

2 Samuel 6:5 (NKJV)

Then David and all the house of Israel played music before the LORD on all kinds of instruments of fir wood, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on sistrums, and on cymbals.

A little background on what's going on in today's verse. The Ark was captured by the Philistines back when Saul was King, and Saul and his sons were killed in the battle when the Ark was captured.

† **1 Samuel 4:17** *So the messenger answered and said, "Israel has fled before the Philistines, and there has been a great slaughter among the people. Also your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead; and the ark of God has been captured."*

Then when the Philistines had the Ark, and God punished the people with tumors, as well as having rats in the land. So the Philistines asked their priests how to get rid of the Ark, and they instructed them to put the Ark on a new cart that would be lead by cows and let them just go on their own.

† **1 Samuel 6:10-11** *Then the men did so; they took two milk cows and hitched them to the cart, and shut up their calves at home. And they set the ark of the LORD on the cart, and the chest with the gold rats and the images of their tumors.*

† **1 Samuel 7:1** *Then the men of Kirjath Jearim came and took the ark of the LORD, and brought it into the house of Abinadab on the hill, and consecrated Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the LORD.*

Then the Ark sat there for a long time until David was King and he wanted to bring the Ark to Jerusalem. And he did so by placing the Ark on a cart, which was driven by oxen.

That's where today's verse comes into play where ***David and all the house of Israel played music before the LORD on all kinds of instruments of fir wood, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on sistrums, and on cymbals.***

Can you imagine it? All these people playing instruments, and singing out loud, raising their hands in the air, worshipping God in song, and probably with even some of them dancing around the cart that the Ark was on, being pulled by oxen. And what was God's response to this?

† **2 Samuel 6:7** *Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God.*

“What? Worshipping God, and in response He kills someone? What the heck is going on?” You may be thinking.

First off, God did not strike Uzzah because he was singing or worshipping. No, the truth was even though all the people, including King David, the Sweet Psalmist, were worshipping in song with instruments from their hearts, they were still being disobedient at the same time.

How so? By thinking that they could move the Ark by putting it on a cart and having Oxen pull the cart. Or you can say by moving the Ark the same way the Philistines did.

But God was very specific on how the Ark was to be transported. It was something the priest should have known, since it was in the Law that God gave when the Ark was made.

† **Deuteronomy 10:8 (NLT2)** *At that time the LORD set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the Ark of the LORD’s Covenant, and to stand before the LORD as his ministers, and to pronounce blessings in his name. These are their duties to this day.*

Eventually King David did do it right and the Ark was brought to Jerusalem.

† **2 Samuel 6:13-15** *And so it was, when those bearing the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, that he sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep. Then David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet.*

Now, with all this in mind, we as the church, or even as a Christian, have to make sure when we worship the Lord, that we are doing it the right way. Some say loud music and loud guitars and drums have no place in the church or even in Christian music. I beg to differ.

† **2 Chronicles 30:21** *So the children of Israel who were present at Jerusalem kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with great gladness; and the Levites and the priests praised the LORD day by day, singing to the LORD, accompanied by loud instruments.* (underlined for emphasis)

No, it’s not a matter of the instruments being played or how loud or soft the music is. Think again of King David from our verses, the singing and instruments were not the problem, because as we read on, when they were transporting the Ark correctly, they still sang and danced and played instruments to the Lord, just like they did the first time. The problem the first time was that they brought pagan worship into it.

Remember the Philistines sent the Ark on a cart being pulled by cows. Well, King David did the same thing, because he did not check with God or the priests on how to transport the Ark, and the sad thing is that the priest did not give the King instructions either, even though that was their job.

For us, it's something we all should ask ourselves when we worship in church, or in our homes alone. What worldly things are we bringing into our worship?

Do we try to imitate or incorporate the world's entertainment scene into our worship?

Are you at home chugging on beers and singing songs to the Lord, burping between verses or songs?

Are you looking at that guy or girl in church and lusting after them while singing to the Lord, lifting up your hands while thinking how you can ask him or her out on a date?

Are you lifting hands and singing those all familiar songs to the point that you are focusing more on where you will go eat after church than the Lord?

So many ways that we need to check our hearts on in our worship, and even ask the Lord to search us and show us if we are bringing the world into our personal worship to Him, because it's not a matter of you telling the Worship Leader how to lead worship, but asking God to search our hearts and show us if we are bringing the world into our worship of Him.

† **Psalm 139:23-24 (KJV)** *Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*