

My Loved Ones:

The Psalm 40 title says, "To the Chief Musician [For the Choir Director]. A Psalm of David."

Bear with me! This is a totally different devotional today than what you've ever seen before. So, make sure that you read it.

We've mentioned that at least 55 times in the psalms, God inspires these titles to speak about the choir and the choir director. Obviously, choirs are important to the Lord to have them mentioned that many different times in the Bible. But why is the choir there? Because there is something to sing about! The things in Psalm 40 are something to sing about! Do you have something to sing about? Earlier in Psalm 40 it speak about God putting a new song in our mouths: praise to God that others see and come away trusting in God. How do you sing? I'm not asking if you have a nice voice, or if you even actually sing in the choir or sing special music. I'm asking how enthusiastic do you sing? And when you sing, do you think about the God Whom you are singing about? He is the One Who gives us something to sing about.

This choir director in the Bible is specifically mentioned in a couple of passages, especially in 1 Chronicles. When David wanted the temple built in Jerusalem, David purchased some land, and had the tabernacle set up on the spot before Solomon actually started building the temple there. But there was music in the worship on the Sabbath days. It was outside music as no one was allowed inside the tabernacle or temple other than the priests and the individuals who would bring a sacrifice to the front door of the tabernacle. The following passage talks about those men who led the singing: 1 Chronicles 6:31-32 - These are the men whom David put in charge of the service of song in the house of the Lord after the ark rested there. 32 They ministered with song before the tabernacle of the tent of meeting until Solomon built the house of the Lord in Jerusalem, and they performed their service according to their order.

It was mostly a man named Heman with his brother, Asaph, along with Ethan (we get this from reading vv. 33-47). These brothers headed up the choir and were singers themselves. Notice what the above verses say about music ministry.

First, they are appointed by the leader of God's people, in this case, David. They are given the oversight of music; it doesn't mean that they did it all, but they are given the responsibility. Notice that music is a "service:" it is a service for God and for man, at least it should be ministering to our hearts, minds and affections. This music was done in association with the house of the Lord - not mine to do any old way that I want to, but God's house and God's way. Verse 32 says that music is a "ministry." It ministers to God and to men, much like service. And the verse says that they did it according to order: it wasn't some haphazard thing. Today, thank the Lord for the musicians in our church and those with leadership over it. They are serving God while serving us.

We love you and are praying for you today, loved ones.