



QA: Why Not Instrumental Music In Worship? by [John T Polk II](#)

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

QUESTION: Why can't people worship God with music instruments, like in Psalms?

ANSWER: Because what we say we want to use in worship is not what God wants! Many people use **Psalm 150** to justify musical instruments for New Testament praise. **Psalm 150** teaches we should praise the LORD, not men!

Verse 1: Where to "praise God;" **Verse 2:** Why "praise God;" **Verses 3-5:** How to "praise God;" **Verse 6:** Who is to "praise God."

Verse 1: "Praise the LORD" is "Hallelujah," or praise Jehovah, The Self-existent Deity; the next is "Praise God," or "Halleluel," or praise Elohim, "The Power." God's "sanctuary" is the designated, set aside place as "holy" where God should be worshiped. The first in the tabernacle in the wilderness (**Exodus 25:8; Hebrews 9:1-5**) had a "sanctuary" where worship occurred, then "the Holiest of All" where God was represented as forgiving sins. Next, in the temple in Jerusalem (**1 Kings 6:1-17**), there was the "sanctuary" and the "inner sanctuary." Now the church of Christ (**Hebrews 8:1-2; 9:6-12; 2 Corinthians 1:1; 6:16**) is the "sanctuary," but Heaven, itself, is "the Most Holy Place."

Verse 2: Praise Him because of "His mighty acts," or all those miraculous or providential deeds far beyond "all that we ask or think" (**Ephesians 3:20-21**). Praise Him for "His excellent greatness," realizing nothing is great without God, but that all God does is greater than men (**1 Corinthians 1:18-25**).

Verses 3-5: David added musical instruments to God's worship (**1 Chronicles 23:5**), called "instruments of David" authorized by his own authority and not God's (**1 Chronicles 15:16; 2 Chronicles 7:6**), and condemned by God's prophet, Amos (**Amos 6:1, 5**). The only musical instrument specified by God for the church of Christ is "your heart" (**Ephesians 5:19**), and there is no authorization in the New Testament for the bringing over and use of "instruments of music, like David." **None of the instruments listed in Psalm 150 were ever used in the church of Christ by the authority of God. There are only two quotations of Psalms concerning music in the New Testament, and both say "sing" (Psalm 18:49 = Romans 15:9; Psalm 22:22 = Hebrews 2:12).**

Verse 6: "Everything that has breath" means every living creature: those that are not human "praise God" because they demonstrate His Wisdom and Creative Power; those that are human praise with words and deeds from their heart:

Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget

to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.
(**Hebrews 13:15-16**)

— *jtp11, May 1, 2022*