



QA: Why Can't We Praise God With Instruments? by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

QUESTION: Why can we not praise God with the instruments they used in the Old Testament?

ANSWER: As always, let the Bible speak about Its silence.

- 1. God Was Specific In Giving Details About His Worship.** In **Exodus 20-40**, **Leviticus**, & **Deuteronomy**, the priests were never instructed to use instruments of music in connection with the sacrifices offered! *Musical instruments were never included in the tabernacle, and later, the temple!* The issue is not that such instruments were used by people, but whether they were authorized by God for His worship.
- 2. David Takes Credit For Authorizing Instruments For Praise:** And the children of the Levites bore the ark of God on their shoulders, by its poles, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the LORD. Then David spoke to the leaders of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the singers accompanied by instruments of music, stringed instruments, harps, and cymbals, by raising the voice with resounding joy. (**1 Chronicles 15:15-16**) Though David said these were instruments "which I made" (**1 Chronicles 23:5**), and they were used outside the holy tabernacle, they were assumed to be "musical instruments of God" (**1 Chronicles 16:42**). *They were never authorized by God to be used in the Holy or Most Holy parts of the tabernacle/ temple.* When Hezekiah restored burnt offerings, He stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, with stringed instruments, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, of Gad the king's seer, and of Nathan the prophet; for thus was the commandment of the LORD by his prophets. The Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets. (**2 Chronicles 29:25-26**) Gad had commanded the place for David to build the altar (**1 Chronicles 21:18-19**), Nathan had forbidden David from building a temple (**1 Chronicles 17:1-15**), but it was David's authority that had commanded the instruments! *The Levites and sacrifices were authorized by God in the Law of Moses, but the musical instruments never were authorized by anyone other than David.* Condemning the "ease in Zion" God later pronounced a "woe" to those who "sing idly to the sound of stringed instruments, And invent for yourselves musical instruments like David" (**Amos 6:1, 5**). God never condemns what He has authorized!
- 3. The church of Christ is the spiritual temple of God today.** To the Corinthians, Paul wrote: "you are the temple of the living God" (**2 Corinthians 6:16**). Peter wrote that

[Christians] as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (**1 Peter 2:5**)

Music in praise and worship to God should spring from heartfelt faith:

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (**Colossians 3:16**)

God did not authorize musical instruments before or during the time of the Law of Moses, and God has not authorized worship with musical instruments under the Law of Jesus Christ! "Singing" must come out vocally from our Bible filled heart, and not our talented hands upon musical instruments.

— *jtp11, May 22, 2022*