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Music & Connection to God

“Yet You are holy, O You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel.”

Psalms 22:3 NASB

Let me start by stating that I believe the Bible is the inspired word of God, and that it is inerrant, even when there may be “in house” debates over how to best interpret certain passages, with Psalm 22:3 being one of them. In layman’s terms, this verse comes down to two possible parsings of the phrase:

- You are enthroned as holy, the praise of Israel
- Yet You are holy, O You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel

Neither has an effect on your position in Christ as a believer, therefore, “in house debate”. I will however use the latter, not because it fits my purpose, but because I’ve learned early on as a believer that the NASB translation is as close to an accurate translation to english of the three original languages it was written in.

I also believe that while the Bible is not meant to be a scientific book, that when it comes to matters of science, we will not see any conflicts. In other words, Christianity and Science are not at odds with one another. However, if you want to understand the discoveries of science accurately, you will be best served if you start from a biblical perspective, rather than feeling there is some nonexistent rule that says you can’t bring God into a scientific discussion.

I start by mentioning all this because I believe scientific discovery and understanding of our universe gives us even greater understanding of Psalm 22:3 (“It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.” Proverbs 25:2 NASB).

Vibration. Frequency. Energy.

The electron is, as far as we know, one of the fundamental, indivisible building blocks of the universe. Every molecule in the universe is made up of atoms. Atoms are made up of protons, neutrons and electrons, which are even smaller. And protons are made up of even smaller particles called quarks. Quarks, like electrons, are fundamental particles, which means they can't be broken down into smaller parts.

All of these fundamental particles that make up everything God created, are in a constant state of motion. Held together by something that science alone cannot explain, but that the bible states simply and clearly: “For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.” Colossians 1:16-17 NASB

Modern science is just beginning to learn that EVERYTHING in the universe is connected. Even the “dark matter” in the universe that is invisible. Science supports the biblical truth of God’s omnipresence. He is in everything, and everything is vibrating, from light waves, to sound waves, to even thought waves. Our eyes detect and our brains interpret the necessary portion of the light spectrum (electromagnetic spectrum) that He designed us to need to see. Clearly we don’t see radio waves, microwaves, X-rays or gamma-rays. All of these are waves of vibration.

Sound also comes from vibrations. Vibrations create sound waves which move through mediums such as air and water before reaching our ears. Our ears vibrate in a similar way to the original source of the vibration, allowing us to hear many different sounds.

Last, even our thoughts are made up of vibrations which travel on frequencies. Radio waves and brain waves are both forms of electromagnetic radiation — waves of energy that travel at the speed of light. The difference between brain waves, radio waves, and other electromagnetic waves (such as visible light, X-rays, and Gamma rays) lies in their frequency — that is, how often the waves peak and trough in a second.

Radio waves, which include radio and other wireless transmission signals, as well as other natural signals in the same frequency, peak and trough at between 50 and 1000 megahertz — that's between 50 million and one billion oscillations per second.

The human brain also emits waves, like when a person focuses her attention or remembers something. This activity fires thousands of neurons simultaneously at the same frequency generating a wave — but at a rate closer to 10 to 100 cycles per second.

I know... way more science than you were expecting to see in a biblical study, but hopefully the reason why I've laid this out becomes clear now as we circle back to our verse: "Yet You are holy, O You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel." Psalms 22:3 NASB

Our praises generally consist of words (thought waves) and music (sound waves), that create vibrations which travel through the particles of air... those particles that the God and Creator of the universe is omnipresent in holding together.

So the next time you hear a pastor or worship leader proclaim, "God inhabits the praises of His people...", you can rest assured that it is both biblically and scientifically accurate.

More important are the spiritual truths that lie within this concept. I believe God gives those He calls to be songwriters, the words that help us to connect with Him on a deeper level. Our thoughts go out as frequency, the air across our vocal chords creates sound frequencies, and the music that it is combined with is frequency. When we gather together for times of worship in song ("... but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;" Ephesians 5:18b -19 NASB) it is during these times that I believe it is the highest calling of those who lead worship to recognize the importance of their role.

Whether you're a Worship Leader, Singer, or Musician in front of a congregation, it is not about you and your performance. It is about helping the body of believers entrusted to you, to

be able to become unified during that time together, that the vibrations of not only our music and voices, but of our thoughts, become one in connecting with God.

To the Christian Artist, your recordings are equally important. The devices used by your listeners, are now emitting the vibrations of the frequencies that were digitally captured in the studio and then released these devices.

All of this points back to the importance of the Songwriters, Musicians, Producers, and Artists in creating the music we use to help us connect with God.

The economics of today's music industry has robbed us of many of God's creators. This impacts the church both globally and locally. The business model of Crowd Music is an idea that is attributed directly to God by it's founders. It is a model of restoration for music creators, allowing more and more of them to focus on and fulfill their calling.

NEXT: The Importance Of Supporting Those Creating The Music That Connects Us To God