

# Should We Use Musical Instruments In Our Worship To God?

Is the use of instruments in worship authorized by the New Testament?

## Introduction

- This question always causes deep controversy among those who believe they are Christians
- If there is disagreement on the answer, this certainly leads almost always to division
- We could just say that God is silent in the New Testament about using musical instruments in worship

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## Introduction

- But, we will go farther and study the Old Testament background of music along with New Testament instruction on music
- Reasonable to conclude that if God wanted us to use instruments in worship today, we would find some New Testament instruction concerning them
- Why this difference between the two covenants?
- Let us study with humility and honesty seeking to follow only the truth

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# Should We Use Musical Instruments In Our Worship To God?

Old Testament authorized Instruments in worship

New Testament silent about instruments in worship

Why the difference?

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## Old Testament Authorized Instruments In Worship

- Not much said about organized use of instruments in worship before David
- Note a couple of passages

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## Old Testament Authorized Instruments In Worship

GEN 4:21 His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe.

EXO 15:20 ¶ Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took the timbrel in her hand, and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dancing.

EXO 15:21 Miriam answered them, "Sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted; The horse and his rider He has hurled into the sea." 6

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## Old Testament Authorized Instruments In Worship

- The Lord commanded David a pattern for arranging musical worship in both the tabernacle and the temple to be conducted by the Levites
- Instruments associated with Law of Moses, Divinely designated place of worship, priesthood and animal sacrifices
- Note they played until offering was finished

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## Old Testament Authorized Instruments In Worship

2CH 29:25 ¶ He then stationed the Levites in the house of the Lord with cymbals, with harps and with lyres, according to the command of David and of Gad the king's seer, and of Nathan the prophet; for the command was from the Lord through His prophets.

2CH 29:26 The Levites stood with the musical instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets.

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## Old Testament Authorized Instruments In Worship

2CH 29:27 Then Hezekiah gave the order to offer the burnt offering on the altar. When the burnt offering began, the song to the Lord also began with the trumpets, accompanied by the instruments of David, king of Israel.

2Ch 29:28 While the whole assembly worshiped, the singers also sang and the trumpets sounded; all this *continued* until the burnt offering was finished.

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## Old Testament Authorized Instruments In Worship

2Ch 29:29 Now at the completion of the burnt offerings, the king and all who were present with him bowed down and worshiped.

2Ch 29:30 Moreover, King Hezekiah and the officials ordered the Levites to sing praises to the LORD with the words of David and Asaph the seer. So they sang praises with joy, and bowed down and worshiped.

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## New Testament Silent About Instruments In Worship

- In the New Testament, we read of singing but no mention of mechanical instruments in worship
- We will get to why this is so in the next part but note these New Testament passages
- Only mention of instruments related to any worship is in Revelation which is filled with figurative language that we dare not try to make literal

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## New Testament Silent About Instruments In Worship

MAT 26:30 ¶ After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

MAR 14:26 ¶ After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

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## New Testament Silent About Instruments In Worship

ACT 16:25 ¶ But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;

ROM 15:9 and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written, "Therefore I will give praise to You among the Gentiles, And I will sing to Your name."

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## New Testament Silent About Instruments In Worship

1CO 14:15 What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also.

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## New Testament Silent About Instruments In Worship

EPH 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

COL 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

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## New Testament Silent About Instruments In Worship

HEB 2:12 saying, "I will proclaim Your name to My brethren, In the midst of the congregation I will sing Your praise."

HEB 13:15 Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

JAM 5:13 ¶ Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises.

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## New Testament Silent About Instruments In Worship

Incense not literal so be careful what we make literal

Rev 5:8 When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

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## New Testament Silent About Instruments In Worship

- New Testament worship is spiritual in nature produced by the heart and the lips, not machinery
- We must not use the Old Testament pattern of worship to establish authority for how we should worship today
- If we believe we are authorized to use instruments in worship today, we must have a positive word from the New Testament

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## Why The Difference?

- Jewish system of physical sacrifices, Levitical priesthood and temple worship, including instruments, taken away
- New covenant replaced old because a perfect priest has offered His perfect sacrifice in heaven once for all
- Worship and service focus on spiritual not physical
- To seek authority for instruments from Old Testament obligates us to follow all of it <sup>19</sup>

## Worship In Spirit And In Truth

JOH 4:23 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

JOH 4:24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

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## Change of Priesthood Required Change of Covenant

Heb 7:11 Now if perfection was through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the people received the Law), what further need *was there* for another priest to arise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be designated according to the order of Aaron?

Heb 7:12 For when the priesthood is changed, of necessity there takes place a change of law also.

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## New Covenant Superior To Old Covenant

HEB 8:10 "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel After those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their minds, And I will write them on their hearts. And I will be their God, And they shall be My people.

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## New Covenant Superior To Old Covenant

HEB 8:11 "And they shall not teach everyone his fellow citizen, And everyone his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' For all will know Me, From the least to the greatest of them.

HEB 8:12 "For I will be merciful to their iniquities, And I will remember their sins no more."

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## New Covenant Superior To Old Covenant

HEB 8:13 When He said, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

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## Played Until Offering Finished Then Sang With Words

2Ch 29:28 While the whole assembly worshiped, the singers also sang and the trumpets sounded; all this *continued until the burnt offering was finished.*

2Ch 29:30 Moreover, King Hezekiah and the officials ordered the Levites to sing praises to the LORD with the words of David and Asaph the seer. So they sang praises with joy, and bowed down and worshiped.

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## Jesus Perfect Sacrifice Offered Once For All

HEB 10:10 By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

HEB 10:11 ¶ Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins;

HEB 10:12 but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God,

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## Jesus Perfect Sacrifice Offered Once For All

HEB 10:13 waiting from that time onward until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet.

HEB 10:14 For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

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## Sacrifice of Fruit of Lips Not Instruments

HEB 13:15 Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

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## Obligated To Keep Whole Law of Moses

Gal 5:3 And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law.

Gal 5:4 You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

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## Music In Worship In The New Testament

- New Testament reveals no pattern that instructs us to accompany our singing in worship with of musical instruments
- We are instructed only to praise Him in spiritual songs making melody with our hearts

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