

# Daniel 3:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up:

## Analysis

---

The musical instruments listed—'cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick'—create an overwhelming sensory experience designed to elicit compliance. The Aramaic terms indicate a sophisticated orchestra, suggesting calculated psychological manipulation. When this impressive music sounds, 'ye fall down and worship the golden image' is commanded. The falling prostration demonstrates total submission. This passage reveals how totalitarian systems use pageantry, sensory manipulation, and social pressure to enforce conformity. The three Hebrew children's coming refusal becomes even more remarkable against this orchestrated compliance.

## Historical Context

---

Babylonian civilization was highly cultured, with advanced musical traditions. Archaeological discoveries include instruments and cuneiform texts describing musical theory and practice. Public worship ceremonies employed elaborate music to create emotional impact and religious fervor. The variety of instruments—wind (cornet, flute), string (harp, psaltery), and percussion—produced rich, complex sound. Coordinated musical cues for mass prostration were common in ancient religious rituals, creating psychological pressure for conformity through spectacle and social expectation.

## Related Passages

---

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

---

1. How do sensory manipulation and spectacle in modern culture work to enforce conformity to ungodly values?
2. What does the emphasis on musical pageantry teach about the difference between genuine worship and coerced compliance?

## Interlinear Text

---

מִשְׁרָקִיתָא	קָרְנָא	תְּשַׁמּוּעַ	לְ	בְּעֵדָן	אָ	לְ	תְּשַׁמּוּעַ	וְ	לְ	דַּי	בְּעֵדָן	אָ		
That at what time	H1768	ye hear		the sound		of the cornet				flute				
	H5732			H8086									H4953	
זָמָן	אָ	סִבְכָּא	אָ	פְּסִינְתְּרִין	וְ	סְמִמְפָּן	וְ	הַ	וְ	זָמָן	אָ	זָמָן	וְ	
harp		sackbut		psaltery		dulcimer				and all		kinds		of musick
H7030		H5443		H6460		H5481				H3606		H2178		H2170
תַּפְלֵל	וְ	וְ	תַּפְלֵל	וְ	לֹא	לִם	וְ	תַּסְגְּדוֹן	וְ	דְּבָבָר	אָ	דְּבָבָר	וְ	תַּפְלֵל
ye fall down		and worship		image		the golden				H1768		hath set up		
H5308		H5457		H6755		H1722						H6966		
מֶלֶךְ	אָ	נְבוּכָדְנָצָר	רָ											
that Nebuchadnezzar		the king												
H5020		H4430												

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Daniel 3:15** (Worship): Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye

shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

**Daniel 3:10** (Kingdom): Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, shall fall down and worship the golden image:

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)