

The Perfect Songbook
Colossians 3:16

Main Point:

God has given you a perfect songbook; sing it with gratefulness!

1. God alone determines how His people are to worship Him.
2. God's people in the Old Testament sang only inspired songs and then eventually only the psalms.
3. God's people in the New Testament are to keep singing only the psalms.
4. The psalms are Christ-centered and sufficient for Christian worship today.
5. The psalms are inspired, approved, and universal.

Exodus 20:4-5a ⁴ "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of *anything* that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them ... (NKJV)

Exodus 32:4-5 ⁴ And he received *the gold* from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, "This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!" ⁵ So when Aaron saw *it*, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD." (NKJV)

Philip Ryken "The first commandment has to do with worshiping the right God ... The second commandment has to do with worshiping the right God in the right way."

Leviticus 10:1 ¹ Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. (NKJV)

Deuteronomy 12:32 ³² "Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it. (NKJV)

Philip Ryken "*How* we worship matters nearly as much to God as *whom* we worship. We may not worship him any way we like, but only the way that he has commanded."

Exodus 15:1 ¹ Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and spoke, saying: "I will sing to the LORD, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea! (NKJV)

Exodus 15:20-21 ²⁰ Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took the timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. ²¹ And Miriam answered them: "Sing to the LORD, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!" (NKJV)

1 Chronicles 16:7-8 ⁷ On that day David first delivered *this psalm* into the hand of Asaph and his brethren, to thank the LORD: ⁸ Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples! (NKJV)

2 Samuel 23:1-2 ¹ Now these *are* the last words of David. *Thus* says David the son of Jesse; *Thus* says the man raised up on high, The anointed of the God of Jacob, And the sweet psalmist of Israel: ² "The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, And His word *was* on my tongue. (NKJV)

2 Chronicles 29:30 ³⁰ Moreover King Hezekiah and the leaders commanded the Levites to sing praise to the LORD with the words of David and of Asaph the seer. So they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshiped. (NKJV)

Nehemiah 12:45 ⁴⁵ Both the singers and the gatekeepers kept the charge of their God and the charge of the purification, according to the command of David *and* Solomon his son. (NKJV)

Michael LeFebvre "The beauty of the Psalms is that they give to us, in an integrated collection of interwoven praises and struggles, hymns that are robust enough to provide everything our souls need to praise God in the real world, and to prepare for the eternal praise of the next world."