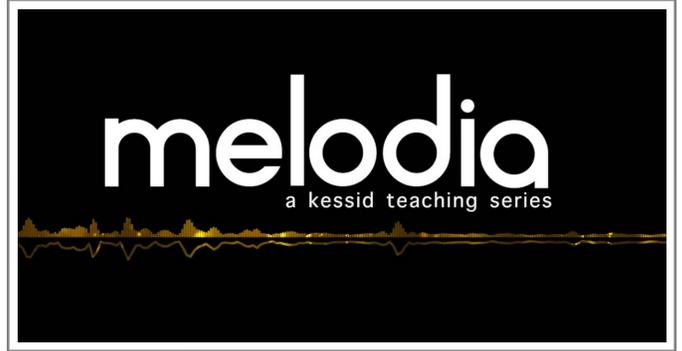


"GHETTO GOSPEL"
Date: March 21, 2021
Speaker: Danny Clinton



Song History:

- "Ghetto Gospel" is a song by rapper Tupac Shakur, which was released as the lead single from his 2004 posthumous album, 'Loyal to the Game.'
- The song was produced by rapper Eminem and samples the 1971 Elton John song, "Indian Sunset." The single topped the charts in the United Kingdom (for 3 weeks), as well as Australia, Czech Republic, and the Republic of Ireland.
- The song was written by Tupac as an outcry to "end the war on the streets," addressing the futility of racial difference and dissidence, particularly under the unifying banner of poverty. The song is a cry for unity and togetherness.
- In response to Eminem's remix, Elton John said: "How he's managed to meld [Indian Sunset] with Tupac, I'll never know. It's just genius."

These two artists are from radically different Melodia...

- **Question:** How many Elton fans?
- **Question:** How many Tupac Fans?

What I found fascinating was how two radically different genres of music could be brought together to make something new that could not be what it was without the other?

- There's a similar picture to this in the Bible...
- It lies within something I'll call an... "Eternal Melodia"

(Vs) Rev. 4:8 – And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"

This phrase "holy, holy, holy" appears twice in the Bible, once in the Old Testament and once in the New.

- Both times the phrase is spoken or sung by heavenly creatures, and both times it occurs in the vision of a man who was transported to the throne of God: In the Old Testament, it's by the Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 6:3), and then in the new, by the Apostle John. (Revelation 4:8)

The three-fold repetition of God’s holiness.

- The phrase “holy, holy, holy” is called the ‘*trihagion*.’
- The repetition of a name or an expression three times was quite common among the Jews... “Therefore, when the angels around the throne call or cry to one another, “Holy, holy, holy,” they are expressing with force and passion the truth of the supreme holiness of God, that essential characteristic which expresses His awesome and majestic nature.”
- In addition, the *trihagion* expresses the triune nature of God, the three Persons of the Godhead, each equal in holiness and majesty.
- Father, Son, Holy Spirit

What’s really important to understand is what exactly is meant by “God’s holiness.”

- Important! “The holiness of God is the most difficult of all God’s attributes to explain.” Partly because it is one of His essential attributes that is not shared, inherently, by man...
- We are created in God’s image, and we can share many of His attributes to a much lesser extent, of course : love, mercy, faithfulness, etc.
- But, some of God’s attributes such as omnipresence, omniscience, and omnipotence, will never be shared by created beings.
- Similarly, holiness is not something that we will possess as an inherent part of our nature...

“We only become holy in relationship to Christ.”

- It is an *imputed* holiness, meaning only in Christ do we “become the righteousness of God.”

(Vs) 2nd Cor. 5:21 – “For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”

God’s Holiness...

- God’s holiness is what separates Him from all other beings; what makes Him separate and distinct from everything else.
- God’s holiness is more than just His perfection or sinless purity. It is the essence of His “other-ness,” His transcendence.
- God’s holiness embodies the mystery of His awesomeness and causes us to gaze in wonder at Him, as we begin to comprehend just a little of His majesty.

In the O.T., Isaiah was a firsthand witness of God’s holiness.

- Scripture says... Even though Isaiah was a prophet of God and a righteous man, his reaction to the vision of God’s holiness was to be aware of his own sinfulness and to despair for his life, even the angels in God’s presence covered their faces and feet with four of their six wings concealing themselves as much as possible, in recognition of their unworthiness in the presence of the Holy One.
- If the pure and holy seraphim exhibit such reverence in the presence of the Lord, with what profound awe should we, as polluted and sinful creatures, presume to draw near to Him, the reverence shown to God by the angels is meant to remind us of our own presumption when we rush thoughtlessly and irreverently into His presence.

This is where a lot of people's relationship with The Lord resides...

- There's His Melodia and Mine... Separated and Apart

John's vision of the throne of God in Revelation 4 was similar to that of Isaiah.

- Again, there were living creatures around the throne crying, "*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty*" in reverence and awe of the Holy One.
- John also goes on to describe these creatures giving glory and honor and reverence to God continually around His throne.
- Interestingly though, John's reaction to the vision of God in His throne is different from Isaiah's. There is no record of John falling down in terror and awareness of his own sinful state. He somehow stands in God's presence and holiness...How? Why?
- This is most likely because of something that happened to John earlier in the vision.

(Vs) Revelations 1:12-18 – "Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands..."

- At the beginning of his vision, before John had entered the throne room of God, He had encountered the risen Christ.
- Christ had placed His hand upon John and told him not to be afraid.

John's later response was illustrating the work Jesus had come to do...

- This is the same way we can approach the throne of God, if we have the hand of Christ upon us in the form of His righteousness.
- This is actually where all of our relationships with The Lord are supposed to reside.
- Yes, two different Melodias, The Created and The Creator, and yet, brought together to make something new that could not be what it was without the other!!!
- This is what this entire series has been leading to!
- 'Togetherness' with each other and with our Creator in life-giving community! The Gospel with the Ghetto, the Ghetto with the Gospel.
- This is still happening right now! An Eternal Melodia of Unity and Praise!