Instruments In The Temple

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As we have discussed, some reason that since instruments of music were used in the Temple, that God would not have a problem with their use today in the Church.

Instruments used in the Temple:

Psaltery—ancient musical instrument resembling the Zither

Zither—usually has 30-40 strings over a shallow horizontal soundboard played with a pic or fingers

Timbrel—small hand drum or tambourine

Harp—consist of a resonator, arched/angled neck supported by post/strings of great length that are perpendicular to the soundboard

Shofar—a type of horn made from a ram’s horn. It was used for battle and religious observances

Lyre—a musical instrument with strings

Cithern/Cittern—guitar like instrument that is pear shaped

Shepherd’s Pipe—This was an oboe like instrument made from reed

Castanets—There were two kinds, small and large. The small made a clear sound while the larger one made a deeper tone.

In I Chronicles 25:1-8 we see where David authorized the use of instruments. He had set apart the sons of Asaph and Heman to prophesy with lyres, harps, and cymbals, while the sons of Jeduthun also prophesied with lyres in thanksgiving and praise to the Lord. Both men and women were engaged in the music.

II Chronicles 5:12-14

I Chronicles 23:5—Some argue that this passage leads one to believe that David made instruments to introduce into the worship without God’s permission.

Solomon introduced instruments in the dedication of the Temple in II Chronicles 5-7

II Chronicles 29—Hezekiah restored the use of instruments in worship after the death of his unfaithful evil father, King Ahaz.

Nehemiah 12: 31; 35-36; 45 Instruments were used by those returning from exile in worship.

Amos 6:1-5

Music in the Church today comes from Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; and Hebrews 13:15

There is no evidence of the Apostles worshiping with instruments in the temple in the first century.