

“The Drumbeat of Heaven” – Part 1

Introduction

I grew up in a non-Christian family and I was relatively free to search things out for myself. Thankfully, I was brought up to appreciate music and I remember having evenings where my parents, my sister and I would gather in our living room to listen to our favourite records together, which was great. I grew up to the sounds of the likes of Yes, Genesis, Queen, David Bowie, The Beatles, Wings, ELP, ELO, Pink Floyd and Barclay James Harvest; the best of which came via Alan “Fluff” Freeman’s “Saturday Rock Show”. I had an interest in music from a very early stage and given my classic rock upbringing, I used to fantasise about playing guitar on stage.

At the age of 14 I was given a Fender Strat copy as my birthday present and although I tried to play it, I never had the skill, although I did have the hair to go with it (which is now sadly mostly gone!)

I became a Christian at the age of 15, at which time my musical tastes had grown to include the likes of Led Zeppelin, Deep Purple, ACDC, Iron Maiden, Rainbow and Black Sabbath as well as the classic prog rock that I had grown up with. I had been influenced by the likes of John Bonham, Cozy Powell, Carl Palmer and Bill Bruford, and I started drumming on table tops, knees, my girlfriend’s knees, dashboards, pretty much anything that could act as a drum surface!

I bought my first drums at the age of 20, by which time my family and friends were greatly relieved that I could now stop drumming on everything else in sight! However, my first drums were congas, not a drum kit as most people expected, and the reason for this was that I wanted to play in the church band, and there were already 2 drummers there who shared the duties, leaving me to branch out into the wonderful and ethnic world of percussion.

Although I do still play the drum kit, I do this mostly in prophetic intercession and spiritual warfare (more about this later), I have specialised in playing ethnic drums and percussion, and I have found that I prefer the incredible variety of sounds and styles that can be accomplished through these more unusual drums. My musical tastes have also changed somewhat, and I am now a huge fan of what I term “Free Flow” worship (spontaneous, prophetic worship), and this is the style that I usually play and lead, often with an ethnic/World Music feel to it, which has also been influenced by my ethnic tastes in music.

Musically I have been inspired, blessed and encouraged by the sounds that I have heard coming from such worship leaders and artists as Joann McFatter, Jason Upton, Kevin Prosch, David Ruis, Iona, John Michael Talbot, Misty Edwards, Robert Stearns and of course the guys at Morning Star.

It was during a conference in a small town in the Freestate, South Africa in 1999 that God first called me to play drums in spiritual warfare and intercession. I had been ministering internationally (mostly teaching and training people in prophetic ministry, worship, intercession, healing – inner and physical and also spiritual warfare) since 1997. God spoke very clearly to me and said that He wanted me to lead His warriors into battle on the drums (the kit this time). I got onto the stage and went to the drum kit and began to play a warfare beat, which when I am in Africa tends to be a very typical African rhythm, whereas when I play in North America (the USA and Canada), this tends to take on a more “First Nations” feel.

Drums have always been connected with warfare, and no continent is more synonymous with the use of the drum in warfare than Africa. The rhythmic beat of the drum can bring increased morale and adrenaline in warriors, as well as create a feeling of dread in the enemy. Most tribal peoples use or have used drums in warfare, such as the First Nations American Indians and the various tribes of Africa.

A look at the history of warfare shows that drums have been used for many thousands of years in warfare all across the world, in the ancient civilisations of Africa, Asia, Europe, Australasia and the Americas. It seems that the drum has a universal appeal for use in warfare.

Satan, unlike God, cannot create, but can only counterfeit and corrupt that which already exists. As such, he has corrupted the use of the drum and other instruments, to be a sound that brings forth the worst in man, as in warfare, and can also invoke demons to come forth, as in Voodoo rituals. For this, and other reasons, the church has been slow to make advances in the use of music as a means of spiritual warfare, and it is really only in recent years that the advances have been made into this area.

However, man is made in the image of God and therefore can create, just as a part of God's character and nature is to create, and as we drum (as well as when we worship on other instruments – voice included, and in countless other ways) so creativity is released – spiritual creativity which God can and does use to bring about His will and purpose.

In his book “Drumming at the edge of Magic” (although a New Age book, this is an interesting view of drumming from his perspective), Mickey Hart writes, ‘Drums were the driving force behind the percussive din that permeated the ancient art of warfare. The name of the game was to energise your troops while terrifying your enemies with the heroic quality of the noise you could make’.

As I say, God spoke to me very clearly with regards to this, and He told me that He wanted to use my drumming to help lead forth His warriors into spiritual warfare and to lead people deeper into His presence. God has spoken to me that He is leading His people to take back from the devil all of the ground that he has stolen from the Church, and this is one such area.

As I played the drums in the conference, I looked and saw that people were being deeply touched by the Lord – many people were dancing and moving, some were shaking, some later testified of physical and inner healing and a few were being delivered from demonic spirits. I was amazed that God would do this through my playing the drums, but I was to find out that this is a part of what God is doing in the nations at this time.

Over the intervening years between then and now I have played the drums in worship, intercession and warfare many more times and have played with many different bands, the latest of which is called “SpiritJam” and is based in Chester, England. I have seen a multitude of physical healings and deliverances take place through worship and especially through drumming (people being healed from everyday hurts and pains to cancer and AIDS).

God has also used the drums as a catalyst to revival in churches that have been struggling or dry and when I have played the drums in prophetic churches (those that are already used to this type of ministry), the Lord has often brought a manifestation of His fire and His presence and has taken people deeper with Him.

God is calling forth His warriors at this time to come forth and do battle, and the most powerful weapons that He has given us are praise and worship. As far as the use of the drum is concerned, it is unmistakably a sound that stirs the spirit. If this is used by those who belong to the devil, then it will often stir up those things within people which are against God. If however, the drums are played by those who love and serve God, and are seeking His glory, then the sound will stir up the praise, worship, intercession and warfare of God’s people, and bring with it the healing and reviving presence of God.

Drums have been used in worship for literally thousands of years. There are many references to the use of drums in the Bible. The word timbrel or tambourine is used most often in scripture. This is a translation of the Hebrew word *Toph*, a type of frame drum. Some of these references can be found in *Psalms 81:2; 149:3 and 150:4; Exodus 15:26 and Job 21:12*, but there are many others.

As the drum is used in earthly warfare to great effect, so it can also be used to great effect in spiritual warfare. It carries with it the voice of God to His people through prophecy and warfare, and also carries the response of the drummer to God in praise and worship.

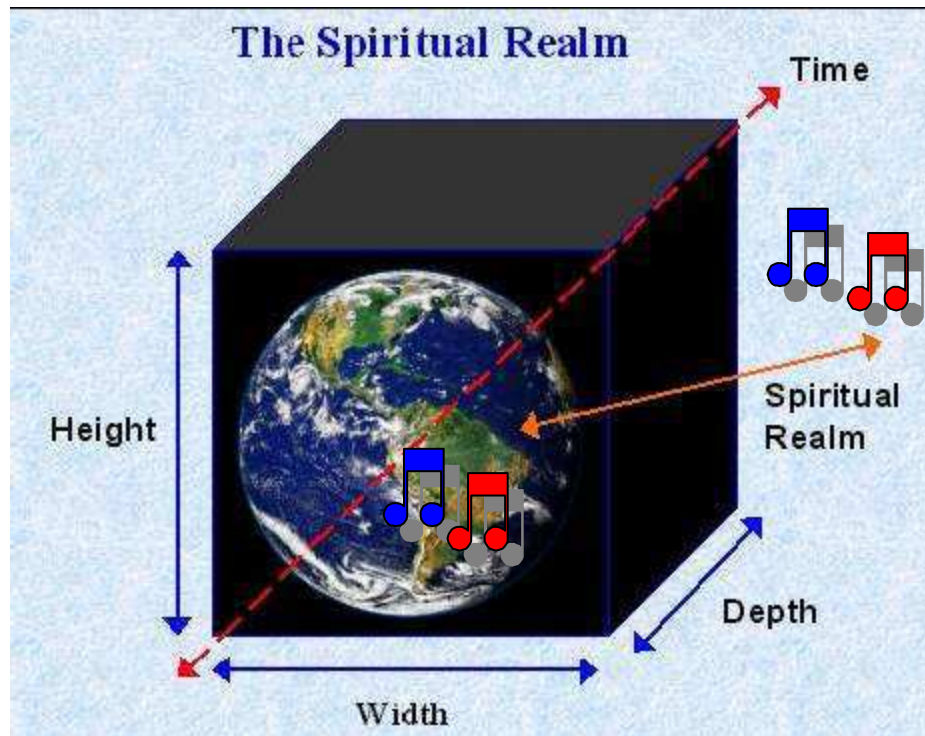
Although I also play the keyboards and wind instruments (in prophetic worship) and sing prophetically, I have found that the anointing that playing the drums brings is somehow different and brings with it a different anointing.

Over the next few months I am going to share with you what God is doing through the drums in the nations of the world at this time, lessons that I have learned regarding worship – through both playing and leading, and I will also be sharing about the spiritual dynamics of worship (what happens when we worship and how God moves when we enter into His presence).

The Call Has Gone Forth

There is a call going forth to Christians throughout the world to press into the new thing that God is doing in worship and to release the new sounds that God is pouring out from His throne room.

This diagram shows the 4 dimensions of space and time (height, width, depth and time) and how the spiritual realm (represented by the colour - exists above and beyond the physical realm, encompassing it and yet also interacting with it.



Throughout history, God has at times broken through from the spiritual realm into the physical, such as with Moses and the burning bush or the incarnation of Jesus Himself. At this time in history, God is releasing sounds from heaven to inspire, bless, minister to and heal His people and also those who do not know Him.

As these sounds are released, so the presence of God is released with it, and with His presence comes healing, deliverance, salvation and revival. It is time for us to press into the fullness of what God is releasing at this time through worship, and as we do, not only will those already in the church be blessed, healed and set free, but as we take it to the streets, so those outside will meet with God in new and dynamic ways.

Before we look at our first lesson on worship, I want to share with you some words from worship drummer Andrew Ironside:

“Drummers need to play with sensitivity and a worshipful expression, but also with "attitude". They must know when to play strongly, when to play loud and when to play as gently as a dove.

The drummer's walk with God is evident in their playing. A drummer needs to be a worshipper, not just a musician. When he/she plays out of their spirit rather than their soul, it takes the worship to a much higher level. If they play out of a negative attitude it pulls the song back into a negative attitude, even though the song may be a positive one. If the drummer plays on the back beat or slightly lagging in the feel or the groove, the same scenario will apply.

The drummer has an important role to play in a worship team because the drums are so prominent. He/she can make or break a song service. In my early years of drumming I was told that the drums were of the devil, or "you're just playing loud", or "you're just an entertainer". The best one I ever heard was, "You are just a drummer"! Not so! Drummers are able ministers of the Gospel, for God has anointed us to preach the Good News. Your playing is not just a series of rhythms, but a message, a sharp definite sound which pierces the spirit realm and releases the anointing of God.”

Lesson 1

An Introduction to Healing and Transformation through worship

Why are we here?

Our ultimate reason for being here at all is to worship God and to have a loving, intimate and genuine relationship with Him. When we finally get to heaven, we will be continually worshipping God and have intimacy with Him that goes beyond anything we have ever experienced, but we are capable of experiencing a true depth of intimacy with God here and now.

Physical and Inner Healing Through Worship

Exodus 15:26b says, "I am the Lord who heals you"

God's character is to heal - The name *Jehovah Rapha* was given by God Himself (*Exodus 15:26*). *Rapha* means heal, restore, cure. God did not promise to heal. He did better than that. He said. Healing is what I am. Therefore, in the manifest presence of God (*Psalms 22:3*), healing will manifest.

In *Acts 17:25* 'worshipped' is *Therapeuo* in Greek which means: 'to cure or heal, to wait upon, adore, or worship'. The various meanings of the word are interlinked.

In *Matthew 8:2-4*, the healing of the leper came as a result of spontaneous worship.

In *1 Samuel 16*, with the account of King Saul and David, we see a clear picture of healing through music –

From this chapter of scripture we can ascertain the following:

- Demons discern music - they know whether it's theirs or God's.
- They find it difficult to stand in the presence of God anointed music, and in this case the demonic spirit (*'from God' – sent by God*) was driven away by God impregnated music. (However, the demonic spirit returned repeatedly, as can be seen by the use of the word "*whenever*").
- Healing accompanies the music. King Saul was made well.

Notice *vs. 18*, the Lord was with Him, The Lord was only in his music because He was first of all with David. The music that David played was not for Saul but for God. God manifests Himself in the praises of His People (David in this case) and Saul benefited because he was in the presence of David.

Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever (*Hebrews 13:8*), and it is still in His nature to heal. God is still in the healing business. There's nothing secret or mysterious about it. It is not a special formula or a set of prayers that you have to say. God is the Healer. As we draw near to His presence, His healing power will be present to heal. *Luke 5:17* shows us that the power of the Lord was present for Him to heal the sick.

When you praise God, you declare His attributes as Healer and, when you sing the scriptures to do so, the power of the Word will come alive.

Inner healing or healing of the brokenness and grief that we carry inside, is another of the tremendous rewards that can come about when we enter God's presence. No matter what the inner wound, the antidote is the same: you need the healing, truth and hope that only God can provide. Our God is the God of hope. He's in the business of restoring our vision of the future. These are the words that Isaiah used to describe the ministry of the Messiah 700 years before Jesus was born: "*He will not shout or cry out or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out*" (*Isaiah 42:2-3*).

When we enter into worship at progressively higher levels, and as we enter more and more into the realm of the spirit, so we are in effect experiencing on a physical, mental and emotional level, more of what our spiritual man experiences constantly. As a result of this, we are lifted into a higher realm in God which can lead us into physical and inner healing. We also get to experience the joy, peace, contentment, etc. that God has for us.

As we enter into the presence of the Lord, we are in the presence of the one who heals us.

'In God's manifest presence all that remains is God's glory, not man's anointed gifts, ministry, opinions or abilities. Then you and I will have to do very little, yet great & mighty things will happen On the other hand, when you and I do 'our thing', the results are few and there isn't much of God's glory in it.' (Tommy Tenney)

During these times, miracles happen: physical healing takes place, emotional healing comes to our souls, refreshing comes to our spirits and through our worship and the act of Jesus being lifted up, not only personal, but also community transformation can take place.

Transformation in the Community Through Worship

As we lift up the Name of Jesus through our worship, a banner is waved in the realm of the spirit across the community, and as a result not only is Jesus glorified, but also people are drawn to Him. Community Transformation is primarily seen by a change in the physical and the spiritual realm, which results in salvation, miracles, changes within society, etc.

Spiritual warfare can be defined as a non-passive action aimed at advancing the Kingdom of God, through worship, prayer, the Word of God, acts of faith and our witness.

Dr David Blomgren, author of *"Restoring Praise and Worship to the Church"*, shares his insight concerning this idea:

"This is illustrated in *Numbers 4:23* where the Lord is speaking to Moses about those who are appointed to be priests. He described them as all those who *'enter in to perform the service ...'* The word *'perform the service'* are from Hebrew words which mean, literally, *'fight the warfare'*. *'Perform'* is the translation of the Hebrew word *tsaba*, from which we get *sabaoth* or *hosts* – as in the *Lord of Hosts*, a name with strong military overtones ... the priests entered into the holy place to fight a warfare."

The spiritual battle was fought at the tabernacle, the physical battle was waged on the battlefield.

Revelation 19 (first half – paraphrased)

"As the multitudes of heaven sang and worshipped the Lamb, the Holy One issued forth decrees against His enemies. As His words hit the target, accomplishing their purpose, the songs swelled to a thunderous crescendo that shook the walls of the heavenly temple. The celestial hosts rejoiced with a loud noise in the righteousness of His judgements as once again the words of God were carried by messengers of brilliant light and poured out upon His demonic adversaries."

Demonic forces in specific realms or arenas are best defeated by consistent declarations of the truth rather than by defiant personal addresses. In essence, declaring truth is the fundamental function of the sword of the Spirit. God's word is ultimate truth and must be proclaimed. If the Church is God's voice upon the earth to communicate truth, we must develop our ability to declare and demonstrate that truth.

The most powerful truth of all time is that Jesus Christ is Lord! Nothing is more threatening to the powers of darkness than a group of believers who know their God and who declare the Lordship of Jesus over their personal situation, their cities and their communities.

'As they began to sing and praise, the LORD set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated'. (2 Chronicles 20:22 – NIV)

'Worship the LORD your God, and His blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you, and none will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will give you a full life span.' (Exodus 23:25-26 – NIV)

This is what happens in praise and worship. As we lift up the name of Jesus, we launch spiritual weapons that can pull down strongholds.

Ephesians 6:12

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

So, let us continue to press into the fullness of what God has for us, His worshipping people, and let us be open to all that His presence accomplishes in the people and the environment around us.

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