

# Basic Principles In Antiphonal Singing

## A. Antiphonal (responsive) Singing is shown throughout the Scriptures

Revelation 4:9-11: 5:8-14: 7:9-12: 11:15-19: 14:6-20: 16:5-7:19:1-10

See also Exodus 15:20-21; Deuteronomy 27:12-15; Ezra 3:11; Nehemiah 12:8-9,24,31, 38,40; Psalm 24:7-10; Isaiah 6:3; Luke 2:10-14; 1 Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16

### 2 Kings 3:15 (NKJ)

"But now bring me a musician." Then it happened, when the musician played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him.

## B. The role of the prophetic singers is to develop themes through antiphonal praying (singing). The following are the most basic principles in antiphonal singing.

1. **Sing short songs** of 5-10 seconds.
2. **Sing short songs that stay on the same theme** that the prayer leader selects when isolating a phrase. Prophetic singers should stay within the subject matter of the isolated phrase. In other words, sing short songs to enhance the theme of the isolated phrase. Since we desire to see clear themes emerge and have opportunity to "crescendo," the singer does not sing multiple themes in one song. We are seeking to unfold the meaning of biblical passages so that we admonish and teach one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs (Col. 3:16).
3. **Sing one at a time.**
4. **Prophetic singers should either sing loudly or not at all** when on the microphone. If singers sing personal songs softly that are barely heard on the mic, then the other prophetic singers are not sure if that soft song is meant to contribute to the corporate prayer or is meant to be private singing to God.
5. **Signal one another** in any way that works with your team. Examples of how some signal each other - by looking at each other to nod or to subtly lift a finger. Sometimes prophetic singers hum to signify that they have a song ready to sing next.
6. **Sequence of singing** - if two singers start singing at the same time - first, the worship leader, second, the assistant worship leader, third, prophetic singer #1 (the one nearest to the back of the platform), then prophetic singer #2, then prophetic singer #3, etc., then singers on instruments and then the prayer leader, who is last.

### C. Developing Themes through Antiphonal Praying (Singing)

1. The Prophetic singers and prayer leader seek to "develop themes" from the "isolated phrases" so that clear themes emerge and have opportunity to crescendo.
2. Three ways the prophetic singers develop a theme antiphonally (responsive singing).
  - a. **Echo the phrase** back with exact language.
  - b. **Paraphrase the phrase** with similar words from Scripture.
  - c. **Develop the phrase with different words** (Scripture) that enhance the idea.
3. Example of developing a theme: ***Jesus Christ...the ruler over the kings of the earth***
  - a. Echo it back - "***Jesus Christ...the ruler of the kings of the earth.***"
  - b. Paraphrase it - "***Jesus Christ is king over all the nations.***"
  - c. Develop the idea - "***Jesus. Your government will prevail over darkness.***"
4. Conversational antiphonal praying (singing)
  - a. **First, by asking a question.** This conversation may go from God to the church or vice versa.
  - b. **Second, by making a declaration.** This declaration may go from God to the Church or vice versa.
5. Example of conversational antiphonal singing: (Rev 1:5-8) ***Jesus Christ... the ruler over the kings of the earth***
  - a. One prophetic singer asks a question from God's point of view. For example, "***Who is the great king of all the nations?***" or "***Who do you want to rule over you?***" Another singer answers back from the Church's point of view. For example, "***Jesus, you are the king over all the earth***"
  - b. One prophetic singer makes a declaration from God's point of view. For example, "***I alone am the great king over all the earth.***" Another singer answers back from the Church's point of view. For example, "***Jesus, You alone are my God and King!***"

### D. What are the benefits of antiphonal singing? We've observed this:

1. It unites the hearts of the family of God
2. He will release a blessing when we come to unity.
3. It allows for new understandings and revelation of God to come forth.
4. The antiphonal singing releases an anointed environment for the prophetic spirit to flow in the midst.
5. It results in intercession being enjoyable and easy.
6. It releases intensity and passion in the corporate prayer meeting.