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MUS 415: Worldview of Music and Worship: NO
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Lesson 1 Assignment

1.) What does Dr. Webber says is the "ancient" understanding of our relationship to "God's story" (p. 23)? Explain in your own words, in a paragraph of several complete sentences.

Dr. Webber says clearly that "the ancient understanding is that God joins the story of humanity to take us into His story" (23). God actively enters our lives and leads us into His story. He wants us to remember what He did in the past, and participate in His story in the future. He wants to be in our lives. In this way, we can understand that the focus of worship is on God.

2.) What two elements stand "at the very center of our worship."

From this question, I have learned that the elements at the center of worship are God's Word and the sacraments. These proclaim the vision of God. Ancient-future worship is a great model of worship that I will always keep learning in my life.

3.) What "contextualizes this worship more than anything else."

Music is the vehicle and drive to express our praises and prayers to God in our own languages. We can learn about God's story through hymns and songs, because they proclaim God's goodness and truth.

My current understanding of the relationship of music to worship:

The worship music I know is based on God's continuous revelation and teaching from the Bible's history. The praise and music played in church worship ceremonies are generally called sacred music or church music and are different from everyday secular music.

The content of sacred music mainly expresses the believers' feelings towards God, and at the same time, conveys God's enlightenment to the world. In fact, music is often mentioned in the Bible, and there are many examples in the poetry genre. Although God did not explicitly state

that music was created during the six days of creation, the book of Job mentions that when God was laying the foundation of the earth, the morning stars sang together (Job 38:4-7). Music could be seen. It is included in the essence of created things at the time of creation.

Today, many people think that worship is just going to church on Sunday morning to attend a meeting for just over an hour, but God's will does not stop there. He wants His children to worship Him at any time. God is a Spirit, and we must worship him in spirit and in truth. No matter where we are, we can always come to God and worship Him (John 4: 24).

From the Bible, we can see that music is prevalent among the Hebrew people in daily life. The first mention of music in the Bible is Jubal, one of Cain's descendants, the ancestor of all who play the piano and flute (Genesis 4:21). Later, Jacob fled from his father-in-law Laban's house with his wife and children and wanted to return to Canaan. When Laban caught up with them, he said to Jacob, "Why did you secretly run away and steal away without telling me so that I could send you back with joy, singing, drumming, and playing the piano?" (Genesis 31: 27). Today, we generally classify musical instruments into four categories: "blow, pull, play, and hit," which seems to be similar to the classification at the time.

Another example is recorded in Exodus Chapter 15. When Moses led the Israelites across the Red Sea on dry land, the crowd sang and praised the Lord together. Aaron's sister and prophet Miriam also had a drum in her hand, singing and dancing with the women in response to their praise. It is common to celebrate victory in battle with music, and biblical writers also use the silence of music to describe the bitterness of defeat (Isaiah 24: 8; Jeremiah 48: 33). What needs to be mentioned is that on the days when the Israelites attacked Jericho, the ones who led the army were the priests who blew the horns, and the weapons they attacked were also their shouts (Joshua 6: 8 and 20). Chronicles even recorded that when Jehoshaphat was king of Judah, he believed that God promised to repel strong enemies for them; he let the singers walk in front of the army when he sent out troops (2 Chronicles 20:21-22). And when they started to sing, God made their enemies kill each other, and the Israelites finally won without fighting. These battles are all about praising God with music and poetry to defeat the enemy. It seems that music can protect us. Music drives us to walk with God. We must spend every day in music and worship. We must read the Bible, pray, sing, and worship the Almighty God.