



# Understanding the Adventist music philosophy:

## **A God of Order and Particularity**



**I WILL GO**

**STRATEGIC FOCUS**

**2020-2025**





# THREE AREAS OF EMPHASIS

1. Mission
2. Spiritual Growth
3. Leadership
4. Holy Spirit



A person wearing a blue jacket is pointing their right hand towards a large graphic overlay. The overlay consists of a blue-outlined hexagon containing a city skyline. Overlaid on the hexagon is an orange horizontal bar and a grey rectangular box.

**I WILL GO**

**STRATEGIC FOCUS**

**2025-2030**



## FOUR AREAS OF EMPHASIS

1. **COMMUNION** *with God*
2. **IDENTITY** *in Christ*
3. **UNITY** *through the Holy Spirit*
4. **MISSION** *for all*

A circular graphic with a red-to-yellow gradient, containing the text "Judges 2:10" in white.

# Judges 2:10

<sup>10</sup> When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, **another generation** arose after them who **did not know the LORD** nor the work which He had done for Israel.





<sup>12</sup> and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger. (Jdg 2:10-12 NKJ)



# KNOWLEDGE IS POWER



<sup>3</sup> Through **wisdom** a house is built, And by **understanding** it is established; <sup>4</sup> By **knowledge** the rooms are filled With all precious and pleasant riches. (Pro 24:3-4 NKJ)





# KNOWLEDGE IS POWER



<sup>6</sup> My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; .... (Hos 4:6 NKJ)



# KNOWLEDGE IS POWER



7 "For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, And *people* should seek the law from his mouth; For he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts. (Mal 2:7 NKJ)

1

Introduction: Music

2

Secular vs Sacred

3

Music for Holy Purpose/ SDA  
Philosophy/ Ellen White View

4

Conclusion

LET US  
PRAY







GOD has woven music into the very fabric of His creation. When He made all things “the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy” (Job 38:7 NKJ)



**HARVARD** medicine  
THE MAGAZINE OF HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

[Browse Articles](#) [by Issues](#) [by Topic](#)

[All Articles](#) > [How Music Resonates in the Brain](#)

March 2024

## How Music Resonates in the Brain

Scientists tune in to the brain's emotional response to music

[Spring 2024](#)

by Allison Eck — 7 minute read

Allison Eck:

Rehearsal of the Padeloup Orchestra at the Cirque d'Hiver by John Singer Sargent  
The Hayden Collection—Charles Henry Hayden Fund



“We seem to be **very much tuned** for music, It resonates with us in some important way.”

*Silbersweig*







**HARVARD** medicine  
THE MAGAZINE OF HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

[Browse Articles](#) by Issues ☐ by Topic

[All Articles](#) > [How Music Resonates in the Brain](#)

March 2024

## How Music Resonates in the Brain

Scientists tune in to the brain's emotional response to music

[Spring 2024](#)

by Allison Eck — 7 minute read

Allison Eck:

Rehearsal of the Padeloup Orchestra at the Cirque d'Hiver by John Singer Sargent  
The Hayden Collection—Charles Henry Hayden Fund



“music is a potent tool for the future of precision medicine. .”

*Silbersweig*





**HARVARD** medicine  
THE MAGAZINE OF HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

[Browse Articles](#) by Issues ☐ by Topic

[All Articles](#) > [How Music Resonates in the Brain](#)

March 2024

## How Music Resonates in the Brain

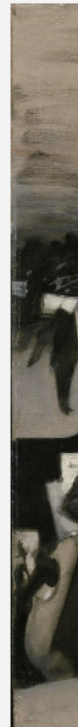
Scientists tune in to the brain's emotional response to music

[Spring 2024](#)

by Allison Eck — 7 minute read

Allison Eck:

Rehearsal of the Padeloup Orchestra at the Cirque d'Hiver by John Singer Sargent  
The Hayden Collection—Charles Henry Hayden Fund



“The effect of music on our brains **has clinical implications** as well. Growing evidence suggests, for example, that listening to Mozart's Sonata for Two Pianos in D Major can reduce the frequency of seizures in some people with epilepsy.”





Music can be **a great power** for good, yet we do not make the most of this branch of worship.

*Gospel Workers, 325. (1892)*

# Sacred vs secular

**A God of Order and Particularity**



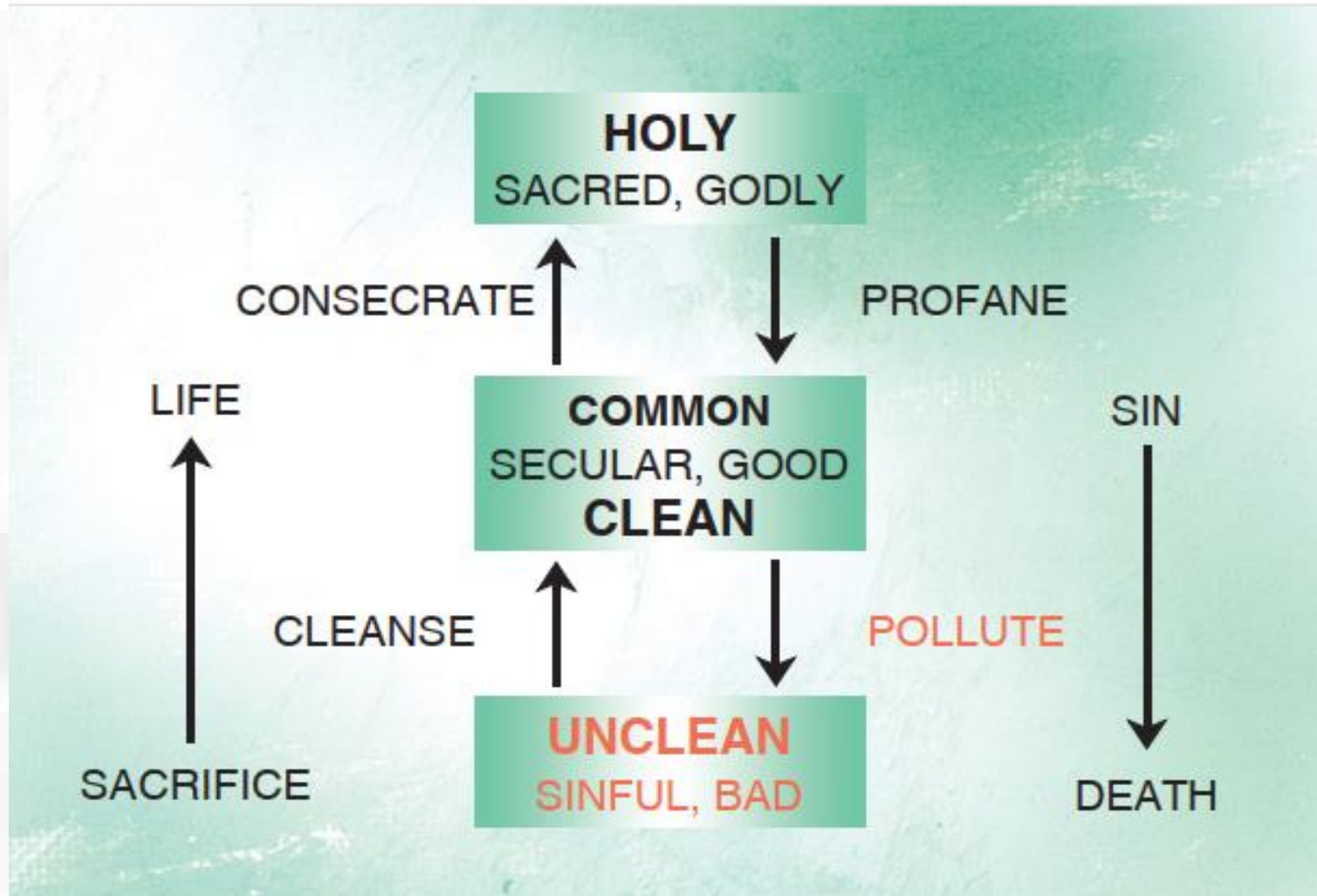
# God's Call to Holiness



<sup>6</sup> And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and **a holy nation**. (Exod. 19:6 NKJ)

<sup>9</sup> But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, **a holy nation**, His own special people, (1Pet. 2:9 NKJ)

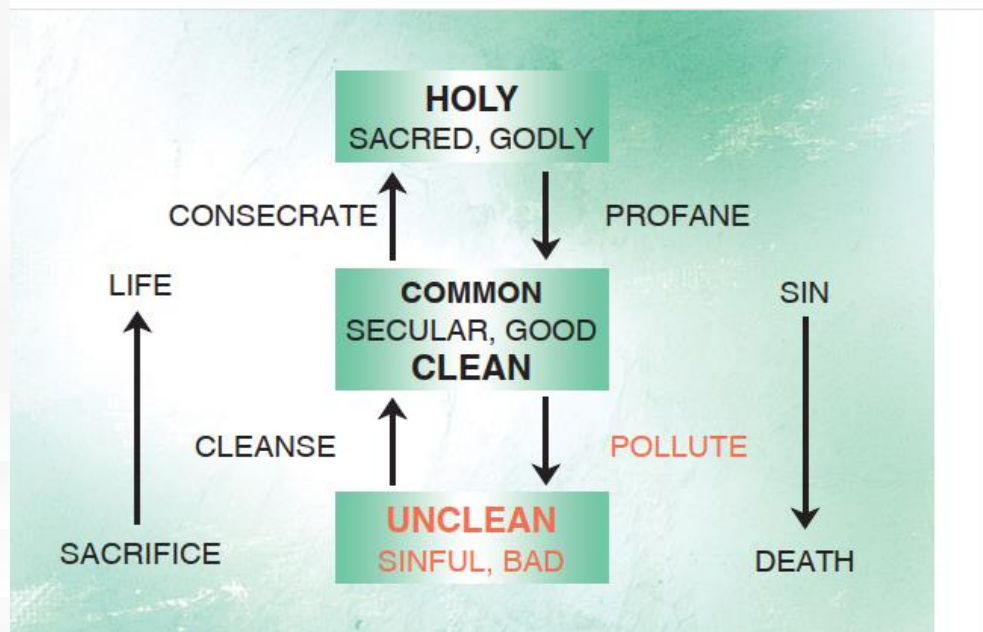
# Israel's Model of Holiness





# God's Particularity

Two processes are going on.

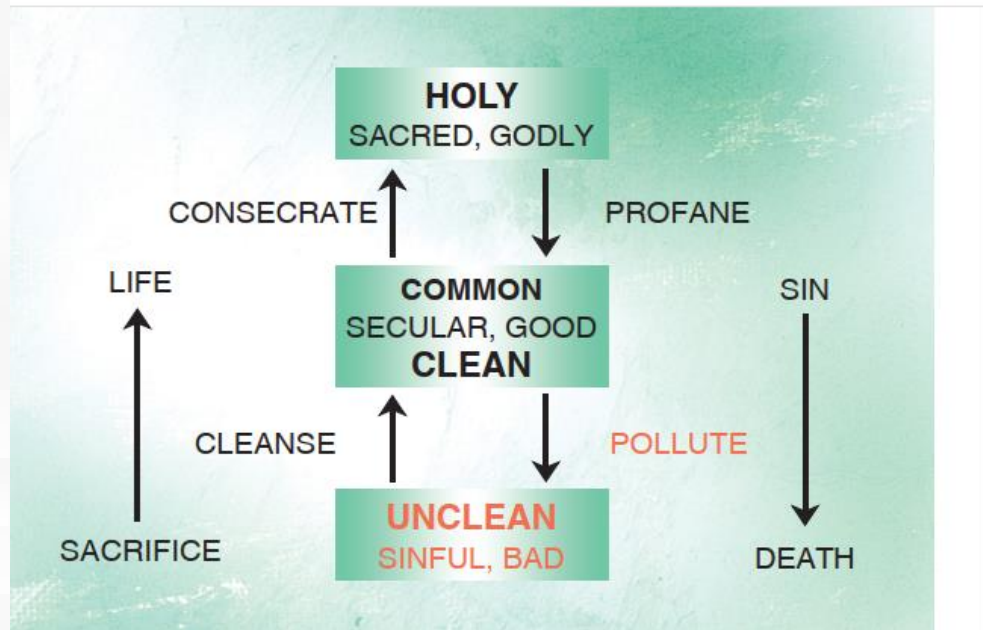


- ✓ The first process is when sacred, godly, holy things are profaned and become common. You can spoil a holy thing by making it common.

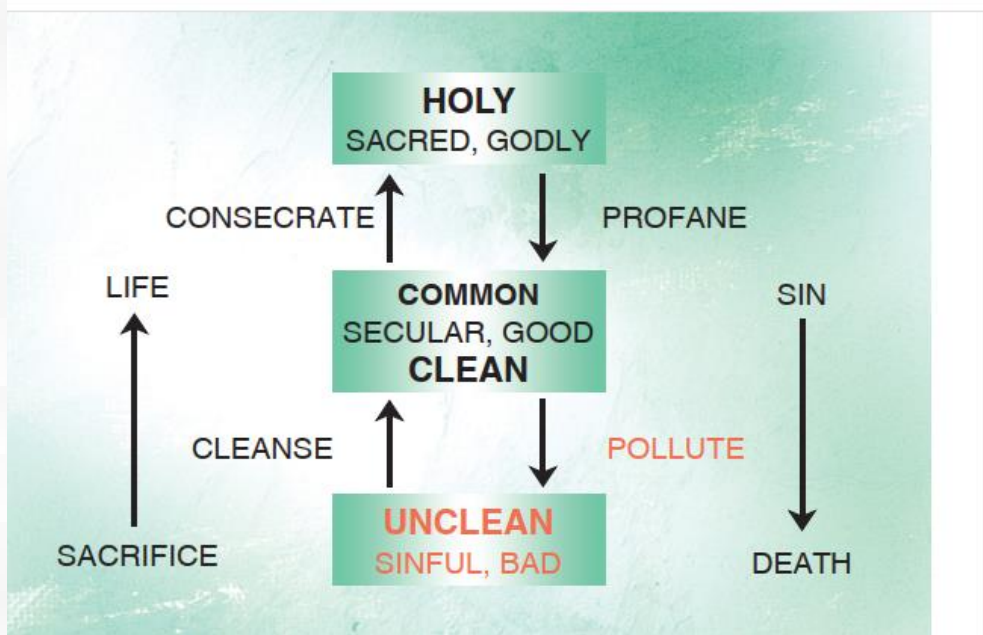
# God's Particularity

Two processes are going on.

✓ The second process is when a common, clean thing is made unclean and sinful.



# God's Particularity



so that you can distinguish between the **holy** and the **common**, between the unclean and the clean, (Lev 10:10 NIV)

## FOR EXAMPLE



Now He said to Moses,  
"Come up to the LORD, you  
and Aaron, **Nadab**, and  
**Abihu**, and seventy of the  
elders of Israel, and  
worship from afar. <sup>2</sup> " (Exo  
24:1-2 NKJ)



<sup>10</sup> and they **saw the God** of Israel. And *there was* under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in *its* clarity.

<sup>11</sup> But on the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay His hand. **So they saw God,** and they **ate** and **drank**. (Exo 24:9-11 NKJ)





Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered **profane** fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. (Lev 10:1NKJ)



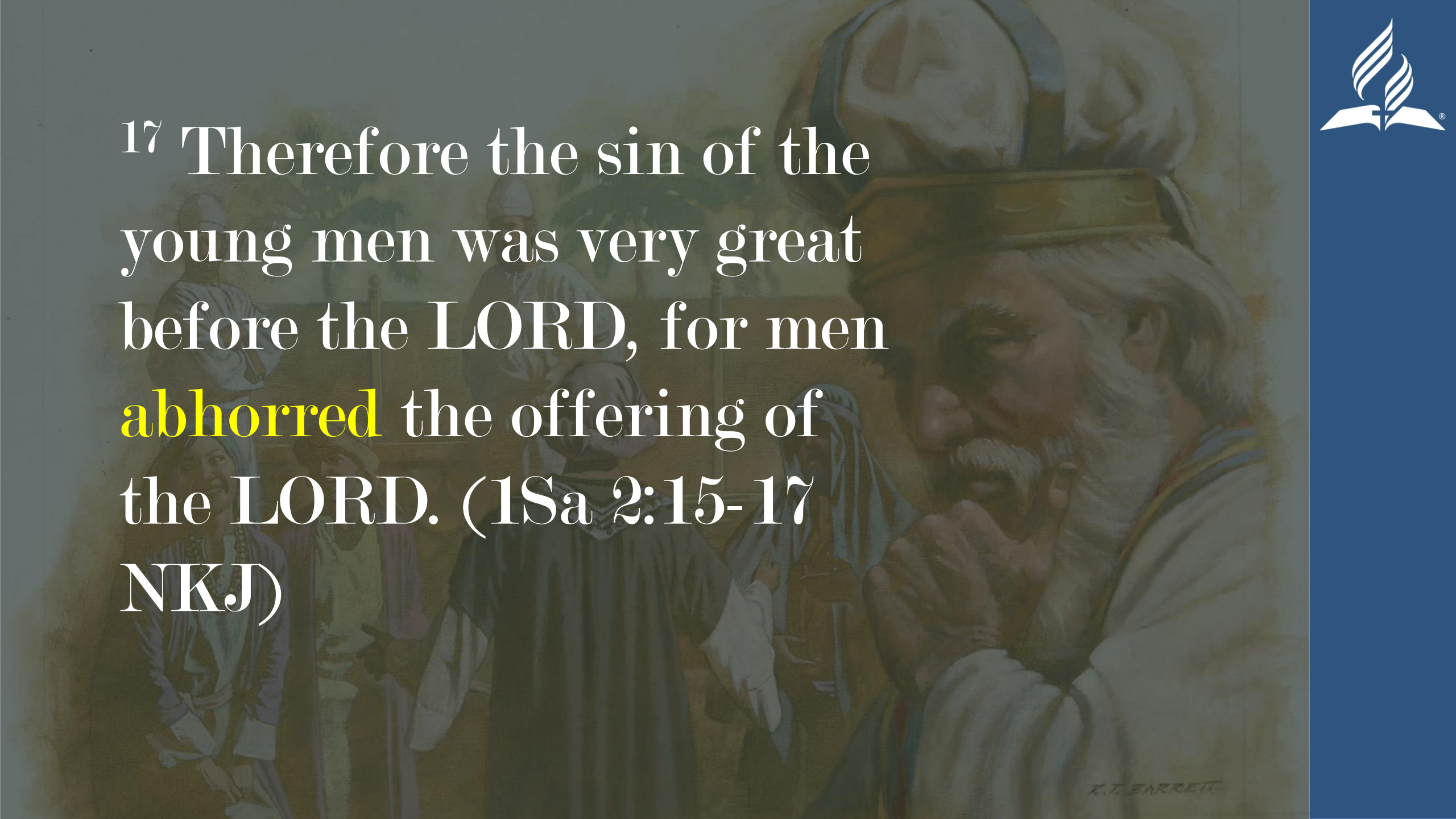


<sup>2</sup> So **fire went out** from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD. (Lev 10:2 NKJ)

<sup>12</sup> Now the sons of  
Eli *were* corrupt;  
they *did not know*  
the LORD. (1Sa 2:12  
NKJ)

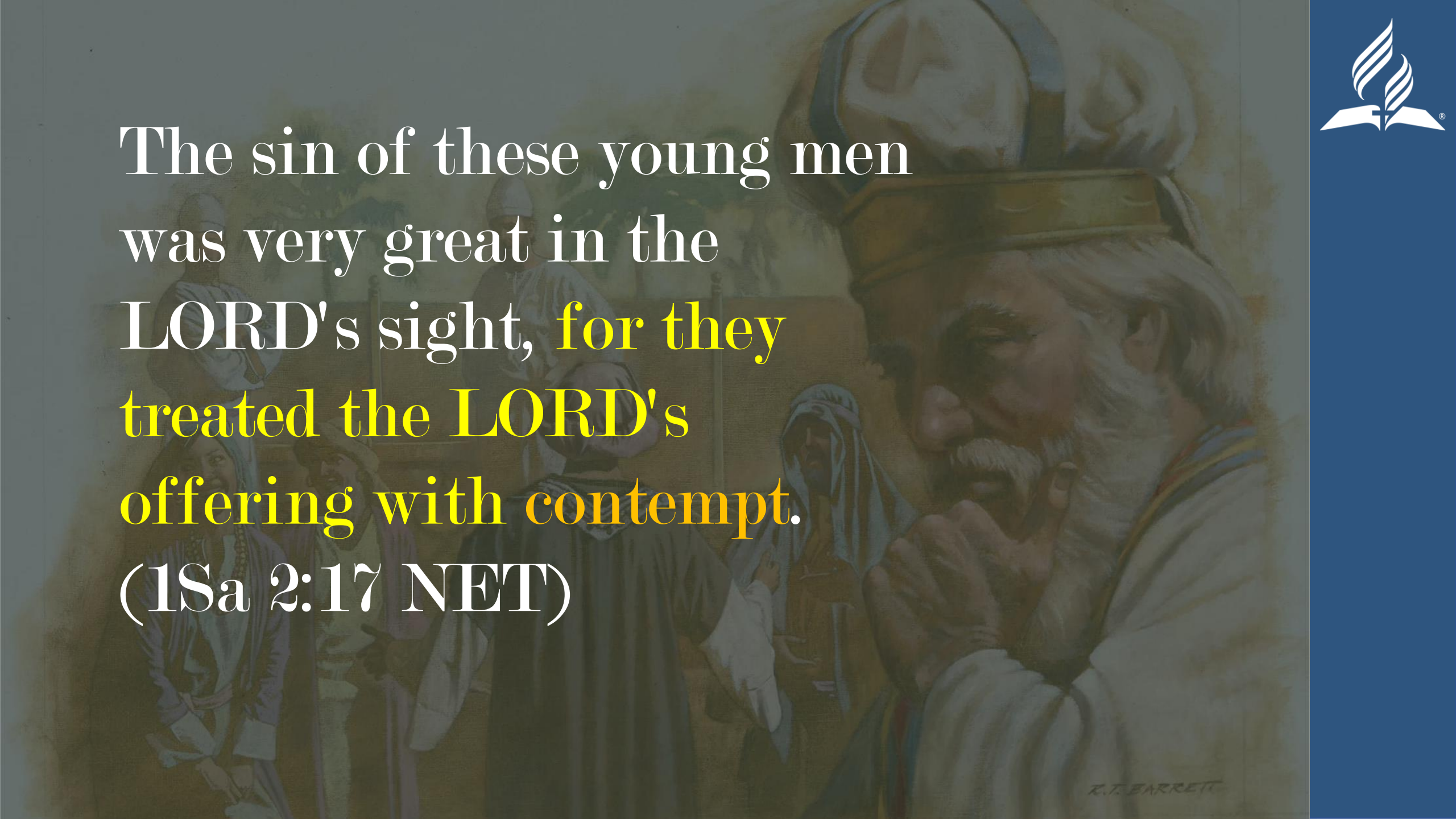




A painting of King David in prayer, with a group of people in the background. The painting is in a classical style, with David in the foreground, wearing a white robe and a crown, his hands clasped in prayer. In the background, a group of people, including women in blue and purple robes, are visible. The overall tone is somber and reflective.

17 Therefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for men **abhorred** the offering of the LORD. (1Sa 2:15-17 NKJ)



The background of the slide is a painting of King Achish, a Philistine ruler, depicted as an elderly man with a long white beard and a large, ornate crown. He is shown in a close-up, looking slightly to the side with a thoughtful or perhaps disdainful expression. He wears a white robe with a blue and red striped collar. In the background, several attendants in traditional robes and head coverings are visible, some looking towards the king. The overall style is that of a classical oil painting.

The sin of these young men  
was very great in the  
LORD's sight, **for they  
treated the LORD's  
offering with contempt.**  
(1Sa 2:17 NET)





“Music was made to serve **a holy purpose**, to lift the thoughts to that which is pure, noble, and elevating, and to awaken in the soul devotion and gratitude to God.”— PP 594.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST™

**CHURCH  
MANUAL**



**P.155**





Jesus “held  
communion with  
heaven in song.” —  
DA 73.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST®

CHURCH  
MANUAL



**P.155**





SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST®

CHURCH  
MANUAL



**P.155**

Music is one of the highest arts. Good music not only gives us pleasure but elevates our minds and cultivates our finest qualities. God often has used spiritual songs to touch the hearts of sinners and lead to repentance. On the contrary, **debased music breaks down morality** and draws us away from our relationship with God.



*Selecting Music Coordinators –*  
The church should take **great care** in selecting music leaders, choosing only those who are thoroughly consecrated and provide appropriate music for all church worship services and meetings.



Secular music or that of a questionable nature **should never** be introduced into our services.



The background of the slide is a black and white photograph showing the silhouettes of five people sitting around a long table in a meeting room. They are facing away from the camera, looking towards a bright light source, possibly a window. The text 'NOMINATING COMMITTEE' is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

# NOMINATING COMMITTEE



*Church Manual p.155*

*Selecting Musicians* — Sacred music is an important part of public worship. The church must exercise care in selecting choir members and other musicians who will rightly represent Church principles. They should be members of the church, the Sabbath School, or the Adventist Youth Ministries.





## WHY EXERCISE CARE?

Because they **occupy a conspicuous place in church services**, they should be examples of modesty and decorum in their appearance and dress. Choir robes are optional. Churches may have multiple choirs. A children's choir is a means of spiritual nurture, bonding to the church family, and outreach.







# ELLEN WHITE'S THOUGHTS



“Music, when not abused,  
is a great blessing; but  
when it is put **to a wrong  
use**, it is a **terrible curse**”  
*Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 497



“Music, when not abused,  
is a great blessing; but  
when it is put **to a wrong  
use**, it is a **terrible curse**”  
*Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 497



Just before the close of probation, “there will be **shouting**, with **drums**, **music**, and **dancing**. The senses of rational beings will become so confused that they cannot be trusted to make right decisions. And this is called the moving of the Holy Spirit.” (II SM 36)





The Holy Spirit never reveals itself in such methods, in such a bedlam of noise. This is an invention of Satan to cover up his ingenious methods for making of none effect the pure, sincere, elevating, ennobling, sanctifying truth for this time" (II SM 36)



## INSTRUMENTS



Music should have beauty, pathos, and power. Let the voices be lifted in songs of praise and devotion. **Call to your aid**, if practicable, instrumental music, and let the glorious harmony ascend to God, an acceptable offering. — Gospel Workers, 325. (1892)



## INSTRUMENTS



“And let the singing be accompanied with musical instruments **skillfully handled**. We are not to oppose the use of instrumental music in our work,” *Testimonies vol 9 p.144*

## INSTRUMENTS



“These [instruments] were used in religious services in ancient times. The worshipers praised God upon the **harp** and **cymbal**, and music should have its place in our services. **It will add to the interest.**”  
Evangelism p.500

## INSTRUMENTS



Ellen White pointed out that if the sound of instruments becomes harsh, or too loud or chaotic, it can negate or hamper their positive effects.

**Selected Message Bk2 pp. 36-37**



# Instruments



In the meetings held, let a number be chosen to take part in the song service. And let the singing be accompanied with **musical instruments skillfully handled**. We are not to oppose the use of instrumental music in our work. This part of the service is to be carefully conducted; for it is the praise of God in song. The singing is not always to be done by a few. As often as possible, let the entire congregation join.

**Testimonies for the Church 9:144. (1909)**



# Instruments



“I am glad to hear the musical instruments that you have here. God wants us to have them. He wants us to praise Him with heart and soul and voice, magnifying His name before the world.” — *The Review and Herald, June 15, 1905.*

*Instrumental Music at the General Conference of 1905*



# THE PROBLEM



But it is sometimes **more difficult to discipline the singers** and keep them in working order, than to improve the habits of praying and exhorting. **Many want to do things after their own style**; they object to consultation, and are impatient under leadership. Well matured plans are needed in, the service of God. Common sense is an excellent thing in the worship of the Lord. — **Gospel Workers, 325. (1892)**





# ILLUSTRATION



A view of one such company was presented to me, where were assembled those who profess to believe the truth. **One was seated at the instrument of music, and such songs were poured forth as made the watching angels weep.** There was mirth, there was coarse laughter, there was abundance of enthusiasm, and a kind of inspiration; but the joy was such as Satan only is able to *create*. – *Counsels to Parents and Teachers*, p. 339.



# **Principles to Consider/SDA Philosophy of Music**



# PRINCIPLES

The music that Christians enjoy should be regulated by the following principles:

1. All music the Christian listens to, performs or composes, whether sacred or secular, **will glorify God**: “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”—1 Corinthians 10:31 This is the overriding biblical principle.

*These guidelines were approved and voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Annual Council on October 13, 2004.*





# PRINCIPLES

The music that Christians enjoy should be regulated by the following principles:

2. All music the Christian listens to, performs or composes, whether sacred or secular, should be the noblest and the best: Phil 4:6ff

*These guidelines were approved and voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Annual Council on October 13, 2004.*





# PRINCIPLES

The music that Christians enjoy should be regulated by the following principles:

3. It is characterized by **quality, balance, appropriateness, and authenticity**. Music fosters our spiritual, psychological, and social sensitivity, and our intellectual growth.

*These guidelines were approved and voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Annual Council on October 13, 2004.*







# PRINCIPLES

The music that Christians enjoy should be regulated by the following principles:

4. It appeals to both the **intellect and the emotions** and impacts the body in a positive way. It is wholistic.

*These guidelines were approved and voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Annual Council on October 13, 2004.*





# PRINCIPLES

The music that Christians enjoy should be regulated by the following principles:

5. Music reveals creativity in that it draws from quality melodies. If harmonized, it uses harmonies in **an interesting and artistic way**, and employs rhythm that complements them.

*These guidelines were approved and voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Annual Council on October 13, 2004.*





# PRINCIPLES

The music that Christians enjoy should be regulated by the following principles:

6. Vocal music employs lyrics that **positively stimulate intellectual abilities** as well as **our emotions** and **our will power**. Good lyrics are creative, **rich in content**, and of good composition. They focus on the positive and reflect moral values; they educate and uplift; and they correspond with sound biblical theology.

*These guidelines were approved and voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Annual Council on October 13, 2004.*





# PRINCIPLES

The music that Christians enjoy should be regulated by the following principles:

7. Musical and lyrical elements should work together harmoniously to influence thinking and behavior in harmony with biblical values.

*These guidelines were approved and voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Annual Council on October 13, 2004.*





# PRINCIPLES

The music that Christians enjoy should be regulated by the following principles:

8. It maintains a judicious balance of spiritual, intellectual, and emotional elements.

*These guidelines were approved and voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Annual Council on October 13, 2004.*







# PRINCIPLES



9. We should recognize and acknowledge the contribution of different cultures in worshiping God. Musical forms and instruments vary greatly in the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist family, and music drawn from one culture may sound strange to someone from a different culture.

*These guidelines were approved and voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Annual Council on October 13, 2004.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

Calvary.

1. Come, O my soul, to Cal-vary, Cal-vary, Cal-vary,

And see the man who died for thee, Upon th' accursed tree.

CHORUS.

How can I for-get thee! How can I for-get my Lord!

How can I for-get thee! Dear Lord, re-mem-ber me.

MISCELLANEOUS.

- 2 Behold the Saviour's agony,  
While groaning in Gethsemane,  
Beneath the sins of men.—CHO.
- 3 With purple robe and thorny crown,  
And mocking soldiers bowing down,  
The Saviour bears my shame.—CHO.
- 4 Behold, they shed his precious blood,  
Oh! hear him cry, "My God, my God,  
Hast thou forsaken me?"—CHO.
- 5 He died—the earth was robed in gloom;  
They laid him, then, in Joseph's tomb,  
While soldiers watched around.—CHO.
- 6 But in the light of dawning day,  
Bright angels rolled the rock away,  
And Christ, the conq'ror, rose.—CHO.
- 7 Now he who died on Calvary  
Still lives to plead for you and me,  
And bids us look and live.—CHO.
- 8 He sits upon a throne of grace,  
And bids the helpless seek his face;  
O sinner, come to-day.—CHO.
- 9 Soon, he who once was scourged and bound  
Shall come again, with glory crowned,  
And reign forevermore.—CHO.
- 10 His saints shall crown him Lord of all;  
Before him every foe shall fall,  
And every knee shall bow.—CHO.
- 11 Oh! then, the Man of Calvary  
Shall reign supreme from sea to sea;  
All hail that glorious day!—CHO.



31

## What Heavenly Music

*James White's  
Hymns for God's Peculiar People . . . , 1849*

HEAVENLY MUSIC  
From Hymns and Tunes, 1886

1. What heav - en - ly mu - sic steals o - ver the sea!  
2. On the banks of old Jor - dan, here gaz - ing I stand,  
3. Though dark are the wa - ters and rough is the wave,





# CONCLUSION

- Seventh-day Adventist music-making **means to choose the best and above all to draw close to our Creator and Lord and glorify Him.** Let us rise to the challenge of a viable alternative musical vision and, as part of our wholistic and prophetic message, make a unique Adventist musical contribution as a witness to the world regarding a people awaiting Christ's soon coming.

