body responded in a great dance. David was leaping and dancing before the Lord. This was so strange to Michal his wife that she in reaction to this despised him in her heart. When David

returned home she confronted him and her words can be paraphrased as follows:

*Is that how the king of Israel would glorify himself? How did you become so debased in the eyes of the people today? You behaved as one of the fools! How did you become so shameless?*

**In response to her, David replied thus:**

*2 Sam 6:21, 22;*

*21 And David said unto Michal, **It was before the LORD**, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: **therefore will I play before the LORD.***

*22 And I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in mine own sight: and of the maidservants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honour.*

**David's reply can be paraphrased as follows:**

*What you saw me do was by the inspiration of God. Remember the Lord chose me to be king, even when your father and his entire house were still alive. He appointed me to rule over His own people, even Israel. Therefore I will feel free to play, dance and jump, if the Lord inspires me to do that. In fact, I may be more reckless next time than this without the least consideration that I am king, if God's special move comes again upon me. Those people who you think will despise me will rather give me great honour.*

### **Reasons Why Michal Was Shocked At David's Dance**

Why was Michal so shocked actually? The following explanations will answer for it.

(i) Michal had known David for a Long time, from his youth to his old age. She had known David, even as the Psalmist of Israel, and had not seen this kind of act demonstrated by him. Michal was a daughter of King Saul. When her father was troubled by an evil spirit David was chosen to be with him to play the music for him

in order to drive away the evil spirit. She knew David closely from that time and, of course, watched him as he played and sang before her father.

***ISam. 16: 14- 23;***

*14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.*

*15 And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee.*

*16 Let our lord now command thy servants, which are before thee, to seek out a man, who is a cunning player on an harp: and it shall come to pass, when the evil spirit from God is upon thee, that he shall play with his hand, and thou shalt be well.*

*19 Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, which is with the sheep.*

***23 And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.***

(ii) Michal also got more acquainted with David when he became a captain of Saul's army. David was righteous, godly and fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.

*ISam.18:5*

*5 And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.*

(iii) Michal observed the life of David very closely and saw in him the qualities she wanted in a husband. She fell in love with David and got married to him.

*1Sam. 18:20,27,28*

**20 And Michal Saul's daughter loved David:** and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him.

*27 Wherefore David arose and went, he and his men, and slew of the Philistines two hundred men; and David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full tale to the king, that he might be the king's son in law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife.*

**28 And Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal Saul's daughter loved him.**

Her marriage to another man happened when David had gone on exile because of Saul. She must have been forced by her father to get married to another man.

*1 Samuel 25:44;*

*But Saul had given Michal his*

*daughter, David's wife, to Phalti, the son of Laish, which was of Gallim.*

When David assumed kingship over Judah he sent for Michal and recovered her from the second man and the two reunited.

**2 Samuel 3: 13-15:**

*13 And he said, Well; I will make a league with thee, but one thing I require of thee, that is, Thou shalt not see my face, except thou first bring Michal Saul's daughter, when thou cometh to see my face.*

*14 And David sent messengers to Ishbosheth soul's son, saying, **Deliver me my wife Michal,** which I espoused to me for an hundred foreskins of the Philistines.*

*15 And Ishbosheth sent, and took her from her husband; even from Phaltiel, the son of Laish.*

(iv) Michal was fully acquainted with David, the Chief Psalmist of Israel, in his love for God,

righteous living, personal weakness, musical skills and display, in the private and in the public. In her knowledge and acquaintance with David, which should be for a period of more than 20 years, she had never seen David dance as he did in this occasion.

Had David been used to this kind of dance, there would have been no cause for Michal to be shocked and embarrassed at the dance of this occasion.

(v) Again Michal had been a true Israelitish woman, a daughter of the king of Israel, a princess, married to a lover of God, the Psalmist of Israel. She knew so well about the political, social and religious life of Israel. David's dance here was not obtainable among the worshippers of Jehovah, who worshipped in the temple or in religious ceremonies or feasts outside the temple. The instrumental music and songs of the Lord were never accompanied by this kind of dance manifested by David. Actually righteous David had never

danced this kind of dance all his life until that day.

(vi) However, Michal had seen such type of dance among a class of people in Israel. Those she knew that carried out such dance were: **Vain fellows** fools, useless ones, rascals, ignoble ones, drunkards, prostitutes, and immoral men. This class of people normally danced without shame. They had no worthy name, noble personality, godliness, etc. to protect. They went wild in the display of the flesh. They were political torts and social outfits among Israelites. Her observation and condemnation of David's dance was right, giving the facts she knew. But what she did not know was the special inspiration of the Holy Spirit on David at that particular time, which justified David's act. Note that this kind of dance never repeated in the life of David until his death. It was never again manifested by any godly king or prophet in Israel.

### Scriptural Reasons For Michal's Barrenness

Michal had a reason to confront David. She felt obligated to do so as the first wife of David. She was not wrong to have confronted David, being ignorant of the involvement of the Lord in that dance business. The judgment of God on her must have come on her for the following reasons, as we can understand from the scriptures.

(i) She despised David in her heart. What a sin this was! To despise her husband in her heart! To despise the man of God in her heart! To despise a servant of God in the course of divine service in her heart! To despise the king in her heart!!! She committed a heinous sin before the Lord.

*Ephesians 5:33*

*Nevertheless let everyone of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and **the wife see that she***

*reverence her husband.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:12,13*

*12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;*

*13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.*

*1 Peter 2:17*

*Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God.*

### **Honour the King.**

Michal could be offended, but without despising David in her heart. She failed to keep the righteous standard of God, hence she was judged.

***Ephesians 4:26,27:***

*26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath;*



*27 Neither give place to the devil.*

(ii) David explained his course to her. He let her know that his dance was before the Lord, that it was a peculiar manifestation of God's Spirit in his life. David showed displeasure at her obstinacy. But she did not repent of her heart of despite on David. She did not humble to give glory to God and honour to David, the man after God's heart. Hence the judgment came unnoticed upon her and remained until her death.

*Ezekiel 18:30*

***Therefore I will judge you,** O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord God. **Repent,** and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.*

(iii) David reminded Michal that it was the Lord Who made him king over Israel. His choice as king was done by God, even when her father Saul and all his children were still alive.

This statement is suggestive of bitterness in the heart of Michal against David for the loss of kingship by her father's house. She seemed to have been eaten up by this bitterness. This would have contributed to this despite on David which earned her divine judgment.

*Ephesians 4:3*

***Let all bitterness,** and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice.*

### **Three Unusual Things In David's Life**

A study of the biography of David reveals that there were some things which he did that were special manifestations of the Holy Spirit in his life. They were not repeated in his life, neither did they occur in the life and ministry of anyone else throughout Bible time.

#### **(I) *David's mastery in battle against Goliath***

He prevailed over Goliath, the mighty giant



with a sling, using just one stone. He did this as a youth bellow the age of going out for war!

*1 Samuel 17:32-51:*

*32 And David said to Saul, **Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.***

*45 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.*

*46 This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; **that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.***

*47 And all this assembly shall know **that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and He will give you into our hands.***

*49 And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.*

This scene had not happened in Israel before now and was not repeated by David. His eldest brother accused him of pride when he was acting under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit among them. But David defended himself by saying he had cause for doing what he was doing.

*1 Samuel 17:28,29:*

*28 And Eliab, his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against*

*David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom has thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightiest see the battle.*

**29 And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?**

It did not take any much time before they all knew that David was under special anointing of the Holy Spirit. The name of the Lord was glorified in Israel and in the surrounding nations through this special manifestation of God in David's life. The way the Holy Spirit manifested in David's life during this battle was unprecedented in Israel, neither was it repeated in David's life, nor in any other person's life afterwards.

(ii) **David ate the shewbread**

*1 Sam. 21:3-6:*

*3 Now therefore what is under thine hand? give me five loaves of bread in*

*mine hand, or what there is present.*

*4 And the priest answered David, and said, **There is no common bread under mine hand, but there is hallowed bread;** if the young men have kept themselves at least from women.*

*5 David answered the priest, and said unto him, Of a truth women have been kept from us about these three days, since I came out, and the vessels of the young men are holy, and the bread is in a manner common, yea, though it were sanctified this day in the vessel.*

**6 So the priest gave him hallowed bread:** for there was no bread there but the **shewbread**, that was taken from before the LORD, to put hot bread in the day when it was taken away.

*Matt. 12:3-4;*

*3 But He said unto them, **Have ye not read what David did,** when he was an*

*hungred, and they that were with him;  
4 How he entered into the house of God,  
**and did eat the shew bread, which  
was not lawful for him to eat, neither  
for them which were with him, but  
only for the priests?***

The shew bread was only meant for the priests who were consecrated for temple service. David and the men with him were not priests. But by the special guidance of the Holy Spirit in their circumstance, they were given this bread to eat, which no one apart from the priests ate. The significance of this act of the Holy Spirit in his life was not known until the time of Christ. The Lord justified David for this act and showed that it was a special manifestation of the Holy Spirit in his life. However, David did not repeat this act; neither did any person who was not a priest venture to eat the shewbread afterwards. It happened once in his life time, being a prophetic act of the Holy Spirit, the significance of which came to light in the life and ministry of Christ.

### **(iii) David's inspired dance**

*2 Samuel 6:14-16:*

*14 And David danced before the  
**LORD with all his might;** and David  
was girded with a linen ephod.*

*15 So David and all the house of Israel  
brought up the ark of the LORD with  
shouting, and with the sound of the  
trumpet.*

*16 And as the ark of the LORD came  
into the city of David, **Michal Saul's  
daughter looked through a  
window, and saw king David  
leaping and dancing before the  
LORD; and she despised him in her  
heart.***

We have proved that this dance was uncommon among worshippers of God in the Old Testament. David himself had never danced this way before, neither was this repeated any time in his life until his death. It was a special manifestation of the Holy Spirit

in his life. The significance of this dance, if not known now may be known to us in the world to come.

### **Wild Dance In The Church Today**

From the early church until recent time, Christian worship service had been a sober and solemn moment. Emphasis had been on the heart receiving grace from God and giving adoration to Him. All attention was focussed on God in the songs, sermons, prayers and other activities. The flesh was not given a place to exercise itself in dancing.

Sinners who came to church came with soberness and bore the consciousness and guilt of their sins as they sat in the presence of the Lord. The preachers preached solemnly, with firm commitment to communicate the mind of God to the people. Yet the worship service was lively, inspiring and joyful. The heart was made glad by the word of God, the presence of God and the manifestations of the Holy Spirit. The smiles, laughter, clapping of

hands, shouts or cries of the worshippers were not mechanical or philosophical, but Spirit inspired. The converts were genuine. Righteousness and holiness reigned.

But in recent time a new wave rolled into the church. Christian worship now is being coated with dances. Dancing now forms a major part of church worship service. This is tagged ***praise worship***. The dance which is being practiced is the wild type. Both men and women, ministers and members, adults and children, are engaged in this dance. The scripture they use for this wild dance is the one in consideration, **David danced**.

Having considered the text of David's dance, we see the great error these churches and their ministers are in and how impossible to attain to the holiness of God with such practice. Emphasis now shifts to music, musical instruments, singing and dancing. Little time goes to prayer and the ministry of God's word. The ministers and members wear

mechanical joy and are musically excited!

Michal can truly accuse the church of present generation and be justified by God. The proof of spirituality in the church today is not righteous character, but some particular styles of body movement in dances. Surely David would deny that the church of the present generation is following after his steps in their wild dances, because his vigorous dance happened only once in his life time and that by the complete inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Let those who engage in these dances know that they are sinning and so must repent before the Lord Jesus. These dances are the result of half- baked converts in the church and in crusade ground, because the environment is not favourable for the Spirit of holiness to bring deep conviction on the sinners. Many of the believers in dancing churches are not holy and so are not strong in the Lord. May the revelation of this truth make

His people free from impurity, condemnation and eternal damnation!

***Ezekiel 3:17-21***

***17 son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at My mouth, and give them warning from Me.***

***18 When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.***

***19 Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.***

***20 Again, when a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit***

*iniquity, and I lay a  
Stumbling block before him, he  
shall die: because thou hast not  
giving him warning, he shall die  
in his sin, and his righteousness  
which he hath done shall not be  
remembered; but his blood will I  
require at thine hand.*

*21 Nevertheless if thou warn the  
righteous man, that the  
righteous sin not, and he doth  
not sin, he shall surely live,  
because he is warned; also thou  
has delivered thy soul.*

## Chapter FOUR

### WORSHIP ACTIVITIES IN RELIGIOUS GATHERINGS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Israel as a religious nation, had many religious feasts and ceremonies which congregated them together regularly. Three times a year all their males assembled before God to praise and worship Him, Exodus 23: 14- 17; 65. Deuteronomy 16: 1- 17

*Exodus 23: 14-17:*

*14 Three times thou shalt keep a feast  
unto Me in the year.*

*15 Thou shalt keep **the feast of unleavened bread**: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days. as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none*

*shall appear before Me empty:)*

*16 And **the feast of harvest**, the first Fruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and **the feast of ingathering**, which is in the end of the year; when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field.*

*17 **Three times in the year all thy males shall appear before the Lord GOD.***

These feasts were periods of praise, thanksgiving and worship of the Lord. Examination of all the scriptural passages on the celebration of these feasts shows the absence of dancing among the activities of the worshippers. Besides the feasts and ceremonies, there were other occasions that brought them together to offer sacrifices, praise, thanksgiving and worship to God. There was no record of dancing in any of such solemn occasions. The few cases of dancing in worship recorded in the Old Testament have been

carefully examined in the previous chapters.

### (I) **Praise-Worship By Jehoshaphat's Army**

Jehoshaphat was a righteous king in Jerusalem. He and his people had a great challenge which made them to organize special praise in honour and worship of the Lord. The Lord was glorified by their praise and gave them their heart's desire. See the details of this in **2 Chronicles 20:18-30**.

When Jehoshaphat heard that a large army was coming against him, he became afraid and sought the face of God. God gave him His prophetic word, assuring him of full protection and victory. In response to this prophetic assurance Jehoshaphat organised his army to praise and worship the true and faithful God. In their praise and worship of God we observe the following:

- (i) Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, vs. 18.
- (ii) All Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem



fell before the Lord, worshiping Him, vs. 18.

- (iii) The Levites of the Kohathites and of Korhites stood up to praise the Lord with a loud voice on high, vs. 19.
- (iv) They appointed singers unto the Lord to go forth before the army to praise the beauty of His holiness.
- (v) The singers sang thus:  
***Praise the Lord; for His mercy endureth for ever.***
- (VI) All they did was sing and praise the Lord vs. 22

The Lord received their praises and was well pleased. He went into action for their salvation according to His word vs. 22-25; Psalm 50:23. Their enemies were fully defeated and they carried much spoil. They rejoiced and praised the Lord further after the victory. They came to Jerusalem with psalteries and harps and trumpets unto the house of the Lord vs. 23-26-30.

Note that the scripture did not mention

dancing in this occasion. Their praise and worship involved:

- (I) Singing songs accompanied with instruments of music.
- (ii) Prostration before the Lord.
- (iii) Saying with their mouth the praise of the Lord.

God was extolled by them and blessed them. Something prominent that was noted by them is the holiness of the Lord.

***He appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of HOLINESS.***

Praise and worship of God must take cognisance of His HOLINESS and must be done in the spirit of HOLINESS.

The modern church would have turned this occasion into a dancing one in the name of praise worship to God. But Israel's praise of God here did not include dancing. The church today must be cautioned against the dancing spirit that is taking over the worship service,

Christian meetings and crusades.

## (II) Praise, Thanksgiving And Worship At The Dedication Of The Temple

*2 Chronicles 5:11-14:*

*11 And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place:( for all the priests that were present were sanctified, and did not then wait by course:*

*12 Also the Levites which were the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Juduthun, with their sons and their brethren, being arrayed in white linen, having symbals and psalties and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets:)*

*13 It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking*

*the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice*

*with the trumpets and symbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD. saying, For He is good; for His mercy endureth for ever: **that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD;** 14 So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason **of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God.***

This was a great occasion of praise, thanksgiving and worship in Israel. Everything was done in order. The instrumentalists and singers kept themselves holy and consecrated themselves to the praise and worship of the Lord. There was wonderful harmony of the sound of the instruments of music and the voice of the singers. The sound of the instruments of music and the singing became as one sound that was heard ascending to God. The words of the song of praise, thanksgiving

and worship were distinct and the song was clear for all to sing and worship. The song of praise to the Lord was:

***For He is good; for His mercy endureth forever.***

God was extolled by their praise and worship. His glory came down visibly in a cloud that filled the house. Notice again in this great occasion of praise and worship that there was no dancing. The instrumentalists played the music without dancing. The singers sang the praise of God without dancing. Their praise and thanksgiving ascended to God Who manifested His presence and glory among them.

If we want Bible results, then we must do things in Bible way. The present church is prone to dancing and looks for every occasion to indulge in dancing. This is not the spirit of biblical worship.

### **(III) Singers And Instrumentalists Instituted By David**

1 Chronicles 6:31-33; 16: 1-42; 25: 1-8

David prepared a tent for the ark of the Lord and brought the Ark into it. He set some priests and Levites over the house of

God to minister regularly in turns, in songs and in playing instruments of music. They ministered before the dwelling place of the tabernacle of the congregation. Their work was to:

- (i) minister before the ark of the Lord.
- (ii) make petition to the Lord.
- (iii) give thanks to the Lord.
- (iv) praise the Lord, the God of Israel.
- (v) sing.
- (vi) prophesy in harps: this means to speak the word of God in His praise while playing on the instruments of music; it means to talk of His goodness, love, power, wonderful deeds, plans and promises; to preach His word through music 1 Chronicles 16;7-36.

The above is summed up in one duty: to praise, thank and worship God in songs and music. The Bible did not mention dancing in the

house of God as part of their duty. They were to minister before the Lord with joy and gladness.

#### (IV) Praise To God At The Foundation Of The New Temple

*Ezra3:10-13:*

*10 And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, **they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the LORD, after the ordinance of David king of Israel.***

*11 **And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because He is good. for His mercy endureth for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.***

*12 But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy:*

*13 So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.*

This is an account of praise-worship by Israel when they returned from captivity. We see here the priests in their apparel, with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the LORD, after the ordinance of David, king of Israel. And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD, **because He is good, for His mercy endureth for ever toward Israel.** And all the people shouted with a great shout,

when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. All the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord. But many of the older Israelites who had seen the first temple and its glory wept aloud, when they saw the foundation of the new temple. The joyful shouts and the loud weeping mingled together in a loud noise that was heard in a far distance.

We see clearly in this passage that these joyful worshippers did not go into a dance. Their joy and gladness for the temple's foundation led them to the praise and worship of God through singing, playing musical instruments and shouts of joy. Their praise and worship here clearly did not involve dancing. They followed the pattern of worship observed before their backsliding and captivity.

#### **(V) Worship Activities At Jerusalem After The Captivity**

*Nehemiah 8: 1- 12:*

*1 And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; **and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded to Israel.***

*2 And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month.*

*3 **And he read therein** before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; **and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law.***

*4 And Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, and Shema, and Anaiah, and*

*Urijah, and Hilkiah, and Maaseiah, on his right hand; and on his left hand, Pedaiah, and Mishael, and Malchiah, and Hashum, and Hashbadana, Zechariah, and Meshullam.*

*5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up:*

*6 And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.*

*7 Also Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azaniah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law: and the people stood in their place.*

*8 So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the*

*reading.*

*9 And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day is holy unto the LORD your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the word of the law*

*10 Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: **for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength,***

*11 So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, Hold your peace, for the day is holy; neither be ye grieved.*

*12 And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, **because they had understood the words that were declared unto them.***

This scriptural account gives us a good understanding of worship activities in a



religious congregation in Israel. This is similar to the pattern of worship activities in the New Testament church. We observe here the following:

- (i) The congregation came together for the purpose of hearing the word of God. Their activity centred on the word of God, vs.1.
- (ii) Ezra the priest here was the pastor of the congregation, having other elders and workers in his support, vs. 2.
- (iii) The word was read to the congregation of both men and women, who listened attentively to it, vs. 3.
- (iv) Ezra stood on a pulpit, together with some supportive elders, vs. 4.
- (V) Ezra led the people in a period of praise and worship of God: he blessed the Lord, the great God. The people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up of hands. They all bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground, vs. 6.

- (Vi) Ezra opened the book of the law in the sight of all people, who stood in honour of the word of God, vs. 5
- (Vii) They read from the book and caused the people to understand God's word by explanation and application, vs. 7, 8.
- (Viii) The people wept, prayed and repented before the Lord, because of the convicting power of the word of God in their hearts and were assured and comforted by the ministers" vs. 9.
- (ix) The people rejoiced for the word of God and the fellowship of the brethren. They rejoiced greatly for the Lord's works and presence among them, vs. 9-12. Note here that dancing was not included in the activities of this congregation. They praised and worshipped God with gladness, but did not dance. The word of God was the central thing and the point of emphasis in their assembly.
- (I) The word of God was *exalted* and honoured by the assembly.



- (II) The word of God was read distinctly to the hearing and understanding of everyone.
- (III) The word of God was well interpreted and applied on the audience.
- (IV) The people listened attentively to the word of God.
- (V) The word of God convicted the sober listeners.
- (VI) The worshippers wept before the Lord, confessing their sins and short comings for His forgiveness, and made promises to serve and obey Him.
- (VII) The ministers assured them of God's forgiveness, love and presence and encouraged them to walk in His holiness.
- (VIII) The people went home rejoicing, determined to put the word they had heard into practice.

In many Christian Assemblies today, the word of God has lost its centrality, emphasis, attraction, authority and convicting power. Emphasis is not on the word, but on the

pleasure of the worshippers. This is the reason for the multiplied dancing entertainment in the name of praise-worship of God during the worship service. The word of God is not honoured, not read distinctly, not applied to the lives of the people in sincere preaching. The worship service is so noisy that the soberness and attentiveness required for the convicting power of the word cannot be realised. The effect is that the members are emotionally excited, but are not saved, cleansed and spiritually edified after the worship service.

### **Job 5:27**

**Lo this, we have searched it, so it is; hear it, and know thou it for thy good.**

### **2 TIMOTHY 3:16,17:**

**16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:**

**17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**

## **HOLINESS REVIVAL MINISTRY WORLDWIDE (a.k.a) HOLINESS REVIVAL MOVEMENT WORLDWIDE (HOREMOW)**

### **THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

HOREMOW is a non-denominational Ministry having the following aims and objectives:

1. To hold Crusades, Conferences and Revival meetings in churches and nations of the world, so as to bring sinners to Christ's salvation and believers to His holiness. (Acts 26:16-18).
2. To produce Christian literature that promotes salvation of souls, sound Bible teaching and holiness of believers in churches and nations of the world. (Luke 1:1-4).
3. To produce audio and visual taped messages for the spread of the gospel truth in churches and nations of the world.
4. To bring denominational churches into Christian unity through the belief and practice of the faith once delivered unto the Saints. (Eph. 4:12-15).
5. To support believers, ministers, ministries and churches with free Christian materials for their spiritual development in holiness. (Isaiah 65:1).
6. To raise members and supporters of Holiness Revival Movement Worldwide from churches and Christian ministries all over the world who will submit

their lives to Biblical holiness and be spiritually, materially and evangelically equipped to make others righteous and holy in their churches and in the society around them. (2 Timothy 2:2).

7. To establish Christian bookshops in many places within and outside the nation, equipped with holiness materials for the promotion of holiness in the churches of Christ in the world. (Romans 17:17).
8. To establish a body of believers called Holiness Revival Movement in every Nation who will sponsor the production of the holiness materials of the ministry and other recommended holiness materials. (Acts 4:36; 2 Cor. 8:1-7).
9. To translate or interpret ministry materials into as many local, national and international languages as possible. (1Cor. 14:9-13).
10. To place the Ministry book: Divine Revelation of God's Holiness and Judgement by Michael Thomas Sambo in hotels, hospitals, prisons and in places that can attract public reading, for the salvation of sinners and holiness of believers. (1 Cor. 9:18-22).
11. To own Satellite Channels for the publishing of the messages and programmes of Holiness Revival Movement to the world.
12. To establish Bible colleges where believers and ministries can receive biblical and ministerial training for sound Christian ministry. (2 Tim. 2:2).

13. To have ministry camp grounds in various quarters and nations where holiness camp meetings can be held regularly. (Hebrews 10:25).

14. To hold zonal, national and international holiness conferences regularly for the promotion and spread of holiness in the lives of believers and in Christ's Church. (Colossians 1:28, 29).

15. To mentor Churches registered under the ministry on sound doctrine, holy living and ministerial establishment. (Titus 1:5-14).

16. To support believers, ministers and ministries financially where required for their spiritual encouragement and establishment in holiness.

17. To have chapters of HOLINESS REVIVAL MOVEMENT in local Governments, states and nations, holding regular meetings, with clear goals and uniform operations, which are submissive to central administration. (Philippians 4: 8, 9; Hebrews 13:17)

**PASTOR PAUL RIKA**  
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