

Authority

Instrumental Music

Points to Consider

1. History of Instrumental Music in the Old Testament
2. History of Instrumental Music in the New Testament and Beyond
3. Applying the Principles

History of Instrumental Music in the Old Testament

Gen 4:20-21 *And Adah bore Jubal. He was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. 21 His brother's name was Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the harp and flute.*

Instruments date back to before the _____. Jubal lived six generations after Cain.

Uses of Instruments

Num 10:2-5 *Make two silver trumpets for yourself; you shall make them of hammered work; you shall use them for calling the congregation and for directing the movement of the camps. 3 When they blow both of them, all the congregation shall gather before you at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. 4 But if they blow only one, then the leaders, the heads of the divisions of Israel, shall gather to you.*

Instruments were used to _____ an assembly together.

Josh 6:5 *It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him."*

Instruments were used to _____ the start of a battle.

Instruments were used to _____ important occasions. (Gen 31:27)

Instruments were used during the anointing of Solomon. (1 Kings 1:34)

Instruments were used as a calming agent. (1 Samuel 16:23)

Used in Worship

Ps 150 *Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty firmament! 2 Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness! 3 Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp! 4 Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes! 5 Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with clashing cymbals! 6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!*

The psalmist is calling people to _____ God with instruments.

Ex 15:20-21 *Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took the timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. 21 And Miriam answered them: "Sing to the Lord, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!"*

After crossing the Red Sea, Miriam praised God with _____ and dances. A tumbrel was a tambourine.

2 Sam 6:5 *David and the whole house of Israel were celebrating with all their might before the Lord, with songs and with harps, lyres, tambourines, sistrums and cymbals.*

When David was attempting to move the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem, _____ accompanied their celebration.

1 Chron 15:13-16 *It was because you, the Levites, did not bring it up the first time that the Lord our God broke out in anger against us. We did not inquire of him about how to do it in the prescribed way." 14 So the priests and Levites consecrated themselves in order to bring up the ark of the Lord, the God of Israel. 15 And the Levites carried the ark of God with the poles on their shoulders, as Moses had commanded in accordance with the word of the Lord. 16 David told the leaders of the Levites to appoint their brothers as singers to sing joyful songs, accompanied by musical instruments: lyres, harps and cymbals.*

The second time the Ark of the Covenant was moved the singers sang joyful songs _____ by musical instruments.

2 Chron 29:25-26 *He stationed the Levites in the temple of the Lord with cymbals, harps and lyres in the way prescribed by David and Gad the king's seer and Nathan the prophet; this was commanded by the Lord through his prophets. 26 So the Levites stood ready with David's instruments, and the priests with their trumpets.*

When Hezekiah was restoring temple worship he stationed the Levites with instruments as the _____ commanded through His prophets.

History of Instrumental Music in the New Testament and Beyond

Acts 16:24-25 *Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.*

With their hands bound, Paul and Silas _____hymns to God.

1 Cor 14:13-16 *Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. 14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. 15 What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.*

Paul said he would sing with the _____.

Eph 5:17-21 *Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.*

We are to _____to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

What does the word "psalm" mean in the text?

Eph 5:19 *Joining with one another in holy songs of praise and of the Spirit, using your voice in songs and making melody in your heart to the Lord; BBE*

We are to _____and make melody in our hearts.

Col 3:16-17 *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. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

We are to _____and admonish one another by singing. Everything we do should be done by the authority of Jesus.

James 5:13-14 *Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.*

_____is an expression of our cheerfulness.

Post First Century

SHAFF "The first organ certainly known to exist and be used in a church was put in the cathedral at Aix-la-chapel by the German emperor, Charlemange, who came to the throne in 768AD. It met with great opposition among the Romanists, especially among the monks, and that it made its way but slowly into common use. So great was the opposition even as late as the 16th century that it would have been abolished by the council of Trent but for the influence of the Emperor Ferdinand.... In the Greek church the organ never came into use... The Reform church discarded it; and though the church of Basel very early introduced it, it was in other places admitted only sparingly and after long hesitation." (Shaff-Herzog Encyclopedia, Vol 2, p. 1702)

POSEY "For years the Baptists fought the introduction of instrumental music into the churches...Installation of the organ brought serious difficulties in many churches" (Wm. B. Posey, Baptist, The Baptist Church In The Lower Mississippi Valley).

LUTHER "The organ in the worship is the insignia of Baal... The Roman Catholic borrowed it from the Jews." (Martin Luther, McClintock & Strong's Encyclopedia Volume VI, page 762)

HASTING If instrumental music was not part of early Christian worship, when did it become acceptable? Several reference works will help us see the progression of this practice among churches: "Pope Vitalian introduced an organ in the church in the seventh century to aid the singing but it was opposed and was removed." (James Hasting, Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics.)

CLARKE "I am an old man, and I here declare that I never knew them to be productive of any good in the worship of God, and have reason to believe that they are productive of much evil. Music as a science I esteem and admire, but instrumental music in the house of God I abominate and abhor. This is the abuse of music, and I here register my protest against all such corruption of the worship of the author of Christianity. The late and venerable and most eminent divine, the Rev. John Wesley, who was a lover of music, and an elegant poet, when asked his opinion of instruments of music being introduced into the chapels of the Methodists, said in his terse and powerful manner, 'I have no objections to instruments of music in our chapels, provided they are neither heard nor seen.' I say the same." (Adam Clark, Methodist)

CALVIN "Musical instruments in celebrating the praises of God would be no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting of lamps, and the restoration of the other shadows of the law. The Papists therefore, have foolishly borrowed, this, as well as many other things, from the Jews. Men who are fond of outward pomp may delight in that noise; but the simplicity which God recommends to us by the apostles is far more pleasing to him. Paul allows us to bless God in the public assembly of the saints, only in a

known tongue (I Cor. 14:16) What shall we then say of chanting, which fills the ears with nothing but an empty sound?" (John Calvin, Commentary on Psalms 33)

The introduction of instruments in "Christian" worship is a relatively _____event.

Applying the Principles

Why?

John 4:23-24 *But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*

Personally, instruments hinder me from understanding the words to songs. No, this is not something that has happened since I've been old. I've had this issue since I was a kid. The words we sing teach and admonish us, not the instruments.

Without permission there is _____authority.
When we don't know what to do, we go back to the latest _____document. (Josiah)

We should not do things that violate people's conscience (1 Cor 8). Every time instruments have been introduced into a religious organization, they have caused _____among people.

What we like or what we want does _____matter.
God consistently punished people in the Bible for violating seemingly unimportant commands.

We know it is _____to God not to use instruments in our worship.
If, in the end, God doesn't mind the use of instruments, that is _____prerogative.