

*“Let all the Angels in Heaven worship Him”*  
*Hebrews 1:6*

Sometime early in creation God created all angels. Contrary to the famous movie many of us dutifully watch every Christmas angels don't "earn their wings every time a bell rings." They were all created at time by the decree of God. These free moral agents were also created with the same purpose, to show forth the praises of God. For this purpose God granted them the ability to communicate. They were given the ability to communicate beyond mere words. They were given a very special gift; they could express their deepest thoughts and emotions by singing and celebrating God's creative acts. God gives us some insight into this "humanless" time period in the book of Job. God put Job in his place when he asks him a series of rhetorical questions in Job 38:4-7:

Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. <sup>5</sup> Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? <sup>6</sup> Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; <sup>7</sup> When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Even before man was created angels (here called "morning stars" and "sons of God") sang in celebration of God's mighty acts in creation.

It is really no surprise that God would create angels with the ability to communicate with the beautiful gift of music. The fact is that God Himself expresses His joy by singing! That's right, God communicates through singing.

The LORD thy God in the midst of thee *is* mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing. *Zephaniah 3:17*

God created the universe a musical place. One of God's characteristic actions is to communicate with His created moral beings not only facts but also feelings so He created us in His image as musical beings.

It would be great if the praise and worship could have just continued on and on but as you know, one of God's angels, the archangel Lucifer, was bent on deflecting worship away from God the Father and onto himself. When Isaiah prophesied against false worshipers of his day he gives some insight into Lucifer's fall. Isaiah explains what happened in chapter 14:11-15.

Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, *and* the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee. <sup>12</sup> How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! <sup>13</sup> For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: <sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. <sup>15</sup> Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Lucifer, using all his intelligence, beauty, and musical abilities, was bent on being the object of worship. He wanted attention on himself and off of God. That is how it has been ever since then. God intends that all creation worship Him, for He alone is worthy. Yet, His created beings sometimes want worship centered on themselves. How about you? Doesn't pride or self-fulfillment sometimes well up in your heart? Are there times when you are more concerned about what people think about you than what they think about God? All false worship starts with a focus on self; with a bent toward wanting others to think and say about you things they ought only ascribed to God. God alone is worthy of our worship. Confirm it as you sing this song to Him.

*Worthy* of worship, worthy of praise,  
Worthy of honor and glory,  
Worthy of all the glad songs we can sing,  
Worthy of all of the off'rings we bring.

*Chorus:*

*You* are worthy, Father, Creator,  
You are worthy, Savior, Sustainer,  
You are worthy, worthy an wonderful;  
Worthy of worship and praise.

*Worthy* of rev'rence, worthy of fear,  
Worthy of love and devotion.  
Worthy of bowing an bending of knees,  
Worthy of all this and added to these.

*Almighty* Father, Master and Lord,  
King of all kings and Redeemer,  
Wonderful Counselor, Comforter, Friend,  
Savior and Source of our life without end.

Lucifer, like all the angels was created a musical being. Ezekiel 28:12-17 is a description of him and those who are like him. It says...

Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. <sup>13</sup> Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone *was* thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy **tabrets** and of thy **pipes** was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. <sup>14</sup> Thou *art* the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee *so*: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. <sup>15</sup> Thou *wast* perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. <sup>16</sup> By the multitude of thy merchandise they have

filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.<sup>17</sup> Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. (emphasis mine)

Some translators have decided that this figurative description of Lucifer's beauty should not mention his musical ability and have translated "tabrets" and "pipes" as sockets and settings. This is a stretch. I deal with it in detail in my exegetical book but will give you a short explanation in this endnote.<sup>1</sup> As one of God's created angelic beings Lucifer could communicate with the beautiful and powerful gift of music just like all other angels. When Lucifer fell and led an angelic revolt against God he did not cease to be powerful, intelligent, resourceful, and, yes, very musical. Just how Satan uses his musical ability is something with which we need to be aware.

Thus began a conflict of cosmic proportions over the object of our worship. The battle has raged on over the pages of time and will till the final discords of false worship are forever thrown into the pit of God's judgment. This cosmic conflict over the object of worship has colored both the worship and the music of every angelic being and man since the very beginning. Are you ready for the battle? Are you aware of Satan's devices? His musical devices?

Satan is ...

The accuser of the brethren (Rev 12:10)  
An angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14)  
The father of lies (John 8:44)  
A roaming devouring lion (1 Pet. 5:8)  
An adversary (1 Tim. 3:7; 2 Tim. 2:26)  
A wily deceiver (Eph. 6:11)  
Prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2)  
A ruler of darkness and wickedness (Jn. 14:30)  
Tempter (Mt 4)  
"Seed stealer" (Mk. 4:15)

Peter says resist the devil 'firm in your faith' (1 Pet. 5:9),  
James says, 'Resist the devil and he will flee from you' (Jas. 4:7).  
Paul exhorts 'give no opportunity to the devil' (Eph. 4:27) and  
Resist anything the evil one does (Eph. 6:11, 13).  
Don't be "ignorant of his designs" (2 Cor. 2:11).

But remember...

Satan's power is derivative (Lk. 4:6).  
Satan is limited (Job. 1:12; 2:6; 1 Cor. 10:13; Rev. 20:2, 7).  
Satan is doomed (Mt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10).  
Preachers can to turn men 'from the power of Satan unto God' (Acts 26:18).  
"The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet" (Rom. 16:20).

Gather your family or friends together and let's get real. Satan is after you and he is using the tool of music to subtly turn the object of your worship away from God and toward one of God's creatures; idols, or Satan, perhaps, but more likely other men, or your own pleasure or your own wisdom. It's time to ask each other some serious questions.

- If Satan is a musician how can we tell what kind of music he is behind? What music accompanies the “works of darkness” that Satan is behind?
- Satan is a deceiver, a counterfeiter. How do you suppose Satan could more subtly deceive believers to worship self instead of God?
- What can I do to turn myself away from the power of Satan and to God?

*Stay tuned for more discerning data later in the book.*

Yes, man, made in God's image, was also created a musical being, able to express to other people and to God his thoughts and affections. This is one of the most notable ways in which mankind differs from other created beings.

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<sup>i</sup> The question among Bible translators is “should תֹּפ (tōp) [TWOT #2536a] and נֶקֶב (neqeb) [TWOT #1309a] be translated ‘settings and socket’ (NASB and others) or should they be translated ‘tabrets (timbrels or tambourines) and pipes’ (KJV and others)?” Much of the discussion comes down to a question of whether the context allows for “tabrets” (which is the preferred translation in the 17 other times תֹּפ (tōp) is used) [TWOT #2536] or must it be understood as “beat” as one might beat gold to make a setting. The word selection “setting” seems unlikely since the context does not *demand* this word it only presents an easier reading for some.

The second word in question, נֶקֶב (neqeb), is used in this form only here. The etymologically close verb form, נָקַב (nāqab) [TWOT #1409] gives the idea of boring holes, mining, or piercing. (Holliday's lexicon, following W. F. Albright in BASOR, [*Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*] No. 110).

If תֹּפ (tōp) is translated “timbrel or tambourine”, a musical instrument, as it is exclusively translated as in all other usages, then the immediate context of נֶקֶב (neqeb) calls for a translation of a musical instrument with bored holes like a pipe or flute. Although there is not unanimity on the translation of musical instruments in this passage there is no clear reason to depart from the more normal understanding of the word to the original Jewish audience. Rabbi Mosha Eisemann also agrees stating “your [Lucifer's] skill in making instruments, or your musical ability, was bred into you at the moment of your birth” (Rabbi Moshe Eisemann, [Yechezkel a New Translation with a Commentary Anthologized from Talmudic, Midrashic and Rabbinic Sources](#), [Brooklyn, NY: Mesorah Publications, Ltd., 1988] p.469). These words should be understood as musical instruments that although are not literally on Lucifer but are used to illustrate the beauty of Lucifer's musical nature.