

# 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

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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

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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

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

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

## Study Questions

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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

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|                     |               |              |                  |               |                |
|---------------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| בְּעֵדָנָא          | דִּי          | תִּשְׁמַע וְ | קָל              | קֶרֶן אֶ      | מִשְׁרוּקִיתָא |
| That at what time   | H1768         | ye hear      | the sound        | of the cornet | flute          |
| H5732               |               | H8086        | H7032            | H7162         | H4953          |
| וְסָבַב             | סַבָּכָא      | פְּסַלְתִּין | סוּמֶפֶּי נִי הֵ | וְכָל ל       | זֶנֶי י        |
| harp                | sackbut       | psaltery     | dulcimer         | and all       | kinds          |
| H7030               | H5443         | H6460        | H5481            | H3606         | H2178          |
| וְסָבַב             | וְתִסְבְּדוּן | לְפָנֵי      | וְהִבֵּי אֶ      | דִּי י        | הֵקִי ים       |
| ye fall down        | and worship   | image        | the golden       | H1768         | hath set up    |
| H5308               | H5457         | H6755        | H1722            |               | H6966          |
| נְבוּכַדְנֶצַּר     | מֶלֶכָא:      |              |                  |               |                |
| that Nebuchadnezzar | the king      |              |                  |               |                |
| H5020               | H4430         |              |                  |               |                |

## Additional Cross-References

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**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:

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