

HIS

Nature

Great is the LORD,
and most worthy of praise.
PSALM 48:1

CHORUSING INSECTS

In the rush of life we sometimes overlook the most important things. Such is true of worship. We know that God both desires and deserves our praise, but we often subtly convince ourselves that we're just "too busy." Or maybe our hearts are willing, but our minds and bodies are pressed down by the stress of modern life. If that is the case, let me encourage you to be refreshed by one of the greatest acts of worship found anywhere—the chorus of late-summer insects.

Science has insisted for years that the main purpose behind insect songs—those of adult male cicadas, crickets, and katydid—is the procurement of a mate and nothing more. A handful of honest scientists, however, admit that there is very little evidence for this notion and are puzzled by the prevalence of



Cicada

insect music. Most startling to them is the fact that hundreds of insects frequently sing in almost perfect harmony with one another (known as *chorusing*), as if some invisible Conductor were at work. Hmm.

Like members of an orchestra drawing bows across their violin strings, crickets and katydid vigorously rub their wings together, thus forming their simple but unique melodies. The cicada, on the other hand, produces his sonorous buzzing amid the high-topped trees with

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the skill of a concert percussionist. During his daily performances the cicada's entire abdomen acts as a bass drum, rapidly vibrating under the influence of powerful internal muscles.

You judge for yourself. I sincerely believe that the worldwide symphony of countless cicadas by day and the myriad of katydids and crickets by night is an offering of continuous praise to their Composer, our Lord Jesus Christ. Please allow the robust sounds of summer insects to lead you into worship.

"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing," that great hymn written by Charles Wesley, exhorts us to join the grand chorus of creation:

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!

It reminds us that Christ is worthy of adoration day and night (Psalm 92:1-2).

At any given moment, we may or may not choose to worship our Lord. A host of creatures in heaven and on earth will, even if we don't. But how sweet is the praise that comes daily from the hearts of God's own children.

THE NOISY CICADA

Cicadas can produce sounds up to 120 decibels at close range, making them the loudest of all insects. Their song is technically loud enough to cause permanent hearing loss in humans, should the cicada sing just outside the listener's ear (which is pretty unlikely).

Nearly all cicadas spend multiple years growing underground as juveniles before emerging above ground for a short adult stage of several weeks. The seven periodical cicada species are so named because, in any one location, the members of the population emerge as adults all at once in the same year.

This periodicity is especially amazing because their life cycles are extremely long—13 or 17 years. Cicadas of all other species (perhaps 3,000 worldwide) are not synchronized, so some adults mature each summer and emerge while the rest of the population continues to develop underground.

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*Let every creature praise his holy
name for ever and ever.*

PSALM 145:21