

Joy and History of the Dance



Emotion in worship?

- Raising your hands? - No
- Clapping your hands? - No

“A Controlled Box”



Dance in the Scripture

Miriam Danced -

^{ESV} Exodus 15:20 Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing. And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea."

Dance in the Scripture

David Danced -

ESV² Samuel 6:15-16 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the horn. ¹⁶ As the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, and she despised him in her heart.

Commandments to Dance

2287 **gg:X'** chagag (*primitive root*) - to hold a feast, make a pilgrimage, celebrate, dance, to reel

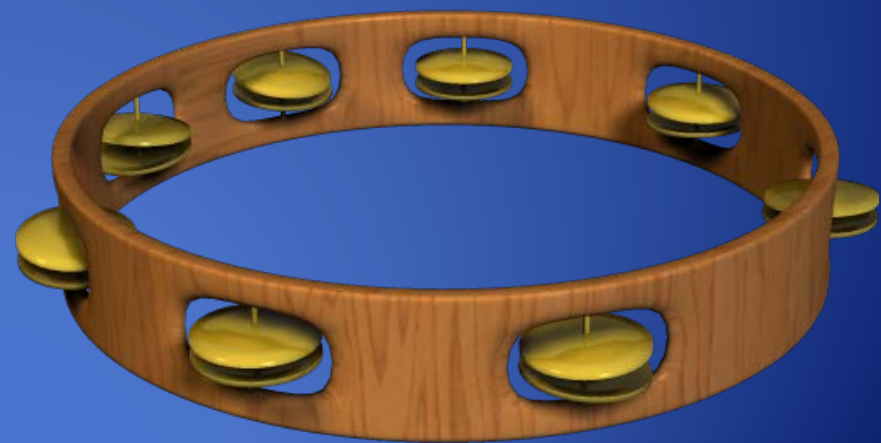
2328 **gWx** chuwg (*kindred root*) - To encircle, to encompass, to make a circle

2282 **gX** chag (*from the root chagag*) - Feast, Festival, feast, feast gathering

Commandments to Dance

“Praise Him with the timbrel and dance . . .”
(Psalm 150:4)

Let *them* praise His name with
dancing . . .” (Psalm 149:3)



Part of the Hebrew Culture

Matthew 11:17 “We played the flute for you,
and you did not dance . . .”



“ . . . Israel maintained a personal relationship with God, and even as one human being communicates with another thru the whole of himself, by thoughts, emotions, words, movements, and tones of voice, so the people of the Bible employ their whole selves in their communication with their God . . .

“Easily moved and passionate, exuberant and impulsive, they express their feelings in a way which modern ‘civilized’ man may well find flamboyant. Struck down by misfortune, they weep, bewail themselves, they tear out the hair of their beards, rend their garments and roll on the ground; in times of joy, they leap in the air, clap their hands, cry out, laugh and sing like children, and both their lamentations and their shouts of happiness are addressed to God.”

- Lack of space in “Home Churches”
- Hebrew “action” became Greek “abstract”



“Now before He was taken by The lawless Jews. He gathered us together and said, “Before I am delivered up unto them let us sing a hymn...And we going around in a ring, answered him: Amen. I would be saved... Grace danceth...dance you all, ... The whole on high hath part in our dancing ... A door am I to you that knocks ... answer you unto my dancing”

The Hymn of Jesus

“Therefore we raise our heads and our hands to heaven in prayer, and move our feet just at the end of the prayer . . . we seek by words of prayer to raise our body above the earth and uplift the winged soul by it’s desire for better things.”

**Stromata –
Clement of Alexandria**



Church controls worship -

- **the Church becomes the arbitrator of morality, education, and social structure**
- **the Church controls dance in worship**

Church controls worship -

“Ambrose felt that those who view church dance must view the actions “under the aspect of holy religion.” Then the dance will become truly reverential . . .”

Church controls worship -

- Council of Lessinas (743 AD) – Forbid laymen to dance in “choir” dances
- Council of Rome (826 AD) – forbid women to sing or perform in “choir” dances
- Pope Leo IV (850 AD) ordered that women not dance or sing in churches or porches

Church controls worship -

- The clergy performed the mass – thus all the dance was performed by the clergy
- Choirs sung the mass
- The lay-member simply became a spectator



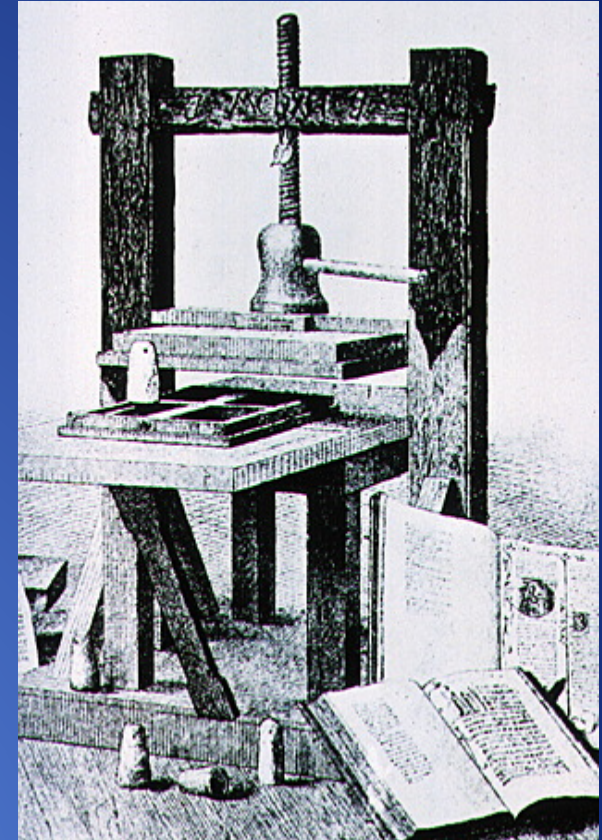
Dance of Death -



Led to the church attempting to put an end to all sacred-liturgical dance.

Protestant Reformation

- Laity now have their own Bible
 - Don't have to depend on the clergy for Biblical understanding.
 - Protestants oppose the Mass
 - Mass = dance
 - All forms of dance – “Sinful and not Biblical”



Protestant Reformation

“The twisting and turning, and bobbing and bowing, and lifting and parting and rejoining his hands, which the priest goes through in the course of the Mass, really add up to a kind of dance, meant to express a religious idea to you, the spectators.”



The Shakers



Hasidic Judaism

“the idea of joyous prayer, singing, dancing and spiritual feelings became an alternate route to Jewish excellence”



Luke 21:24 “Jerusalem will be trodden down by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled”.



“A major component of the Messianic revival involves the restoration of sacred dance . Sometimes called Messianic or Davidic worship, the Messianic movement has led the way in the choreography, teaching and development of various forms of dance. They incorporated many elements of traditional Hasidic dance, as well as Israeli and Yemenite folk dance. The acceptance of dance based on its biblical and Jewish roots has led to the restoration of ancient forms of praise and worship within the whole body of believers”.

Israeli Dance

- Mayims - streams of living water
- Debkas – bouncy, heel steps
- Yemenites quick movement – as on hot sand
- Tcherkessia – forward/back steps with open arms
- The Hora - the national dance of Reborn Israel.

Prophetic Fulfilment -

^{ESV} Song of Solomon 6:13 Return, return,
O Shulammite, return, return, that we may
look upon you. Why should you look upon
the Shulammite, as upon a **dance before
two armies?**

Prophetic Fullfilment -

^{NJB} **Zephaniah 3:17** Yahweh your God is there with you, the warrior-Saviour. He will rejoice over you with happy song, he will renew you by his love,

Prophetic Fullfilment -

^{NJB} **Zephaniah 3:17** Yahweh your God is there with you, the warrior-Saviour. He will rejoice over you with happy song, he will renew you by his love, **He will dance with shouts of joy for you!**

Worship Him in the Dance

- Dance was a definite part of the Hebrew culture
- Dance degenerated
 - The type of dancing
 - The church took the dance from the people

Dance is Returning Again!