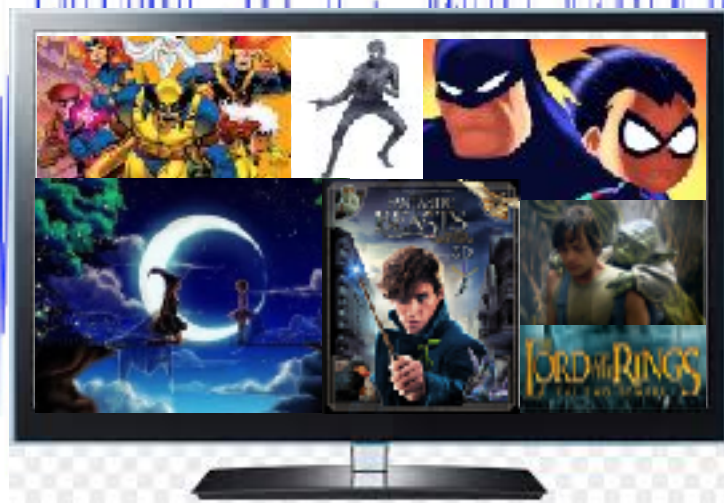


# GATEWAYS OF INFLUENCE



understanding the **IMPACT**  
of **SIGHT** and **SOUND**

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Be careful little eyes what you see,  
Be careful little eyes what you see,  
There's a FATHER up above,  
Who is looking down with love,  
So be careful little eyes what you see.

Be careful little ears what you hear,  
Be careful little ears what you hear,  
There's a FATHER up above,  
Who is looking down with love,  
So be careful little ears what you hear.

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## Introduction ...

There is an old saying ... *“What you put in, is what you get out”*. The truth of this principle can be found across the board, no matter the topic or subject. Messiah Y’shua (Jesus) said very much the same:

**Matthew 7:17-18** *“Even so, every healthy (sound) tree bears good fruit (worthy of admiration), but the sickly (decaying, worthless) tree bears bad (worthless) fruit. A good (healthy) tree cannot bear bad (worthless) fruit, nor can a bad (diseased) tree bear excellent fruit (worthy of admiration).”*

Y’shua (Jesus) warned against allowing our enemy – satan and his kingdom of darkness – to take ground and establish an *area of influence* and *deception* in our lives. As most of us will attest to, it doesn’t take much of a gap, and the enemy *rushes* in. He is literally *waiting* at the door.



**1 Peter 5:8** *“Be well balanced (temperate, sober of mind), be vigilant and cautious at all times; for that enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring (in fierce hunger), seeking someone to seize upon and devour.”*

The best illustration in understanding the war we are in is that each and every person can be likened to a “city”. There are only *two* ruling kingdoms – Messiah Y’shua (Jesus) and His Kingdom of Light, or satan and his kingdom of darkness.

The choice of who is to rule our city is up to *us*. But know, these two kingdoms are *opposite* to each other in every way, and that the kingdom of darkness is at vigilant and merciless war against the Kingdom of Messiah Y’shua (Jesus), of Light and Truth. Our enemy is continually seeking a way in, to steal, kill, and destroy<sup>1</sup> ... and every fortified city has its own *strategic* gateways.

**Proverbs 25:28** *“He who has no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down and without walls.”*

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<sup>1</sup> John 10:10

We are warned by the Scriptures to *watch*, to be *alert*, and to *guard* our city with *all* our *might*. This includes keeping watch over what enters our gateways ... our eyes, ears, mouths, and spirits.

**Mark 13:37** *“And what I say to you I say to everybody: Watch (give strict attention, be cautious, active, and alert)!”*

**Luke 12:37** *“Blessed (happy, fortunate, and to be envied) are those servants whom the master finds awake and alert and watching when he comes. Truly I say to you, he will gird himself and have them recline at table and will come and serve them!”*



**Luke 21:36** *“Keep awake then and watch at all times (be discreet, attentive, and ready), praying that you may have the full strength and ability and be accounted worthy to escape all these things (taken together) that will take place, and to stand in the presence of the Son of Man.”*

**1 Corinthians 16:13** *“Be alert and on your guard; stand firm in your faith (your conviction respecting man’s relationship to GOD and divine things, keeping the trust and holy fervor born of faith and a part of it). Act like men and be courageous; grow in strength!”*

**Ephesians 6:18** *“Pray at all times (on every occasion, in every season) in the Spirit, with all (manner of) prayer and entreaty. To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints (GOD’s consecrated people).”*

**1 Thessalonians 5:6** *“Accordingly then, let us not sleep, as the rest do, but let us keep wide awake (alert, watchful, cautious, and on our guard) and let us be sober (calm, collected, and circumspect).”*

Two critical gateways to keep guard over are our eyes and ears. There are many aspects regarding just *what* to guard our eyes and ears from, and many of us have heard the arguments regarding TV and music ... but have we really considered what affect these mediums have on us, our family, our values, and worldview?

Like those who have read a few articles on this topic, I thought ... "*What more is there to say?*" However, the more I research and study these two mediums, the more I realize just how important it is to discern and guard what we allow into our hearts and minds through the gateways of our eyes and ears.

### **Pop culture, entertainment, and the media ...**



There is no doubt – *no doubt*<sup>2</sup> – that pop culture, media, and entertainment have had a tremendous affect on human history in the last century, leading up to it's greatest impact currently affecting us today. There is not enough space or time in this article to delve into every aspect of this influence and how MEDIA – including all its forms – has molded and shaped our world-views, opinions, mindsets, actions, and thinking ... but we would like to present some recent research on TV and sound. Science is discovering that shat we see and hear has a tremendous impact on us, on our physical bodies, and our emotions/spirit.

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<sup>2</sup> This truth is supported and confirmed universally, by both believers and nonbelievers alike.

# The GATEWAY of TV & Visual MEDIA

Before touching briefly on the affect the content of what is being shown on TV today has, consider the following facts on how TV itself affects our brain:

## 1. How does TV work?<sup>3</sup>

In very simple terms, TV works by “painting” lines formed by small color dots – called *pixels* – across the TV screen. These pixels, arranged in lines, form an image.



The TV “refreshes” (also called *flicker rate*) these color lines very quickly, making it seem as if the image is moving and changing. Standard TV screens have about 480 lines visible from top to bottom, using a “refresh” rate of *sixty times* per second. It is this “refresh” – or *flicker* – rate that affects our brains when watching TV.

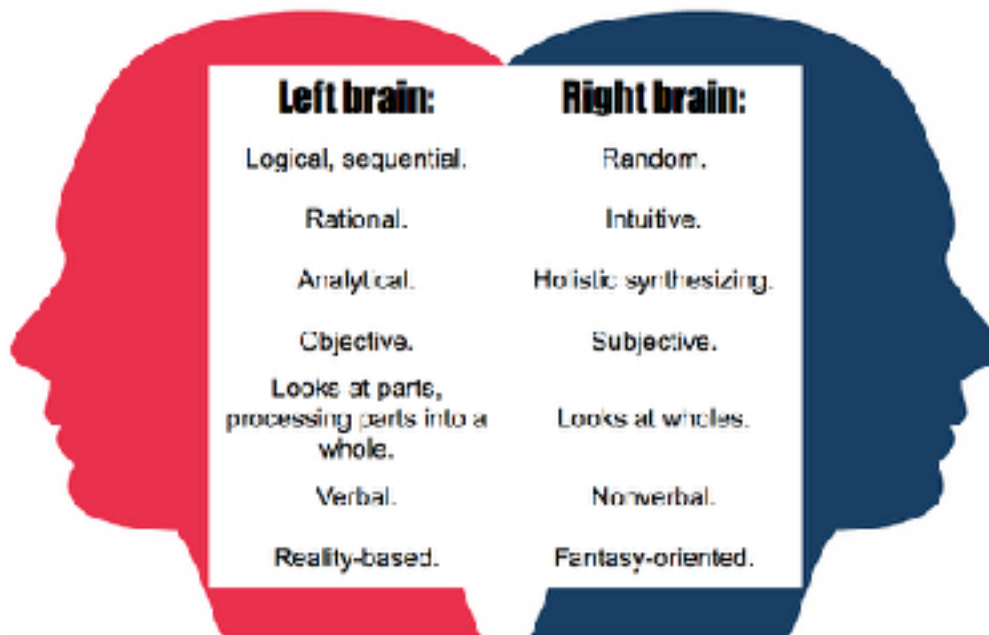
## 2. How does watching TV affect our brain?

Your brain is divided into two hemispheres: left and right. The *left* hemisphere is the seat of logical thought. It is the “critical thinking” brain. The *right* hemisphere is the “emotional” creative brain.



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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.howstuffworks.com/tv.htm>



When watching TV, brain activity switches from the *left* to the *right* brain. This is significant because as previously mentioned, the right side of the brain does *not* critically analyze incoming information. It uses an emotional response instead. This means there is little or no analysis of incoming information. What's more, continual and constant TV watching numbs the left brain, essentially causing the brain to be "dumbed down". Keep in mind, this fact is *immune* to TV content, as it is caused simply by the way TV works.

*Right* brain activity causes the body to release "feel good" chemicals called *endorphins* (these also act as natural sedatives). Activities that release endorphins are usually habit-forming, which can lead to *addictive* behavior. Indeed, TV is addictive. Several studies have proven that people can become "TV addicts" and will even experience withdrawal type symptoms<sup>4</sup>.

In addition to switching from the left to the right brain, TV also causes brain activity to move from the higher brain regions (midbrain and the neo-cortex) to the *lower brain regions* (the limbic system). Higher brain regions are associated with critical and logical thinking. Lower brain regions cannot accurately be called "cognitive". The lower brain region – or limbic system<sup>5</sup> – is the home of emotions, motivation, the regulation of memories, the interface between emotional states and memories of physical stimuli, physiological autonomic regulators, hormones, the "fight or flight" responses, sexual arousal, circadian rhythms.

It is the limbic system that gets "duped" when people get addicted to drugs. It is this region that is affected and involved in addictions. Again, studies have shown that

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.familyresource.com/lifestyles/mental-environment/television-opiate-of-the-masses>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-the-limbic-system.htm>

over time, too much activity in the lower brain regions, *leads to atrophy in the higher brain regions.*

For the brain to comprehend and communicate complex meaning, it must be in a state of “chaotic disequilibrium”. Meaning, there must be a dynamic flow of communication between all regions of the brain, which facilitates the comprehension of higher levels of order and leads to the formation of complex ideas.



High levels of chaotic brain activity are present during challenging tasks like reading, writing, and working out mathematical equations. Levels of brain activity are measured by an *electroencephalograph* (EEG) machine.

While watching TV (this is after even just *thirty* seconds), the brain appears to slow to a halt, registering low alpha wave readings on the EEG. Alpha waves are used naturally by the brain to “idle” and rest areas not actively processing and acting on incoming sensory and motor information. Alpha waves are naturally present during closed-eye activities such as relaxation, day-dreaming, and deep self-introspection or meditation. Watching TV puts the brain into a *low alpha state* (lower than what is natural), even though the eyes are open.

*“Psycho-physiologist Thomas Mulholland found that after just thirty seconds of watching television the brain begins to produce alpha waves, which indicates torpid, almost comatose (slow) rates of activity. Alpha brain waves are associated with unfocused, overly receptive states of consciousness. A high frequency alpha waves does not occur normally when the eyes are open. In fact, Mulholland’s research implies that watching television is neurologically analogous to staring at a blank wall ... it essentially turns off your nervous system.”<sup>6</sup>*

Note, that the goal of hypnotists is to induce slow brain wave states. Alpha waves are present during “light hypnotic” states used by hypno-therapists for suggestion therapy. Thus, TV puts the viewer into a highly *suggestible sleep-like/hypnotic* state through alpha waves, and “speaks” directly to the *subconscious*.

Note again, the fact that TV produces alpha wave brain states is not related to the TV content ... however, the subconscious and subliminal messages are directly related

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.causeof.org/brainwaves.htm>

to content. This can be such a dangerous tool!<sup>7</sup> For this reason and others, it is very possible for TV to be used in mass mind control. The question is then ... who is doing the programming? And do they have our best interests – or a Biblical worldview – at heart?

Ever wonder why your heart starts beating faster or you feel scared watching horror films, even though you know it's not real? Well, your higher brain might logically tell you that the TV/film is not real, but since most of the activity is present in your right and lower brain regions ... it is real. Remember, these regions are tied to your emotions and imagination. They are not able to distinguish between what is reality and what is virtual or fantasy. TV/film is “real”, and so your body will react accordingly.

### 3. TV, children, ADD and ADHD?

We've reviewed the affect TV has on the adult brain, but what about babies and children? Unfortunately, the facts don't get any prettier ...



You see, a child's brain<sup>8</sup> – particularly from birth to three years – can be likened to soft clay, or to a sponge. A young child's brain is constantly developing and learning, a process that continues throughout childhood and into teenage years<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.rense.com/general69/mass.htm>

<sup>8</sup> For additional study material, see the book *“Healing The Sexually Broken-Hearted”* available for download from the website or for order from the office.

<sup>9</sup> Hopefully, this process never ends. Although our childhood years are the most formative in development, life itself is a journey in learning and growing ... we must all strive to always be teachable and open to learning new things.

Like clay, it is being molded, shaped and formed by *everything* it sees, hears, feels, and experiences. It is soaking everything up like a sponge. This development was GOD-created and designed. It is GOD's Plan for children to be trained up and taught by Godly parents within a loving family and community. It is a beautiful and joyful journey. However ... realizing just how formative the early childhood years are, this indeed is a weighty responsibility!

**Deuteronomy 6:4-9** *“Hear, O Israel: the Lord our GOD is one Lord (the only Lord). And you shall love the Lord your GOD with all your (mind and) heart and with your entire being and with all your might. And these words which I am commanding you this day shall be (first) in your (own) minds and hearts; (then) You shall whet and sharpen them so as to make them penetrate, and teach and impress them diligently upon the (minds and) hearts of your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down and when you rise up. And you shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be as frontlets (forehead bands) between your eyes. And you shall write them upon the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”*

## **There are many aspects to parenting ... so where does TV fit in?**

Well, for one, most children today are brought up watching and being exposed to TV / media from a very early age. For some parents and childcare centers, TV is like a second parent or “babysitter”.

What exactly are the statistics?

### **Shocking to say the least ...**

- ◆ Average numbers of hours per week U.S. adults spend watching TV?
  - a. 28 hours.<sup>10</sup>
  - b. This works out to two months of nonstop TV-watching per year.<sup>11</sup>
  - c. In a 65-year lifespan, the average person will have spent NINE years glued to the tube!
  
- ◆ Average number of hours per week U.S. children spend watching TV?
  - a. 25 hours.<sup>12</sup>
  - b. Plus an additional 7 hours playing computer/video games.
  - c. That's an average total of 32 hours per week.

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<sup>10</sup> [http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/med\\_tel\\_vie-media-television-viewing](http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/med_tel_vie-media-television-viewing)

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.csun.edu/science/health/docs/tv&health.html>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.parentstv.org/ptc/facts/mediafacts.asp>

- ◆ Average number of minutes per week U.S. children spend in meaningful conversation with their parents?
  - a. 3.5 minutes.
  
- ◆ Average number of hours per year U.S. youth spend watching TV?
  - a. 1, 500 hours.
  
- ◆ Average number of hours per year U.S. youth spend in school?
  - a. 900 hours.

The statistics beg the question ... *just who is bringing up our children?* Who is training them, and from whom are they learning about life, values, worldviews, and truth?

Looking pass the actual TV content for now ... children – particularly children aged between infancy and three years – who grow up watching TV have an increased risk of developing ADD, ADHD, and learning difficulties<sup>13</sup>.

One study found that children you watched TV between the ages of one and three had a high risk of developing attention disorders by age seven.

Another found that kids between the ages of five and eleven who watched more than two hours of TV per day were significantly more likely to develop symptoms of ADD/ADHD than those who watched less.



*“Those who watched more than two hours, and particularly those who watched more than three hours, of television per day during childhood had above-average symptoms of attention problems in adolescence,” Carl Landhuis of the University of Otago in Dunedin wrote in his report, published in the journal Pediatrics. Young children who watched a lot of television were more likely to continue the habit as they got older, but even if they did not, the damage was done, the report said. “Hence, children who watch a lot of television may become less tolerant of slower-paced and more mundane tasks, such as school work,” the researchers wrote.<sup>14</sup>*

<sup>13</sup> [http://www.neuropsychiatryreviews.com/may04/npr\\_may04\\_excessiveTV.html](http://www.neuropsychiatryreviews.com/may04/npr_may04_excessiveTV.html)

<sup>14</sup> <http://psychcentral.com/blog/archives/2007/09/08/tv-adhd/>

This is a major factor in why watching TV leads to restlessness, attention disorders, autism, and learning difficulties ... the fast pace and excessive stimulation is simply not real-world reality.

*“That zoned-out, transfixed gaze that comes over your kid’s face is the precise effect intended by many TV producers. When fast edits and scene changes flash across the screen, the brain works hard to comprehend them. Because the cuts are so unlike real life or real time, the viewer is focused but not actually concentrating or comprehending. This phenomenon, known as orienting reflex, may contribute to a child’s impatience with our slow and impossibly dull real world.”<sup>15</sup>*

*“TV watching ‘rewires’ an infant’s brain ... in contrast to the way real life unfolds and is experienced by young children, the pace of TV is greatly sped up,” says Dr. Dimitri A. Christakis, “Quick scene shifts of video images become ‘normal’ to a baby when in fact, it’s decidedly not normal or natural ... exposing a baby’s developing brain to videos may over stimulate it, causing permanent changes in developing neural pathways.”*

*“Also in question is whether the insistent noise of television in the home may interfere with the development of ‘inner speech’ by which a child learns to think through problems and plans and restrains impulsive responding,” wrote Jane Healy, psychologist and child brain expert in the magazine’s commentary.<sup>16</sup>*

Again, proper (healthy) child development and growth occurs through real-time and real-life experiences and interaction, imitating and learning from parents and members of the family/community.

This leads to another important issue: TV watching – and multimedia in general – is affecting social interaction and development, particularly in children. Even “educational” shows like “Baby Einstein” are proving to be hazardous.

On the one side, watching these types of shows – and TV in general – over stimulates a child’s brain, causing problems ... the other ditch is that the child is stuck in front of a screen with often no social (or parental) interaction, and therefore is not stimulated in the proper way for healthy development (remember too how TV affects the brain).<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> <http://health.msn.com/health-topics/adhd/articlepage.aspx?cp-documentid=100161248>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.rense.com/general58/tvad.htm>

<sup>17</sup> <http://health.howstuffworks.com/pregnancy-and-parenting/baby-health/infant-health/baby-tv.htm>

## Bottom line?

TV is bad for you and your kid's health ... *full stop*. Below are some of the consequences:

- ◆ Heart trouble,
- ◆ Eyesight damage,
- ◆ Sleep difficulties,<sup>18</sup>
- ◆ Diabetes,<sup>19</sup>
- ◆ Obesity,<sup>20</sup>
- ◆ Increased risk of seizures,<sup>21</sup>
- ◆ Increased risk of substance abuse, such as drinking and smoking,<sup>22</sup>
- ◆ TV changes your child's views and food choices,<sup>23</sup>
- ◆ TV makes your children more materialistic,<sup>24</sup>
- ◆ TV causes children to go into more debt as adults,<sup>25</sup>
- ◆ TV causes children and youth to be more violent and aggressive,<sup>26</sup>
- ◆ TV increases your child's risk of becoming seriously injured,<sup>27</sup>



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<sup>18</sup> <http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2005/10/20/keep-that-tv-away-from-your-baby.aspx>

<sup>19</sup> <http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2007/03/06/tv-does-more-damage-to-your-children-than-you-ever-imagined.aspx>

<sup>20</sup> <http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2008/01/02/tv-and-obesity-in-children.aspx>

<sup>21</sup> <http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2008/01/02/tv-linked-seizures.aspx>

<sup>22</sup> <http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2000/10/15/tv-children-part-one.aspx>

<sup>23</sup> <http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2001/02/28/tv-children-part-three.aspx>

<sup>24</sup> <http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2001/06/23/tv.aspx>

<sup>25</sup> <http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2008/01/02/watch-tv.aspx>

<sup>26</sup> <http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2001/04/04/tv-children-part-four.aspx>

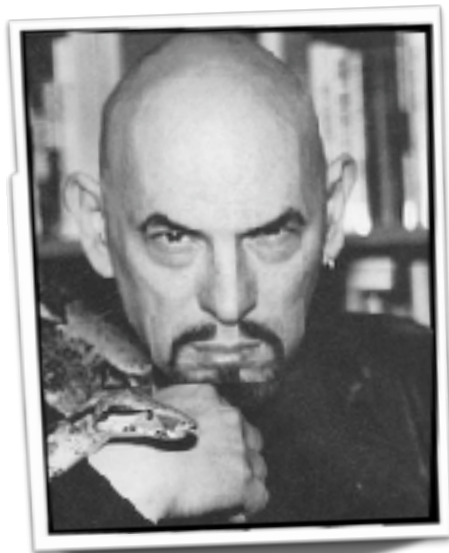
<sup>27</sup> <http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2008/01/02/tv-viewing-tied-to-injury-risk.aspx>

## 4. TV content.

Where do we start, and where do we end when discussing TV/media content today? Studies and surveys have shown that most people believe TV/media content today is negative and has a detrimental affect on society<sup>28</sup> ... but do we realize just how filthy and dangerous the content is?



Just how much influence does TV/film content have on our children and society? This topic is really too much for a brief article, but perhaps we can begin by looking at a few interesting quotes<sup>29</sup>.



*“As a parent of five children, I don’t need experts to tell me that the amount of violence today on television can harm children ... television violence is the single most important factor contributing to violence in America.”*

- Ted Turner, Cox News 06/29/1993

*“Many of you have already read my writings identifying TV as the new GOD. There is a little thing I neglected to mention up until now ... television is the major mainstream infiltration for the new satanic religion.”*

- Anton LaVey, *The Devil’s Notebook*, pg. 86

<sup>28</sup> 80% of people believe mass media influences society for ill. Only 12% surveyed believe that the media influences *them* ... however, this view does not agree with the statistics, trends, and general paradigm shift seen in society today.

<sup>29</sup> Quotes taken from the DVD *“Hollywood Unmasked”*, available for order from the ministry of Walter J. Veith.

*“You know that everything we’re exposed to influences us ... those (violent) films influence us, and the TV programs we see influence us. The weaker your family is, the more they influence you. The problems with families in our cities are catastrophic ... but when you put violent programs before people who haven’t had a lot of love in their lives, who are angry anyway, it’s like pouring gasoline on the fire.”*

- Ted Turner, LA Times, calendar section, 04/03/1994

So ... media influences us, but for what purpose? Did you know that many directors, producers, and writers see themselves as ...

*“... Crusaders for social reform in America. They see it as their duty to restructure our culture into their image.”*

- Lichter, Lichter & Rothman, Public Opinion, 1/83, pg. 55

Director Steven Spielberg confirms this by saying ...

*“Everything about movies is manipulative, when you walk into the theater, you’re buying a ticket to manipulation ... the whole process is manipulating something that wasn’t, until you get in the theater and then it is.”*

- Steven Spielberg, Filmmaking, pg. 76

Agreed ... but what are we being manipulated and shaped into?

*“I believe the properly manipulated image can provoke an audience to the Burroughsian limit of riot, rampant sex, instantaneous death ... the raw materials of inspiration include elements as primal and potentially frightening as violence, sex, and death ... the primitive world of blood and flame is still with us.”*

- Gus van Sant – LA Style 12/91, pg. 139

Many concerned authorities are likening today’s TV/media content progression to that of ancient Rome with their blood lust for the games and circuses. In so many ways, our culture is being drastically desensitized to things that would not have even been mentioned a few decades ago.

*“What we think of now as the excesses of the Roman circuses, where in the end hundreds of thousands of people died, didn’t start that way. They started legitimately as circuses, extremely mild entertainment. But the audience demand for more and more resulted in that form of entertainment becoming more and more grotesque. What might have been a woman raped publicly by a centurion, a year later was a woman raped publicly by an ass, and ten years later was ten women raped publicly by a hundred asses. The audience’s desire for that goes way back, deep into history. Someone has to say ‘Enough!’ ... it’s bad for us, we’re damaging ourselves. We are untying the fabric of our society.”*

- David Puttnam, “The Hollywood Insider” Hollywood vs. America, Medved 1992, pg. 199-200

## More disturbing facts ...

- ◆ Number of murders seen on TV by the time an average U.S. child finishes elementary school (grade five)?
  - 8, 000.
- ◆ Number of violent acts seen on TV by age eighteen?
  - 200, 000.
  - 40, 000 of these are murders.
- ◆ “Children younger than eight cannot uniformly discriminate between real life and fantasy/entertainment ... they quickly learn that violence is an acceptable solution to resolving even complex problems, particularly if they aggressor is the hero.”<sup>30</sup>
- ◆ “Violence is like the nicotine in cigarettes. The reason why the media has to pump ever more violence into us is because we’ve built up a tolerance. In order to get the same high, we need ever-higher levels ... the television industry has gained its market share through an addictive and toxic ingredient.”<sup>31</sup>



Study after study, trend review after trend review, surveys, polls, on and on ... the truth is clear: *TV/multimedia is most definitely influencing, shaping, and molding our worldviews, opinions, thinking, and behavior*<sup>32</sup> ... for the worst. There is a direct correlation to the increase of violence, sexuality, and “filth” shown in the media today, to that which is found in real-life society and culture. There is a distinct and significant paradigm shift occurring, where sex, violence, substance abuse, homosexuality, and a turning away from Judeo-Christian values are not just acceptable, *but the “norm”*.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> <http://www.parentstv.org/ptc/facts/mediafacts/asp>

<sup>31</sup> Lieutenant Cornel David Grossman, “The Arizona Republic”, *Fort Worth Star Telegram*, May 27, 1999

<sup>32</sup> <http://vigilantcitizen.com/?p=3571>

<sup>33</sup> An excellent resource to check out regarding culture and entertainment from a Christian perspective is <http://www.pluggedin.com>

## What do the Scriptures say concerning our eye gate?



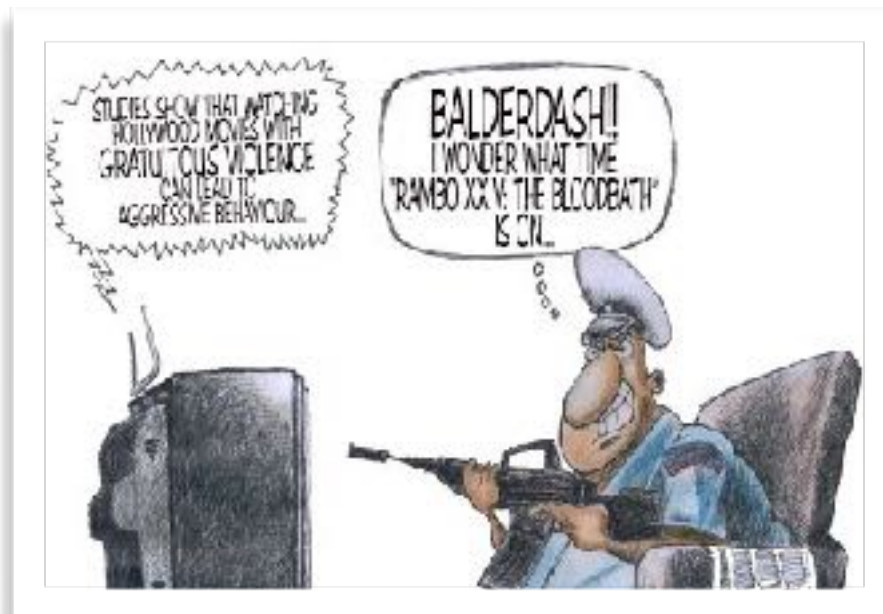
**Psalms 101:3** "I will set no base or wicked thing before my eyes. I hate the work of them who turn aside (from the right path); it shall not grasp hold of me."

**Ephesians 5:11** "Take no part in and have no fellowship with the fruitless deeds and enterprises of darkness, but instead (let your lives be so in contrast as to) expose and reprove and convict them."

**Philippians 4:8** "For the rest, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is worthy of reverence and is honorable and seemly, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely and lovable, whatever is kind and winsome and gracious, if there is

any virtue and excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think on and weigh and take account of these things (fix your minds on them)."

## What about the violent content in the media?



**Proverbs 22:24-25** “Make no friendships with a man given to anger, and with a wrathful man do not associate, Lest you learn his ways and get yourself into a snare.”

Messiah Y’shua (Jesus Christ) gave another warning ... that in the last days, it would again be like the days of Noah. How do the Scriptures describe Noah’s time and society?

**Genesis 6:5-6, 11-12** “The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination and intention of all human thinking was only evil continually. And the Lord regretted that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved at heart.”

### Indeed a passage for thought.

Sound – which obviously includes music – is the next gateway we will discuss. For sure, this is another key gateway – and there is a lot more to how sound itself influences us, than just lyrics and music artists – but there is just something about *visual* media ... actually *seeing* an image or scene.



Our minds can be likened to a *camera*. We are constantly taking pictures and photos of what we see.

The only thing is, our “camera” doesn’t have a *delete* function (nor does it run out of film).

It stores and remembers – actually *imprints* – all the images we see.

This is definitely something to consider ... what we see, watch, and look at is for the most part, *permanent*.

For our children this aspect is of the utmost importance!

Can you think what image – and consequently, what perception/belief – is imprinted onto a child’s mind if the first picture or image they have of sexuality is some of the images and scenes currently aired on TV and

film? And what of the violence?

**May we have wisdom and walk with discernment!**

## The GATEWAY of Sound & Music



There have been many articles written cautioning and warning believers in the type of music they chose, and the artists they support. Most of these articles have focused on how terrible the lyrics may be, what message is being pushed, the lifestyle and background of the band, and so forth. While these are all true and important aspects to consider, science is discovering there is so much more to sound and how it affects us than simply our choice of music.

Have you ever considered the impact and “bigness” of the fact that the *entire* universe – with the planets, trillions of stars, galaxies, animals big and small, *everything* (except for mankind) – was created by *sound* ... by the very words GOD spoke?

*Creation* was brought forth by ...

**“And GOD SAID”.**

What’s more, science is now proving this Biblical Truth, that the universe was literally created by sound!

From modern scientific discoveries, we now understand that everything in the universe (what we see, and now we understand this includes what we can't see) is actually vibrating and resonating – that is making a sound. Every object, animal, everything has a unique frequency, a unique sound ... even if we can't hear it.

The unique sound something makes is called a “natural frequency”. In the study of physics, we learn that frequencies interact in different ways, depending on their wave size, strength, and so forth. Have you ever seen a singer shatter a glass by singing at a certain note? How does this work? The frequency of the note being sung by the singer is interacts with the natural frequency of a glass.

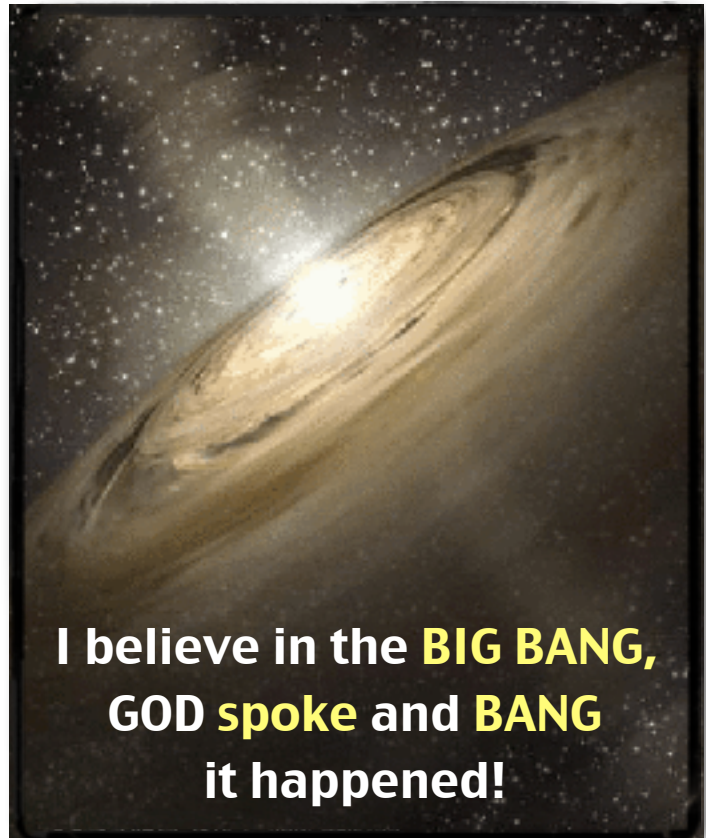
The two frequencies interact in such a way that the glass eventually shatters. This interaction of sound waves (frequencies) is important to remember for later in this article – we will see that like this example, sound can be either destructive, or restorative.

## Sound<sup>34</sup> used in the Scriptures ...

*What an interesting study!* When actually looking at how sound is used in the Scriptures, we see that sound is a very powerful element throughout the Bible. Following are some example-Scriptures in which sound – in the form of music, a voice, or simply a sound – is pivotal in some kind of *action*.

Note, in many of these examples, sound acts as a *forerunner* or *initiator* of some action or work ... we have already seen this in the work of creation. GOD spoke, releasing sound ... and creation was brought forth.

***Psalm 33:6*** “By the **word** of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the **breath of his mouth**.”



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<sup>34</sup> For additional study, please see the teaching by Brad Scott, “*GOD Is Smarter Than We Are*”, available from <http://www.wildbranch.org/>.

**Joshua 6:20** “So the people **shouted**, and the **trumpets** were **blown**. When the people heard the **sound** of the trumpet, they raised a **great shout**, and (Jericho’s) wall fell down in its place, so that the (Israelites) went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.”



**Judges 7:19-22** “So Gideon, and the hundred men that were with him, came unto the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch; and they had but newly set the watch: and they **blew the trumpets**, and brake the pitchers that were in their hands. And the three companies **blew the trumpets**, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal: and they **cried**, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon. And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled. And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the LORD set every man’s sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host: and the host fled to Bethshittah in Zererath, and to the border of Abelmeholah, unto Tabbath.”

**Ezekiel 37:3-7** “And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. Again he said unto me, **Prophecy** upon these bones, and **say** unto them, O ye dry bones, **hear** the word of the LORD. Thus **saith** the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause **breath** to enter into you, and ye shall live: And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put **breath** in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD. So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a **noise**, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.”

**Matthew 8:8-11** “The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but **speak the word only**, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and **said** to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. And I **say** unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

**Matthew 8:12-13** “But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. And Jesus **said** unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. **And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.**”

**James 3:6** “And the **tongue is a fire.** (The tongue is a) world of wickedness set among our members, contaminating and depraving the whole body and setting on fire the wheel of birth (the cycle of man’s nature), being itself ignited by hell (Gehenna).



**Revelation 8:6-7** “Then the seven angels who had the **seven trumpets** prepared to **sound** them. The first angel **blew** (his) trumpet, and there was a storm of hail and fire mingled with blood cast upon the earth. And a third part of the earth was burned up and a third of the trees was burned up and all the green grass was burned up.”

**Jeremiah 25:31** “A **noise** shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the LORD hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the LORD.”

**Psalm 19:1-6** “The **heavens declare**<sup>35</sup> the glory of GOD; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. **There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.** Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their **words** to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, 5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. 6 His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.”

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<sup>35</sup> We encourage you to see the DVD “*Indescribable*” by Louie Giglio. In the DVD, he shows how scientists have discovered that stars make sound – could this be what this Scriptures is describing?



Did you know sound waves are eternal? Sound waves never stop ... you may not be able to hear the original sound or frequency, but the waves continue and continue, like the ripples of a stone thrown into a pond. This is both amazing and sobering at the same time! On the one hand, the Scriptures tell us that GOD's Word is eternal, and that His Words bring forth restoration and life.

**Isaiah 40:8** *"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our GOD will stand forever."*

**1 Peter 1:24** *"For all flesh (mankind) is like grass, and all its glory (honor) like (the) flower of grass. The grass withers and the flower drops off, 25 But the Word of the Lord (divine instruction, the Gospel) endures forever. And this Word is the good news which was preached to you."*

On the other hand, we are told to guard our tongues and to be careful in what we say, or what we call people. Once again, we come to the ultimate choice between life or death ... our words can be restorative, or destructive. We will see that this is the underlying principle of sound – including what we say, what we listen to, what is spoken over us – sound is either restorative, bringing life, or destructive, bringing death.

## The Language of the Scriptures ...

In the Beginning, when GOD spoke the universe into existence ... have you ever wondered what language He spoke?

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ

For centuries, the Rabbis and Sages have taught that in creating the world, GOD spoke HEBREW.

What's more, the Sages teach that Hebrew is GOD's Divine Language, and the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew aleph-bet are the very foundation, the essence, of everything that exists. Hebrew is also regarded as the Holy Tongue, as this is the language used to write the Torah and the rest of the Old Testament (Tanakh).

Today, with the aide of technology and computers<sup>36</sup>, there is no doubt that Hebrew is an amazingly complex, multifaceted, and Divine Language! What the ancient Sages only began to understand has now been confirmed and expounded, to reveal the divine nature of the language and it's almost supernatural capabilities.

Some researchers have called the Hebrew of the Old Testament (upon which modern Hebrew is based upon) a kind of "Divine Cosmic Code"<sup>37</sup>. There are codes and mathematical sequences in the Hebrew Old Testament – particularly the Torah – that no other book has! Besides these sequences, each letter of the Hebrew aleph-bet represents a picture (which was the original writing style of Hebrew<sup>38</sup>) and number.

When these picture-letters are put together, as in a word, a even deeper understanding is revealed. These studies are confirming that both the Old and New Testaments were truly *GOD*-inspired, *GOD*-breathed!

While there are layers of revelation to be found in studying the letters and written words of the Hebrew language, today we are discovering that the sounds and cantor of the Tanakh are just as "supernatural".

Did you know that during Temple times, the Scriptures – and especially the Psalms – were sung in a specific cantor? It was believed that the specific cantor of the songs – that is, the frequency of the sounds<sup>39</sup> – were healing to the people, blessing and encouraging them.

This Old Testament concept has sparked a current research project headed up by Uri Harel<sup>40</sup>. Uri found that the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew aleph-bet could be translated into musical notes. The Tanakh (Old Testament) could literally be put to music!

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<sup>36</sup> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEQ4LGssULE>

<sup>37</sup> Check out the teaching "Cosmic Codes" by Chuck Missler, <http://www.khouse.org/>, in which he discusses the various codes and sequences found throughout the Scriptures – both the Old and New Testament.

<sup>38</sup> For more information on understanding the Hebrew letter pictures, check out Jeff Benner's website: <http://www.ancient-hebrew.org/> as well as the website of Dr. Frank Seekins: <http://www.livingwordpictures.com/>.

<sup>39</sup> For additional study, please see the teaching by Rico Cortes, "The 144, 000 And The Song Of Moses", available from <http://wisdomintorah.com/>. You can also see the teaching on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7abOwoAeJM>.

<sup>40</sup> For more information on the "Music From GOD" project, check out Uri Harel's website: <http://www.musicfromgod.com/index.html>.

Uri started the “Music of GOD” project by converting the **Psalms** to music using this method. He decided to make a CD of the **Psalms** converted to music. The music “sung” by the **Psalms** is not only beautiful, but people who listen to the music experience such peace and well-being! The feedback from the project has been truly astounding!

Okay, so the power of sound in terms of the Scriptures may be valid, but what about plain old music?

What we find is that the principle truth remains ... sound, including the music we choose to listen to, is either *restorative* or *corruptive* – both physically, emotionally, and spiritually.



*Many* studies have been conducted to research the physical affect sound/music has on animals, plants, and humans. In the 1973, Dorothy Retallack<sup>41</sup> spear-headed this field of research by conducting experiments of music and plant-growth. Retallack wanted to note if there was any difference in the growth/health of the plants when they “listened” to rock/heavy metal music, compared to when they “listened” to classical music.

For her experiment, Retallack used two groups of plants, group one in one control chamber, group two in another – all plants received the same amount of daily sunlight, water, and food.

In each control chamber, Retallack placed a radio to the one side of the room. In this experiment *only three hours* of music was played daily. The radio in group one’s room was set to a local “classical / soothing music” station. Retallack<sup>42</sup> monitored the plants daily. On the fifth day, she noticed drastic changes. The plants of group one (the classical music group) were growing healthy and beautifully ... and their stems were starting to grow *towards* the radio! In the rock-music chamber, half the plants had small leaves and had grown gangly, the other half were stunted.

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<sup>41</sup> [http://www.dovesong.com/positive\\_music/plant\\_experiments.asp](http://www.dovesong.com/positive_music/plant_experiments.asp)

<sup>42</sup> <http://www.musicforyourplants.com/>



After two weeks, the plants of the soothing-music room were uniform in size, lush and green, and were leaning between fifteen and twenty degrees towards the radio ... the plants of the rock-music group had grown extremely tall and were drooping. Their blooms had faded, and their stems were bending away from the radio. On the sixteenth day, all but a few plants of this group were in the last stages of dying. The plants of the other group were alive, beautiful, and growing abundantly. Remember, these are the results after only “hearing” three hours of music a day!

Based on this research, some farmers began to experiment<sup>43</sup> with the use of beautiful / classical music in the growth of their crops ... *with the same results*. Farmers found that when classical/soothing music was played to their crops (even at ultrasonic levels), the crops grew faster, bigger – with more fruit – and healthier compared to when the crops grew in “silence”.

From here, experiments were done on animals. Studies have shown that playing classical/soothing music to hens aids the hens in laying more eggs<sup>44</sup>. This type of music also helps cows to yield more milk. Other experiments were conducted with rats.

In one experiment, rats were tested by psychologists to see how they would react to the music of Bach, compared to rock music. The rats were placed into two different boxes. Rock music was played in the one box, while Bach’s music was played in the other. The rats could choose to switch boxes through a tunnel that connected both boxes ... almost all of the rats chose to go into the box with the Bach music, even after the type of music was switched from one box to the other.

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<sup>43</sup> <http://www.real-sonic-bloom.com/>

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.cerebromente.org.br/n15/mente/musica.html>



David Merrill conducted more experiments<sup>45</sup>, to see how music affected a rat's ability to learn new things, as well as their memory. In the first experiment, Merrill had one group of mice listen to classical music twenty-four hours a day ... and another group to listen to heavy metal music twenty-four hours a day.

Merrill then timed the mice as they ran through mazes, to see if the music affected their speed of learning. Unfortunately, he had to cut this first experiment short, as the mice that listened to the heavy metal mice all killed one another!

Could music be an influence on our emotions, being a factor in making people more aggressive or violent? We see this principle mirrored in society today ... many of the people who have committed violent crimes loved to listen to heavy metal, rock music. In a second experiment, testing the

affect of music on a rat's ability to learn, Merrill had another two groups of mice.

The one group listened to Mozart for ten hours a day ... the other group listened to heavy metal music, also for ten hours a day. The mice that listened to classical music dramatically improved their maze-solving abilities – the heavy metal group became even worse at solving the mazes than they had been at the beginning of the experiment.

## **Does music affect our emotions?**

### ***Absolutely!***

A “happy song”<sup>46</sup> can lift our emotions, putting a jive in our step ... while a sad song can be depressing, or heavy metal music can be agitating<sup>47</sup> and grating, even if you “enjoy” it. Think about it ... music directly affects our moods! The music/sounds in a

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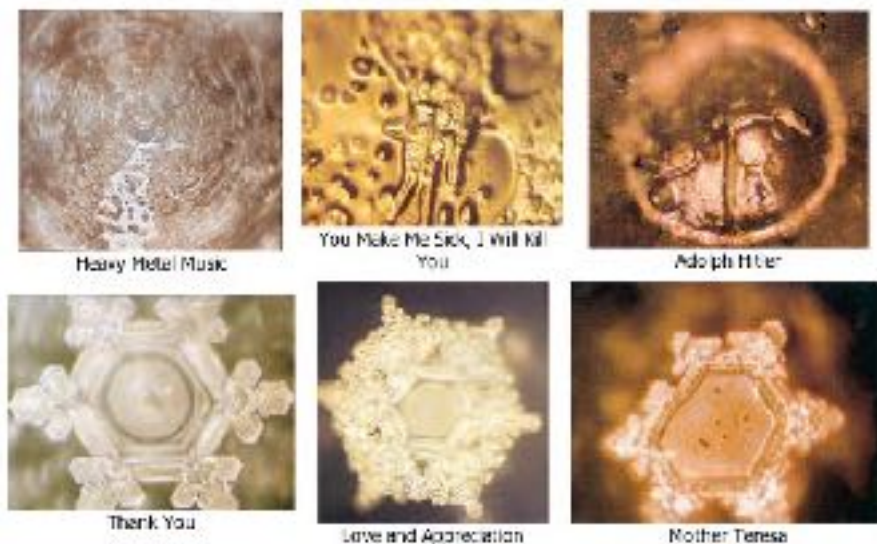
<sup>45</sup> <http://www.suite101.com/content/the-psychology-of-music-a45967>

<sup>46</sup> Music is even being used in therapy, <http://www.emedexpert.com/tips/music.shtml>.

<sup>47</sup> You will find that even those people who like to listen to heavy metal, rock music – those that enjoy these types of music – tend to be very restless, aggressive, angry, and violent. Most times, they don't believe the music has this affect on them ... however, the many studies prove otherwise. Even so, if you listen to these types of music, do your own experiment. Stop listening to these types of music for a month, and see how your emotions are calmer and more at peace.

movie play an enormous role in telling the story! The music moves our emotions. Music is even tied to our memories ... play a certain song – a song from childhood, or the song of your first dance – and the music “takes you back to that moment”.

Another pioneer researcher in the study of the affect of music and sound on both people and nature – whether restorative or destructive – is Dr. Masaru Emoto<sup>48</sup>. Dr. Emoto studied the affect of words and music (sound) by observing the formations of water crystals<sup>49</sup> – what fascinating findings!



Can you imagine? If these are the results in using “good” words and “good” music, what are the results when we hear and meditate on GOD’s Word, or speak His Words and Blessings over our loved ones and/or children?

Remember, our bodies are made up of eighty percent water! Could it be that when the Scriptures tell us there is power in our words<sup>50</sup>, in our tongue, that there is more to this principle than just speaking evil?

Fathers, you have a GOD-given mandate to teach your children and family the Word of GOD, to be a role-model of GOD’s Ways of Righteousness – to speak blessings over your wife and children.

Mothers play a vital role in this too ... with this understanding of the power of sound – what impact your words<sup>51</sup> have!

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<sup>48</sup> <http://www.spiritofmaat.com/archive/aug1/consciouswater.html>

<sup>49</sup> [http://www.bariumblues.com/conscious\\_water\\_crystals.htm](http://www.bariumblues.com/conscious_water_crystals.htm)

<sup>50</sup> It is interesting to note, that in the occult and secret organizations (such as Freemasonry), curses and/or spells are always *spoken* ...

<sup>51</sup> Remember too, our very names have an impact on us. Names in the Scriptures were very important – they were very closely tied to the person’s destiny.

We understand the impact of the meaning of what we say, but could it be that the very sounds/frequencies of these words have an impact on us too?

This brings up another important factor in the study of sound (words) – the heart behind it. We have seen that there is power in sound itself, but another essential aspect is the heart/intent behind the sound. This is very clearly exemplified in prayer. You can pray – because you have too, because it is a habit, just something you “do”. Or you can pray – from the heart.

I believe prayer from the heart carries something more, something deeper, than just mere rote-prayers. This is another factor in choosing the music we listen to – what is the heart of the artist? I believe the heart will be carried in the music ...



## A word on classical music ...

*Please note*, although the experiments cited have shown – with tremendous results – that classical music is beneficial to our brain, and helps improve our memory, cognitive skills, and so forth – this is *not* an endorsement for all classical music.

We must understand a very important principle – just because something works<sup>52</sup>, this does not mean it is beneficial in terms of GODs Standard and Truth. We must always remember to look for the *Real (Original) Truth* in GOD and His Word. You see, satan and his kingdom of darkness cannot create anything – the best he can do is copy and work a *deceptive counterfeit*. With so many Truths, the kingdom of darkness has *hi-jacked* a Godly Principle, corrupted it, and is now using it for their own agenda.

Take the example of music ... it is very much true that classical music does improve brain functions. There are frequencies within the music that help us to think clearer, remember better, and relieve stress – this principle originated in GOD. However, it has been *corrupted* – while listening to classical music may (for the time) be beneficial – what else is being carried/transmitted in the music?

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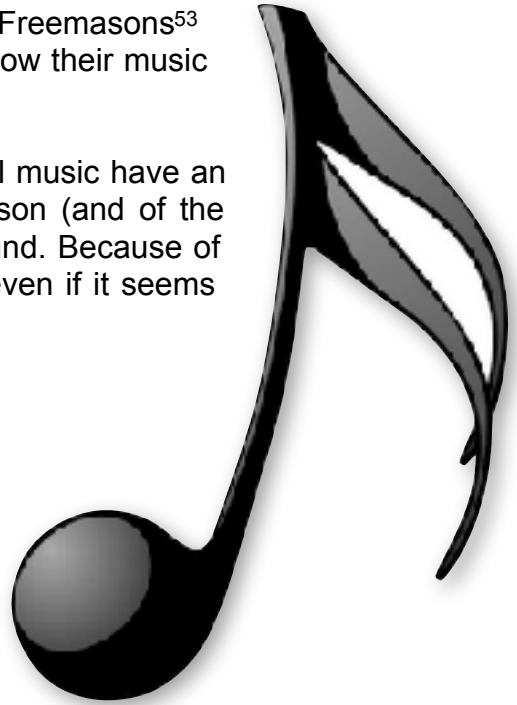
<sup>52</sup> Do a Google search on *Mozart* and his music’s positive affect on brain functions, and you will come up with many websites, detailing how Mozart’s music – the frequencies – improve brain function.

Many of the composers of classical music were Freemasons<sup>53</sup> – others were mentally disturbed, and speak of how their music was channeled<sup>54</sup>.

We must remember that not only does the actual music have an effect on us, but also the spirit/heart of the person (and of the channeled spirit) is *transmitted*<sup>55</sup> through the sound. Because of this, we must be careful of what we listen to – even if it seems “good”.

## Music, some points to consider ...

*Many* articles can be written (and have been written) on the subject of music – the genres, the lyrics, the artists, on and on ... the main purpose of this article is present the information that sound itself has power. However, there are a few points I would like to highlight in regards to music – below are some points to consider:



1. What was Lucifer's main role before his rebellion against GOD? He was the leader of music! He led the worship of heaven! Was this ability/talent lost when Lucifer fell? I don't believe so ... Music (sound) is still one of Satan's greatest tools in his war against GOD.

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<sup>53</sup> Mozart was a Freemason, as was as many other famous composers. Remember too, that classical music played a major role in Hitler's ideology – his was greatly influenced by the music of Richard Wagner, also a Freemason. For more information, check out the following links: <http://masonmusic.org/home.html>, [http://freemasonry.bcy.ca/biography/mozart\\_a/mozarts\\_magic\\_flute.html](http://freemasonry.bcy.ca/biography/mozart_a/mozarts_magic_flute.html), <http://fcit.usf.edu/HOLOCAUST/arts/musReich.htm>, [http://freemasonry.bcy.ca/biography/wannabe/wagner\\_r.html](http://freemasonry.bcy.ca/biography/wannabe/wagner_r.html), <http://www.wagneroperas.com/>.

<sup>54</sup> Channeling music – which is very much prevent today with musicians literally admitting their music was channeled, or written while they were high and under the influence – is nothing new, it has been practiced through the centuries. Keep in mind too Pan and Orpheus – the muses of music.

<sup>55</sup> In doing the research for this article, I believe this principle is exemplified in how a sermon or teaching can be “anointed” – even if the speaker has passed away. You can listen to a teaching or a sound, and there is a supernatural anointing on it – could it be that this anointing/prompting of the Holy Spirit is actually, if you can put it like this, embedded in the sound? Something to think about ...



**Ezekiel 28:12-19** “Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, Thus says the Lord GOD: You are the full measure and pattern of exactness (giving the finishing touch to all that constitutes completeness), full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of GOD; every precious stone was your covering, the carnelian, topaz, jasper, chrysolite, beryl, onyx, sapphire, carbuncle, and emerald; and your settings and your sockets and engravings were wrought in gold. On the day that you were created they were prepared. You were the anointed cherub that covers<sup>56</sup> with overshadowing (wings), and I set you so. You were upon the holy mountain of GOD; you walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire (like the paved work of gleaming sapphire stone upon which

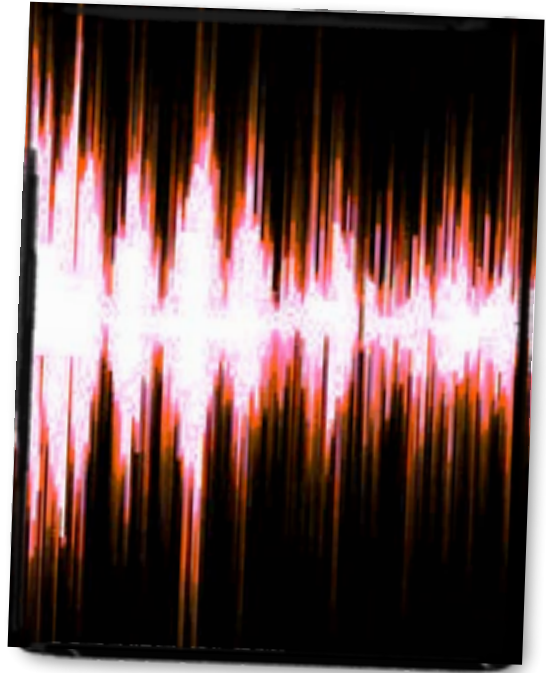
the GOD of Israel walked on Mount Sinai). You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until iniquity and guilt were found in you. Through the abundance of your commerce you were filled with lawlessness and violence, and you sinned; therefore I cast you out as a profane thing from the mountain of GOD and the guardian cherub drove you out from the midst of the stones of fire.” Your heart was proud and lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I lay you before kings, that they might gaze at you. You have profaned your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities and the enormity of your guilt, by the unrighteousness of your trade. Therefore I have brought forth a fire from your midst; it has consumed you, and I have reduced you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all who looked at you. All who know you among the people are astonished and appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and shall never return to being.”

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<sup>56</sup> Interesting to note that in Heaven, Lucifer was an angel who covered – he is still doing this, but in a destructive/corruptive manner – Satan works in deception and darkness, he “covers” still to this day.

The Scriptures also tell us that Satan is the “prince of the power of the air”, one of the main mediums through which sound/music<sup>57</sup> is transferred through.

**Ephesians 2:2** *“In which at one time you walked (habitually). You were following the course and fashion of this world (were under the sway of the tendency of this present age), following the prince of the power of the air. (You were obedient to and under the control of) the (demon) spirit that still constantly works in the sons of disobedience (the careless, the rebellious, and the unbelieving, who go against the purposes of GOD).”*



2. This ability or power through music is mirrored in many legends and myths of the gods – there are two in particular, Pan and Orpheus.

Pan<sup>58</sup> is the Greek GOD of shepherds and flocks, of mountain wilds, hunting, and rustic music, as well as the companion of the nymphs.

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<sup>57</sup> Another interesting research point is the HAARP/Project Blue Beam technology, which is a US military project based in Alaska. The HAARP base has several hundred antennas, which are used together to shoot a concentrated frequency-beam (in essence, sound waves) into the atmosphere (the “air”). It is said that the project is only focused on research, however many experts are warning that this technology is very dangerous, and that HAARP has the ability to create/change weather patterns, and even cause earthquakes. Could HAARP be connected to the recent increase in natural disasters? Please research this yourself, and check out the following links: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZBSj9LbMFs>; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62ZtPqfvpu8>; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8Zk6CyNL9o>. Another dangerous aspect of this technology is its ability to influence and/or mind-control a large population-area. The frequencies can be “broadcasted” over a population, matching the various natural frequencies of our brains, causing us to be depressed, docile, or anxious, and so on. Could this technology be another tool in the evil agenda of Satan and the kingdom of darkness, as well as those world leaders/powers that are of the kingdom of darkness?

<sup>58</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pan\\_%28god%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pan_%28god%29) and <http://ancienthistory.about.com/cs/grecoromanmyth1/p/Pan.htm>

He has the hindquarters, legs, and horns of a goat, and is of the same manner of a faun or satyr. Pan<sup>59</sup> is connected to fertility and Spring. Pan is famous for his sexual powers<sup>60</sup> – including those of masturbation. He is also famous for his pan-flute, with which he leads the nymphs in dances. He stirs up *panic*.



Orpheus<sup>61</sup> is a very interesting figure indeed! He is the legendary musician, poet, and prophet in ancient Greek religion and mythology. The major stories about him are centered on his ability to charm all living things (including trees and even stones!) with his music.

Orpheus (pictured left) is the archetype of the inspired singer, being one of the most significant figures – being alluded to in countless forms of art and popular culture, including poetry, opera, and paints. Orpheus also plays a major role in the philosophy of Freemasonry – Manly P. Hall, one of the great writers of Freemasonry – wrote the following in his book “*Secret Teachings Of All Ages*”:

*“Orpheus has long been sung as the patron of music. On his seven-stringed lyre, he played such perfect harmonies that the gods themselves were moved to acclaim his power. When he touched the strings of his instrument, the birds and beasts gathered about him, and as he wandered through the forests, his enchanting melodies caused even the ancient trees with mighty effort to draw their gnarled roots from out the earth and follow him.*”

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<sup>59</sup> In ancient times (including New Testament times), the center of Pan worship was located in Caesarea Philippi (also known as Panias or *Banias* today). There, outside the city, is a cave called “Pan’s Grotto”. It is here that Y’shua (Jesus) asked His disciples, “*Who do you say that I am?*” Peter answered, “*You are the Messiah! The Son of the Living GOD!*”. Is it a coincidence that this declaration was made at Pan’s Grotto, Pan being a representation of satan? For more information, check out: <http://www.bibleplaces.com/banias.htm> and <http://www.biblewalks.com/Sites/BaniasTemples.html>.

<sup>60</sup> Katy Perry’s latest song “*ET Lover*” seems to be very much along the lines of Nephilim propaganda. In the music video for this song, at the end, Katy is depicted as herself, but like Pan, with the legs of a goat, <http://letsrollforums.com/katy-perrys-new-single-t24545.html>.

<sup>61</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orpheus> and <http://www.pantheon.org/articles/o/orpheus.html>

*Orpheus is one of the many immortals who have sacrificed themselves that mankind might have the wisdom of the gods. By the symbolism of his music, he communicated divine secrets to humanity. Thus Orpheus was declared to be the son of Apollo, the divine and perfect truth, and Calliope, the muse of harmony and rhythm. In other words, Orpheus is the secret doctrine (Apollo) revealed through music ...”*

3. Across the world, in every culture and every religion, music plays an important role. Think of it ... are there any cultures or religions in which there is no music? For example:

- ◆ In Eastern religions – such as Buddhism – the followers will chant, using these sounds to mediate.
- ◆ In Native American culture, drums, rhythms and chanting play an important role in their worship ceremonies and rituals. This is true for many of the tribal cultures. There is a recent renewed interest in Shamanism (along with the use of DMT<sup>62</sup>, a substance that seems to open a portal between our world and the supernatural realm) and its ceremonies. People who have participated in these ceremonies say the songs the Shaman sings are a major factor in which way the ceremony goes, and in what visions/experiences the people have.
- ◆ Think of the voodoo culture/religion, where the drum rhythms are so connected to the occult worship and rituals. It is said that the modern hip-hop<sup>63</sup> and R&B music genres have their beginning and origins in these voodoo rhythms.
- ◆ Think even of the “rave” parties of today, or the mass trance parties held in rural areas – with the mixture of drugs and the “high” of the music, these parties go on for days! Besides the strong connection between music and drugs, there are even



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<sup>62</sup> For more information on DMT and its role in opening up portals to the supernatural realms, check out the radio interviews of Dr. Future on his “Future Quake” show, <http://futurequake.com/>, as well as the interviews with him and Chris White, available for download from iTunes.

<sup>63</sup> For more information about the truth behind the hip-hop music culture, check out G. Craig Lewis’s website <http://www.exministries.com/>.

reports today that kids are using music by itself to get “high”<sup>64</sup>, to escape into a sort of trance state.

Throughout history, we see music’s impact on society and culture, its ability to move, to shift culture. One of the best examples of this is the 60’s movement, in which music became a sort of religion and helped to push that generation to “break out” and “break free” of their Judeo-Christian “bonds”. Many historians have marked this movement as a pivotal point (of decline) in American and world history – it brought such a shift in our culture.



It is interesting to note that many of the forefront bands, such as the Beatles, were strongly influenced by Aleister Crowley, one of the highest-ranking occultists of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Crowley’s influence on our culture continues even today, where he and his occult teachings are referenced to in movies, music, and even fashion. However, the 60’s movement did not just “arrive” – before this, we had Elvis and rock and roll, another music movement that brought changes to popular culture.

Finally, it seems that the power of music (sound) has reached an all-time-high in the world today – and this is true globally. I don’t think there has been a time before this where music – the artists and industry – has ever had such power and influence over society, and particularly amongst the youth.

Today, popular artists are treated like gods, being “worshipped” by throngs of people following their every move – what they say or think is what becomes “cool”, their fashion statements are soon seen in our local stores, and even their lyrics are soon used in conversation. What’s more, the agenda and philosophies are more than obvious – and yet, their world-view is becoming the general “norm”.

For example, sometime ago we had Katy Perry singing she “kissed a girl” and liked it – the song opened the door for greater tolerance towards homosexuals.

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<sup>64</sup> <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1296282/I-dosing-How-teenagers-getting-digitally-high-music-download-internet.html>

Today, we have Lady Gaga<sup>65</sup> singing “Born This Way” (one of the most popular and best selling songs, the single became the fastest selling single in the history of iTunes<sup>66</sup>), practically flinging wide the doors for tolerance towards homosexuality and alternative lifestyles. Music today is not just music – it is chock full of an agenda and world-view which is very much against GOD and His Kingdom.

## Last thoughts on sound ...

In the bit of research I have done in writing this article (there was just so much to read!), I believe sound – and particularly music – is so much more than just hearing “something”. Sound/music is a supernatural medium, which transmits and carries the heart (or if you can say, purpose) behind the sound. Sound/music originated in GOD’s Heart and Design – it was Him Who was the First to speak.

GOD’s Words are Eternal, and the sounds/music of His Kingdom are truly restorative, bringing life to those who hear and SH’MA<sup>67</sup>.



However, with the fall, sound has now been corrupted, and has the ability to be very destructive.

*“So, do we stop listening to music?”* Not at all. *“What music can we listen to then?”* I can’t really answer that question ... it is for you to seek the Father, and ask the Holy Spirit for His Guidance in your choice of music. Remember too, it is not only music, but sound itself.

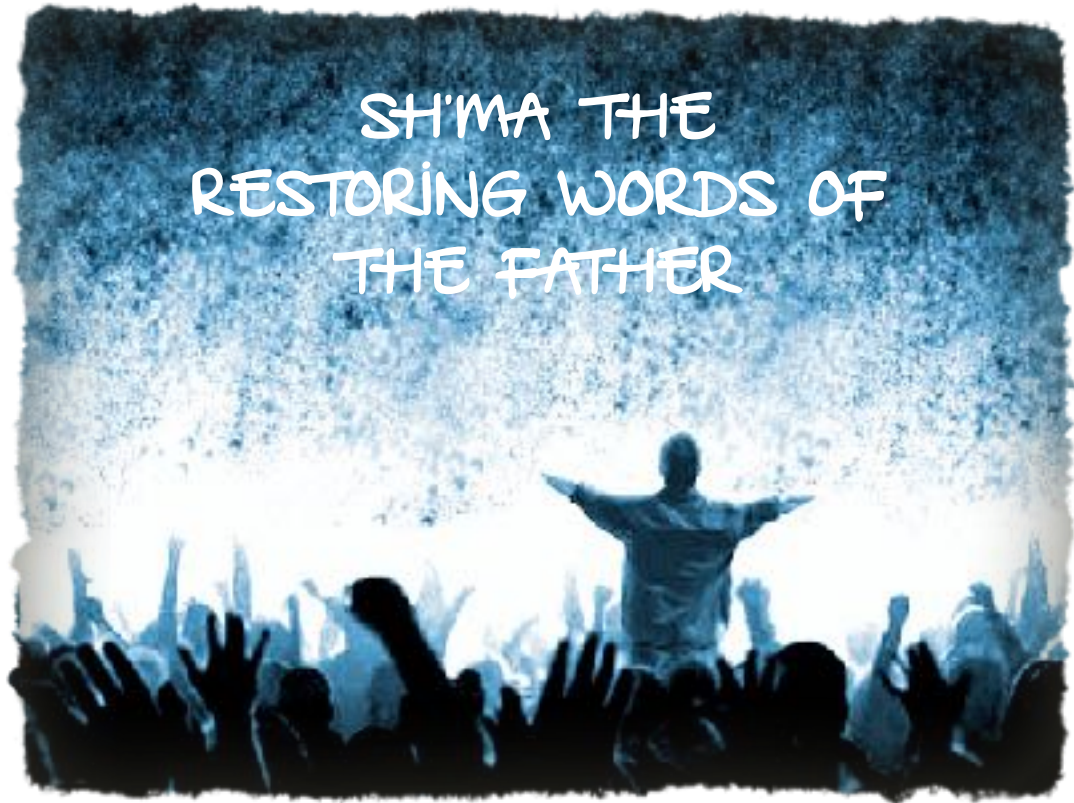
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<sup>65</sup> Check out the video by Mike Hoggard regarding Lady Gaga and the Evil Day, <http://www.hearkentthewatchmen.com/article.asp?id=475>.

<sup>66</sup> <http://www.newsamen.com/102943/lady-gaga%E2%80%99s-born-this-way-set-record-sales-in-iTunes>

<sup>67</sup> For additional study, see our article “SH’MA, A Hebraic Concept Everyone Can Embrace”, available for download from the website at <http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=173>.

I hope that through this information, you have come to see the power and impact of sound – first, the amazing power of GOD’s Word, that it is alive and full of LIFE. And then, to come to understand the power of the words you speak – truly, there is power in our words!



Perhaps the next time you are tempted to speak unkindly, or gossip, or speak evil of someone, you will remember the power of these words, the power and far-reaching impact (eternal nature) of sound. And finally, to be alert – to be a watchman – in regards to what you listen to, to realize that the whole package – the sound, the music, the lyrics, and the artists’ values and beliefs – has an impact on you.

## Conclusion

As followers and disciples of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus), we have been called out, out of the system of this world, called to be a set-apart people, a holy nation, a royal priesthood. This means, we will be different to the rest of the world – including in what we watch and what we listen to, and what we say.

We are called to be vigilant, to be watching, and to guard ourselves from evil, from that which so easily entangles ... the gateway of TV, media, and entertainment, and the gateway of sound are (I believe) two of the most important areas to be watchful of, particularly in the times we live in today – and even more so, for families with children and teenagers. The purpose of this article has been to present some of the dangers of these mediums, some of the areas to keep watch for.

Does this mean all entertainment and music is evil? That we shouldn't watch TV, or movies, or listen to music? Again, this must be a personal conviction, a serious point of prayer – particularly for parents and families. I would suggest the following:

## Pray

Ask the Holy Spirit, Who is our Perfect Counsellor – to guide you in what you can watch and listen to, and what you cannot. Most things today are becoming quite obvious – it is pretty easy to tell what a TV program, movie, or song is about, and what agenda/values are being promoted.



I believe it is an attitude of the heart ... realizing that in making Y'shua (Jesus) your King, in your decision to follow Him, you are not your own – it is choosing His Will above your own. And then, it is knowing that His Will is ALWAYS for your good. It may not be “cool”, or you may not completely understand at the time, but obeying GOD and His Spirit's leading – even in the areas we thought didn't matter so much, like what we watch and listen to – brings life ... and we obey in and for LOVE.

*A word to parents* ... research this information, and be convinced yourself, and then have wisdom in bringing this information to your children. There have been too many testimonies of parents who have so restricted their children, that as soon as they could, they rebelled, and rebelled in a big way – watched, listened to, and did everything and anything they wanted, all those things they were restricted from.

Then, there are the many stories of children who were allowed to watch/listen to anything they wanted – there were no restrictions – and doors were opened that have caused pain and destruction. It is such a fine line! Pray for the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, specific to your situation, specific for each child. Fostering a child's love for the Father and His Ways, that the choices they make are motivated out of love for Him, is one of the most lasting and “real” ways in raising and teaching your children.

## **Be vigilant**

Don't just watch/listen blindly. Know the background, the “heart” behind what you are watching or listening to. The more truth you know about an area, the better you are able to discern – you will also be personally convicted, and be able to stand in the decision you make. There are a few excellent resources for keeping up-to-date with today's entertainment and pop-culture:

- ◆ Vigilant Citizen
  - <http://vigilantcitizen.com/>
  
- ◆ Good Fight Ministries
  - <http://www.goodfight.org/>
  
- ◆ Focus On The Family's Plugged In
  - <http://www.pluggedin.com/>

We pray the Father blesses you, as you walk in His Ways of Righteousness, and apply this information in your own life, and in your family.

May the Holy Spirit grant you Grace and Wisdom!

May you continue to be set-apart, as unto the King ... may you SH'MA (hear and obey) in loving obedience ... may you REJOICE in the Truth – the Father is GOOD!

# PRIESTLY BLESSING

*Numbers 6:24-26*

*“Y’varekh’kha YHVH v’yishmerekha.*

**May YHVH bless you and keep you.**

*Ya’er YHVH panav eleikha vichunekka.*

**May YHVH make His Face shine on you and show you His favour.**

*Yissa YHVH panav eleikha v’yasem l’kha shalom.*

**May YHVH lift up His Face toward you and give you peace.**

In this way they are to put My Name on the people of Israel, so that I will bless them.



**Conclusion ...**



"8 For the rest, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is worthy of reverence and is honorable and seemly, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely and lovable, whatever is kind and winsome and gracious, if there is any virtue and excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think on and weigh and take account of these things (fix your minds on them)."

*Philippians 4:8*