

Musical Instruments in Worship

The background of the slide is a dark, textured collage of musical elements. It features various musical staves with notes, clefs, and dynamic markings like 'dimin.' and 'f'. There are also faint, stylized illustrations of musical instruments, including a violin on the left and a trumpet on the right, all rendered in a light blue or teal color that contrasts with the dark background.

Musical Instruments in OT Worship

- Num. 10:2, 10

–“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....Also in the day of your gladness, in your appointed feasts, and at the beginning of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; and they shall be a memorial for you before your God: I am the LORD your God.”

Musical Instruments in OT Worship

- Num. 10:2, 10
 - The trumpet & the number of trumpets was the only authorized use of an instrument
 - Priests were the only persons authorized to use the trumpet
 - The exact occasion of blowing the trumpets was specified

Musical Instruments in OT Worship

- It was not until the days of David that other musical instruments were authorized
- The use of instruments was regulated by divine command
- Moses was not at liberty to use Egyptian trumpets: God gave the design

Musical Instruments in OT Worship

- 1 Chron. 16:1, 4-6
- “Then he appointed some of the Levites as ministers before the ark of the LORD, to invoke, to thank, and to praise the LORD, the God of Israel. Asaph was the chief, and second to him were Zechariah, Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, Obed-edom, and Jeiel, who were to play harps and lyres; Asaph was to sound the cymbals, and Benaiah and Jahaziel the priests were to blow trumpets regularly before the ark of the covenant of God.”

Musical Instruments in OT Worship

- 1 Chron. 23:4-5, 25-26
 - “The Levites, thirty years old and upward, were numbered, and the total was 38,000 men....4,000 shall offer praises to the LORD with the instruments that I have made for praise....For David said, “The LORD, the God of Israel, has given rest to his people, and he dwells in Jerusalem forever. And so the Levites no longer need to carry the tabernacle or any of the things for its service.”

Musical Instruments in OT Worship

- 2 Chron. 29:25-27 (Hezekiah's Reforms)
- “And he stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, harps, and lyres, according to the commandment of David and of Gad the king's seer and of Nathan the prophet, for the commandment was from the LORD through his prophets. The Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets. Then Hezekiah commanded that the burnt offering be offered on the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song to the LORD began also, and the trumpets, accompanied by the instruments of David king of Israel.”

Musical Instruments in OT Worship

- 2 Chron. 29:25-27 (Hezekiah's Reforms)
- “And he stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, harps, and lyres, **according to the commandment of David and of Gad the king's seer and of Nathan the prophet, for the commandment was from the LORD through his prophets.** The Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets. Then Hezekiah commanded that the burnt offering be offered on the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song to the LORD began also, and the trumpets, accompanied by the instruments of David king of Israel.”

Musical Instruments in OT Worship

- Important observations:
 - They did not presume to add instruments: *“for the command was from the Lord through His prophets”*
 - Instruments were limited to what David authorized: *“the Levites stood with the musical instruments of David”*
 - *“priests with the trumpets”* (authority of Moses)
 - David did not institute instruments of his own accord: *“the command was from the Lord”*

Musical Instruments in OT Worship

- 1 Chron. 28:11-13
- “Then David gave Solomon his son the plan of the vestibule of the temple, and of its houses, its treasuries, its upper rooms, and its inner chambers, and of the room for the mercy seat; and the plan of all that he had in mind for the courts of the house of the LORD, all the surrounding chambers, the treasuries of the house of God, and the treasuries for dedicated gifts; for the divisions of the priests and of the Levites, and all the work of the service in the house of the LORD.”

Musical Instruments in OT Worship

- 1 Chron. 28:19
- “All this he made clear to me in writing from the hand of the LORD, all the work to be done according to the plan.”
- Summed up:
 - Instruments were not a “liberty” for Israel
 - The Lord designated the specific instruments to be used & the individuals using them
 - No other instruments were added throughout the OT period

The Restoration Principle & David

- 2 Chron. 23:18 (Reforms of Jehoida, Joash)
- “And Jehoiada posted watchmen for the house of the LORD under the direction of the Levitical priests and the Levites whom David had organized to be in charge of the house of the LORD, to offer burnt offerings to the LORD, as it is written in the Law of Moses, with rejoicing and with singing, according to the order of David.”

The Restoration Principle & David

- 2 Chron. 29:25-27 (Hezekiah's Reforms)
- “And he stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, harps, and lyres, **according to the commandment of David and of Gad the king's seer and of Nathan the prophet, for the commandment was from the LORD through his prophets.** The Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets. Then Hezekiah commanded that the burnt offering be offered on the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song to the LORD began also, and the trumpets, accompanied by **the instruments of David king of Israel.**”

The Restoration Principle & David

- 2 Chron. 35:4-5 (Reforms of Josiah)
- Prepare yourselves according to your fathers' houses by your divisions, as prescribed in the writing of David king of Israel and the document of Solomon his son. And stand in the Holy Place according to the groupings of the fathers' houses of your brothers the lay people, and according to the division of the Levites by fathers' household.

The Restoration Principle & David

- Ezra 3:10 (Reforms of Zerubbabel)
- And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests in their vestments came forward with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the LORD, according to the directions of David king of Israel.

The Restoration Principle & David

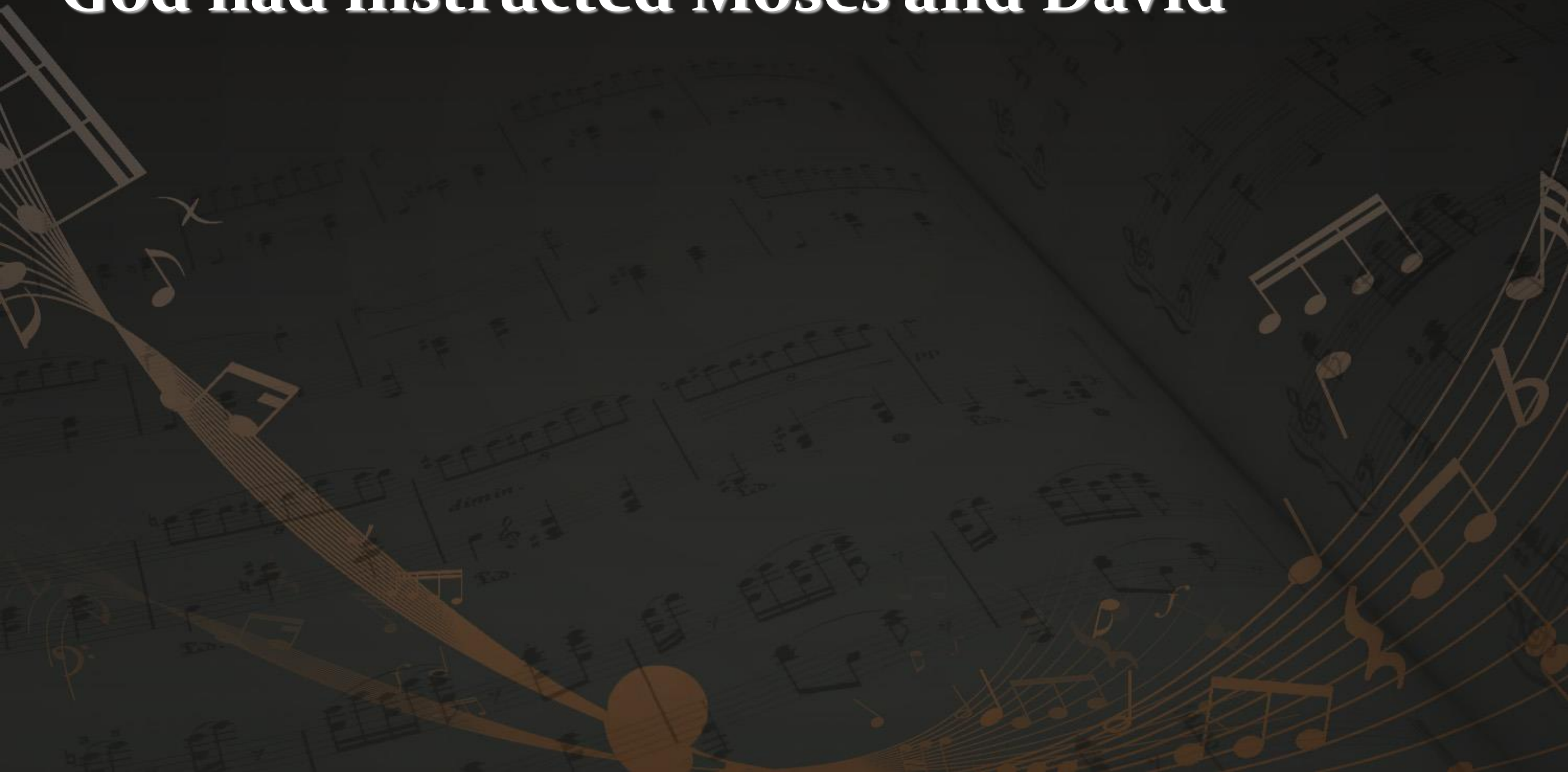
- Neh. 12:24, 35 (Reforms of Nehemiah)
- And the chiefs of the Levites: Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua the son of Kadmiel, with their brothers who stood opposite them, to praise and to give thanks, according to the commandment of David the man of God, watch by watch, and certain of the priests' sons with trumpets: Zechariah the son of Jonathan, son of Shemaiah, son of Mattaniah, son of Micaiah, son of Zaccur, son of Asaph; and his relatives, Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah, and Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God. And Ezra the scribe went before them.

The Restoration Principle & David

- Neh. 12:45-46 (Reforms of Nehemiah)
- And they performed the service of their God and the service of purification, as did the singers and the gatekeepers, according to the command of David and his son Solomon. For long ago in the days of David and Asaph there were directors of the singers, and there were songs of praise and thanksgiving to God.

The Restoration Principle & David

- No one ever assumed they had authority to order worship in any other way than the way God had instructed Moses and David



God Created the Instrument

- Num. 10:2 “Make two silver trumpets. Of hammered work you shall make them, and you shall use them for summoning the congregation and for breaking camp.”
- Josephus: “Moses was the inventor of the form of their trumpet, which was made of silver. Its description is this: in length it was little less than a cubit. It was composed of a narrow tube, somewhat thicker than a flute.”

God Created the Instrument

- Amos 6:4-6
- Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and stretch themselves out on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the midst of the stall, who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David invent for themselves instruments of music, who drink wine in bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

God Created the Instrument

- *Invent, make, devise* -- Hebrew: hashab -- “to employ the mind in conceiving and designing new or original artistic productions” (BDB)
- Bezalel’s designs in the tabernacle (Ex. 31:3-5; 35:35) - “*making, devising*”
- Uzziah “*made engines of war invented by skillful men*” (2 Chron. 26:15)
- 1 Chron. 23:4-5 “*musical instruments which I made*”
- Thus, the *musical instruments of David*

God Created the Instrument

- Deut. 12:30
- Take care that you be not ensnared to follow them, after they have been destroyed before you, and that you do not inquire about their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods?—that I also may do the same.'
- God specified *who, when, how, & the design*
- Remember Lev. 10:1-3 - *common vs. holy worship*

Musical Instruments in the NT

- We must ask...
 - Who gives the standard of worship? David?
 - Is there authority for the instrument?
 - If so, what specific instruments?
 - Who is to play them? Priests & Levites?

Musical Instruments in the NT

- Hebrews 7:12
- “For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well.”
- Hebrews 8:13
- “In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.”
- Hebrews 9:8
- “The Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing.”

Musical Instruments in the NT

- *Therefore, OT instructions on the instrument are not applicable today*
- *Where are NT instructions for the instrument?*
- *Only singing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16, etc.)*

Final Considerations

- Rom. 12; 1 Cor. 12 -- No “gift” concerning musical instruments in the NT
- Why are there no instructions from the apostles or examples in NT worship?
- The Holy Spirit spoke profusely in the OT. Why silent in the new?
- Of the numerous psalms that speak of praise with instruments, none are quoted in the NT
- The instruments of David & the sacrificial system were tied together. Both fall together.

Final Considerations

- “a cappella” -- *“in the manner of the chapel/church”*
- Though the first Christians were Jews, no musical instruments in 1st century worship
- NT worship in song reflects synagogue worship: *“Early Christianity inherited its musical practices and attitude from Judaism, especially from the Synagogue. Unlike the Temple, the Synagogue employed no instruments in its services...”* (James McKinnon - leading 20th century scholar, early church music)

Final Considerations

- The first instruments in worship were introduced in 670 BC & were not common until the late 1200's.
- Thomas Aquinas (1260): *"The Church does not use musical instruments when praising God, in case she should seem to fall back into Judaism."*
- Early reformers (Wycliffe, John Hus, Erasmus, Zwingli, & Calvin) all preached against the instrument in worship.

•“Musical instruments in celebrating the praises of God would be no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting up 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 apostle is far more pleasing to him.”

-- John Calvin

Musical Instruments in Worship?

Where's the Authority?

