

A black and white illustration of a hand holding a harp string in front of a clock face with Roman numerals. The hand is positioned in the center, with the index finger pointing towards the top of the clock. The clock face is circular and features Roman numerals from I to XII. The hand is wearing a sleeve with a textured pattern. The overall style is a detailed line drawing with cross-hatching for shading.

HARP & BOWL

Short notes on *Night & Day* Worship

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
What is the tabernacle of David and the restoration of it?	2
Heavenly worship: Harp and Bowl intercessory worship	2
7 Prayer goals.....	3
5 Core values	3
Watch Formats	6
The structure of a watch.....	6
Structuring a 2 hour watch	6
Prayer formats	7
Basic structure of a 2-hour watch.....	8
Practical tips that help to make it work	8
Conclusion	9

Introduction

The reason for this booklet is to provide basic guidelines on the term "Harp & Bowl" as to its meaning and what the Bible says about it.

This booklet is *by no means a complete guide* on this matter. Rather it is a glimpse into what we perceive in our understanding of the biblical picture of night and day worship as explained in **Revelation 5:8** - *Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.*

From this biblical picture of music (harp) and prayer (bowls), in a simple way, we try to duplicate this heavenly picture in a practical manner here on earth. This booklet includes some guidelines to provide the reader with ideas on how to conduct a very basic prayer session flowing with the support of music.

We trust that this simple effort will inspire you to teach others to pray and worship from the Word of God about different things in their lives, whether it be about their city/town, community, a friend who is terminally ill, a broken marriage or which ever burden God would lay on their hearts.

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What is the tabernacle of David and the restoration of it?

Historically, King David built a special tent (tabernacle) in Jerusalem to house the Ark of the Covenant (**1 Chron.15:1; 16:1**). In the tabernacle of Moses the glory that rested on the Ark was hidden in the Holy of Holies behind a thick curtain. The significance of David's tent was that there was no veil to keep the people from seeing the glory of God. Instead of the veil that Moses used, David veiled the ark with musicians and singers. David organised 4000 musicians and 288 singers to minister to God in shifts that continued 24 hours a day (**1 Chron.6:31-33; 15:16-22; 23:4-6**). He actually released them financially to worship and pray as their full time occupation (**1 Chron.9:33; 25:7**). The restoration of David's tabernacle has both a priestly and kingly dimension. It speaks of a kingly (apostolic) dimension, which includes a unified victorious Church reaching to all nations and successfully reaping the Great Harvest and walking in mature love etc. Here we only explore the priestly dimension. *I will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins and I will set it up; so that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord who does all these things (Acts 15:16-17)*. God has chosen to restore the tabernacle of David as one essential element in releasing fullness of revival in the nations. The intercessory worship ministry of the tabernacle of David will be restored that the Great Commission will be completed.

Heavenly worship: Harp and Bowl intercessory worship

- ✧ We combine worship & prayer in a symphony of enjoyable prayer.
- ✧ We seek to re-discover the principle of antiphonal (responsive) singing David used in his tabernacle.
- ✧ We sing and pray directly from the Bible, using 7 basic types of Scripture.

Antiphonal singing: THE HARP

Rev.4:9-11; 5:8-14; 7:9-12; 11:15-19; 14:6-20; 16:5-7; 19:1-10. Also **Ex.15:20-21; Deut.27:12-15; Ezra 3:11; Neh.12:8-9, 24, 31, 38, 40; Ps.24:7-10; Isa.6:3; Luke 2:10-14; 1 Cor.14:15; Eph.5:19; Col.3:16.**

What does antiphonal signing mean?

1. It is interaction between worshipper and intercessor.
2. It is interactive relationship between singing and speaking.
3. It is singers with singers in one flow.

Benefits of sticking to the Word: THE BOWL

- ☛ The focus is on God and the city and not the demonic work the praying person or the prayer itself.
- ☛ All believers are in agreement with the prayers of scripture and therefore with the Spirit of God. (This releases the "commanded blessing" Ps.133)

- ☛ The prayers refresh and bring strength to those who intercede.
- ☛ People go deeper in the scriptures interacting more (the Holy Spirit disciplines them)!

7 Prayer goals

We choose from Scripture passages to help us pray and cover in prayer at least the following subjects on a regular basis. There are many others, but these should be somewhere at the top of our list of subjects to be covered in prayer:

1. World evangelisation – that the Great Commission would be completed.
2. Unity in the Body of Christ – that believers of all nations, generations (old and young), denominations and language groups will have one heart after God and His kingdom.
3. Spiritual leaders – those leading other believers in one or another way, that they would know and understand the heart of God for all seasons and never grow weary of the spiritual fight, but remain strong and diligent.
4. The restoration of Israel – that Israel would come into a place where every citizen would acknowledge Jesus Christ as the one and only Saviour sent from God for the salvation of all men.
5. Workers for the harvest spiritual leaders – that missions would be effective, that more people would join in the gathering of the harvest and that they will be able to remain in the field, especially in those areas of the world which are yet unreached with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
6. Revival – that the existing church would once more experience a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit like in the day of Pentecost.
7. Poor and needy – this is our commandment, to care for them. We also need to do so in focussed prayer.

5 Core values

When one call together people to pray, it is important to unite them in the same vision and heart after God. There are many ways to do this. The following are some very basic core values to follow after when starting out a house of prayer.

1. Intimacy with God
2. Biblical focus
3. Inclusivity of all ages & denominations
4. Enjoyable prayer
5. Day & Night prayer and worship
6. Community outreach

1. Intimacy: Face 2 Face

The secret power behind the models and the vision of 24-hour worship and intercession is our heart encounters with God in the place of beauty. We need the eyes of our understanding enlightened so we can see the beauty of obedience to Christ! The key scripture to the beauty realm is **Revelation 4 and 5**.

2. Biblical focus: Praying Scripture

How to pray the biblical truth of God's promises

- ☛ **Pray the promises**
- ☛ **Meditate on the word** – read it, sing it, proclaim it, pray it.
- ☛ **How to:** Take a part of scripture and slowly read it from start to finish. Personalize it and apply it to yourself. Re-write it in your own language as a prayer. Meditate on it. Sing it. Change it from third person to first person to make it into a prayer e.g. **Eph.1:3**. Pray it for another person, by adding the name, or for a group of people, a country or city. Get a special prayer Bible in which you can mark all the different prayers.

Scriptures to use in prayer

- ☛ **The Theophanies:** These were the occasions where God revealed Himself to people. To Moses (**Ex.24 & 34**), Isaiah (**Isa.6**) Daniel (**Dan.7, 10**) Ezekiel (**Ezek.1 and 10**) Peter (**Matt.17**) John (**Rev.1,4,19,21**).
- ☛ **The Psalms:** The Psalms reveal the feelings of man in their pursuit of God. Although written so long ago we can still identify with the Psalms and apply them to our circumstances.
- ☛ **Prayers of wisdom:** Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Job: Even today these books are applicable to all facets of life.
- ☛ **Song of Songs:** Much of this book is God speaking His love over us. One could call this book the instruction manual to intimacy with a beautiful God.
- ☛ **The prayers of the prophets:** The prophets display God's passionate emotions. The prophets are expected to feel what God feels and declare it to us.
- ☛ **The prayers of Jesus:** Every prayer of Jesus should become the prayer of every Christian. It is not only that Jesus prayed more than any other Christian, but also the content of his prayers differ from all other prayers. John 17 is the most powerful of all prayers in the Bible.
- ☛ **The Lord's Prayer:** When a person sincerely prays the Lord's Prayer every day he has covered all aspects of prayer.
- ☛ **The apostolic prayers:** The Apostolic prayers are simply prayers prayed by the apostles. The focus is on character, knowledge of God (Col.1:10) and the power of the Spirit-filled life. (Examples: **Eph.3:14-21; Phil.1:3-4,9-11; Col.1:2-4,9-12; Col.4:3-4,12; 1 Thess.3:9-13,5:23-25; 2 Thess.3:1-3,5,16; 2 Thess.1:3,11-12**).

- ☛ **Revelation:** The book of Revelation gives us a glimpse of what it looks like in heaven. This book is the revelation of Jesus Christ. It tells us who our God is. Examples: **Rev.1:4-7; 4:8-11; 5:8-14; 7:9-17; 15:2-4, 19, 21.**

3. Inclusivity: Finding God's blessing

We are working towards inclusivity in unity. It is not hard to attain unity in a group of people where everybody look, talk and act the same. But God desires unity in His body – a body consisting of every nation tribe and tongue, and all age groups! Get your heart right – get rid of bad attitudes toward team members. Get your mind right – find your own place in the cleft of the Rock and don't fall into the trap of idolizing other worshippers. Find your place in the symphony – be satisfied to flow with the team even if you are not the star. Centrality of the Word – exalt Jesus and His word, not the format or the model! We need to learn to worship God in biblical language. Practice – so you won't feel intimidated by your lack of skill. Do your best on your own level (**Ps.33:3**).

4. Enjoyable prayer: The bride's privilege

There is a divine order that clicks into place when God's people take up their priestly robes and learn to love Him with all their hearts. All creation waits and groans for this joy! If we understand and receive this promise, prayer and worship become enjoyable because we know we are not trying to twist God's arm. So we can pray, repent and do warfare in the confidence that He is not a man that He should lie. He will not promise and not do. Key passages to enjoyable prayer: **Isa.56:6-8; Isa.61-63; Ps.149; Rev.4,5.**

5. Day & Night: Stand, serve, minister, burn

My sons, do not be negligent now. For Jehovah has chosen you to stand before Him, to serve Him, and that you should minister to Him and burn incense (2 Chron.29:11). Hebrew words indicate the following: *Negligent* – to be deceived, misled. *Chosen* – appointed, required. God has taken divine initiative in this. *Serve* – to attend as a menial or worshipper; figuratively to contribute to, wait on. It is our divine privilege. *Minister* – to exist, be or become. *Burn incense* – the idea of fumigation in a close place and perhaps thus driving out the occupants; to smoke, turn into fragrance by fire (especially as an act of worship), kindle, and offer.

Watch Formats

We desire to sing the Scripture in a way that unfolds its meaning so we can admonish and teach one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs as the Word is sung and prayed antiphonally.

The structure of a watch

1. Any watch (a prayer time of 2 hours) is built on a foundation of three things: We read, pray and sing the Word. This basic principle is moulded into different shapes, called "watch formats".
2. All worship models are divided into three basic sections: *Corporate worship songs*, *spontaneous singing* (devotional singing either from the Scriptures or from the heart) and *antiphonal singing and praying*. The time in between the singing of known worship songs is called "worship cycles".
3. *Prayer leaders* need to learn to facilitate all types of prayer, although they may be more gifted in one or more types of prayer. In public devotional watches, the level of expected engagement by the congregation is low. The worship team must not expect people to engage. Other watches have a high level of expected participation.

Structuring a 2 hour watch

The structure is like a launching pad that provides the context to jump high or to soar in a spontaneous flow of the Holy Spirit.

- 1. Known worship songs – 20 minutes**
- 2. Spontaneous singing – 5 minutes**
- 3. Develop the prayer passage by antiphonal praying and singing – 10 minutes**
 - Pray a sentence from the Bible. A sentence can be anything from one to about three verses long. The purpose of this is to focus everybody on the bigger picture of the verses we are about to pray. The one reading or singing can also announce to the congregation which verse he is busy with.
 - The prayer leader isolates a key phrase from the sentence and prays about it. This is the signal to the singers to start preparing for antiphonal singing around that phrase. The prayer leader can isolate another key phrase if he wants the antiphonal singing to continue in another cycle.
 - During our meetings we do two things: We agree with God promises and proclaim His victory and we ask that His promises will be fulfilled. This means we sing prayers and we use the promises of God to proclaim His victory.

There are a number of ways to sing antiphonally:

- Echo the exact language of the Scripture verse
- Paraphrase the verse
- Develop the verse in different words
- Use contrasting words
- Singers should not sing longer than 10 seconds at a time. There is room for this kind of singing elsewhere in the model.
- Singers should focus on the theme chosen by the prayer or worship leader.
- Sing loudly or not at all so as to avoid confusion.
- Spontaneous chorus. This is the responsibility of the worship leader. The chorus is a summary that is sung corporately 8-10 times. Understandable and 'singable' choruses keep the congregation from disengaging.
- The worship team should sing the chorus with the worship leader. Keep it simple!
- It is helpful if the worship leader pays special attention to choruses that seem to carry the hearts of the congregation in worship. Repeating the same chorus again later in sessions and adapting the words slightly will give the congregation given something familiar to worship with.

NOTE: Consider using victory refrains – a refrain expressing God’s victory in a certain situation. There are 12 victory words in Revelation (Glory, Dominion, Honour, Power, Might, Salvation, Riches, Wisdom, Strength, Blessing, Thanksgiving, Righteous) as well as five words describing God’s activities (True, Righteous, Great, Marvellous, Just). Proclaim God’s victory using these words. Victory words are the basis of victory refrains.

All the above is one worship cycle. When it is completed, we return to a known worship song (hymn) and then repeat the cycle of prayer. In this way we fill the two-hour watch with cycles of worship and antiphonal praying.

Prayer formats

We distinguish between two basic prayer formats, i.e. devotional prayer (prayer and thanksgiving) and intercessory prayer (supplication and intercession). If we watch in intercession, we are doing what the name says – intercession! We are breaching the gap for God's promises to be fulfilled in somebody else's life. In devotional-style watches, the focus is on worshipping God and not on interceding, although we do pray in these watches. In all watches we pray and sing, but the focus of our singing and praying can differ.

Supplications	Asking for personal needs in a devotional or intercessory sense. "Father I/we/Your Bride have a need"
Devotional prayers	A devotional prayer format to show love to God.

Intercession	<p>"Father, we love You, let Your Spirit come"</p> <p>An intercessory prayer format to pray for every nation, tribe and tongue. This format falls into two categories, namely apostolic and prophetic intercession.</p> <p>"Father, in line with Your Word, we reason with You on behalf of..."</p>
Thanksgiving	<p>A devotional prayer format to exalt God's mighty acts.</p> <p>"Father, we thank and love You"</p>

Basic structure of a 2-hour watch

First worship cycle

Known worship songs – 20 minutes

Spontaneous singing – 5 minutes

Develop the prayer passage by antiphonal praying and singing – 10 minutes

Pray a sentence from the Bible.

The prayer leader isolates a key phrase from the sentence and prays about it. Develop the theme through antiphonal praying and singing.
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Spontaneous chorus / victory refrain.

Second worship cycle

1. Known worship songs and spontaneous singing – 5 minutes
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2. Develop the prayer passage by antiphonal praying and singing – 10 minutes
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Repeat the cycles until the watch time is completed.

Practical tips that help to make it work

If the worship leader says "Selah", it is a sign for singers to stop singing and to allow instruments to come forth. We want to train ourselves and the participants in the prayer room to speak and pray with biblical language. If we pray too much in our own words and according to our own themes, we tend to start speaking popular prayer phrases that are not necessarily biblical vocabulary. We tend to become "super-spiritual" making it difficult for participants in the prayer room if we pray and sing prophetically too long, especially if it is not Word-focused. Be sure to know what scripture the team is using and what the prayer focus is. Trust God for fresh revelation on your scripture, even if you have done it in watches a hundred times.

Wait on God, don't rush in. If nothing happens – JUST DON'T STRESS! God allows us to get dry sometimes, because that increases our hunger for more of His

water. Use questions to encourage your team mates to personalize their worship experience. Take the time of preparation seriously! Choose the very best songs that fit the passage you are going to use and learn new songs that reflect the truth of the passage. Feel free to use the same songs every time you use the particular passage. Spend time to research the passage, so you know more or less what it means.

Don't get strung up on the formats and forget that it is actually about enjoying God. The worship and prayer leader should keep eye contact so they can together guide the meeting in the direction they sense the Lord is taking them. Be sure to operate in team ministry – be sensitive to give your team mates a chance!

Conclusion

Feel and be free to follow and develop the singing and praying of the Word as the Holy Spirit leads you and your group. There is not really a wrong way to do this, except if the focus of WHY we are doing it changes to show ourselves better or more spiritual than a fellow brother and sister. When the focus is no longer to help and support each other to be a sweet sacrifice to the Lord. With this in mind, there are only wonderful plains of revelation and love and communion ahead of you.