

# Music in Worship

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## Introduction

In this lesson, we ask, “What kind of music in worship should we offer unto God? Does it matter? Should we use instruments of music? Should our praise be expressed exclusively in song?”

The practice of New Testament disciples is set forth in the following verses (Matt. 26:30; Mark 14:26; Acts 16:25; Rom. 15:9; 1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 2:12; James 5:13).

*Matthew 26:30 (NASB95) — 30 After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*

*Mark 14:26 (NASB95) — 26 After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*

*Acts 16:25 (NASB95) — 25 But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;*

*Romans 15:9 (NASB95) — 9 and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written, “Therefore I will give praise to You among the Gentiles, And I will sing to Your name.”*

*1 Corinthians 14:15 (NASB95) — 15 What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also.*

*Ephesians 5:19 (NASB95) — 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;*

*Colossians 3:16 (NASB95) — 16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

*Hebrews 2:12 (NASB95) — 12 saying, “I will proclaim Your name to My brethren, In the midst of the congregation I will sing Your praise.”*

*James 5:13 (NASB95) — 13 Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises.*

What did early Christians do? They sang songs of praise and petition to God. They taught and admonished one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.

Someone might object, saying, “Instruments of music were used in the Old Testament. What about David, the sweet psalmist of Israel, who wrote many psalms that were intended to be sung to the accompaniment of stringed instruments? If it was good enough for David, a man after God’s own heart, it should be good enough for us!”

David lived in a different age, and was subject to a different covenant. The Old Testament was then in force; the New Testament is today authoritative. He was accountable to the Law of Moses, while we answer to the Gospel of Christ (Eph. 2:14-16; Col. 2:9-17).

*Ephesians 2:14-16 (NASB95) — 14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, 15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, 16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.*

*Colossians 2:9-17 (NASB95) — 9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, 10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority; 11 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; 12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. 13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, 14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him. 16 Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day— 17 things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.*

However, certain brethren answer, “Yes, God allowed David’s use of instrumental music, but didn’t actually like it.” Some think that God only grudgingly tolerated instrumental music in the Old Testament. This view is based upon an erroneous interpretation of Amos 6:5, which condemns the indolent Israelites “who sing idly to the sound of stringed instruments, and invent for yourselves musical instruments like David” (NKJV).

*Amos 6:1-7 (NASB95) — 1 Woe to those who are at ease in Zion And to those who feel secure in the mountain of Samaria, The distinguished men of the foremost of nations, To whom the house of Israel comes. 2 Go over to Calneh and look, And go from there to Hamath the great, Then go down to Gath of the Philistines. Are they better than these kingdoms, Or is their territory greater than yours? 3 Do you put off the day of calamity, And would you bring near the seat of violence? 4 Those who recline on beds of ivory And sprawl on their couches, And eat lambs from the flock And calves from the midst of the stall, 5 Who improvise to the sound of the harp, And like David have composed songs for themselves [Or invented musical instruments], 6 Who drink wine from sacrificial bowls While they anoint themselves with the finest of oils, Yet they have not*

***grieved over the ruin of Joseph.*** 7 Therefore, they will now go into exile at the head of the exiles, And the sprawlers' banqueting will pass away.

*Amos 6:4-5 (KJV) — 4 That lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat the lambs out of the flock, and the calves out of the midst of the stall; 5 That chant to the sound of the viol, and invent to themselves instruments of musick, like David;*

*Amos 6:4-6 (NKJV) — 4 Who lie on beds of ivory, Stretch out on your couches, Eat lambs from the flock And calves from the midst of the stall; 5 Who sing idly to the sound of stringed instruments, And invent for yourselves musical instruments like David; 6 Who drink wine from bowls, And anoint yourselves with the best ointments, But are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.*

## **Old Testament Worship**

### ***Terminology***

Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary says MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS OF THE BIBLE were "mechanical implements or devices used to produce harmonious sounds. Musical instruments used by the Hebrew people were of three types: (1) stringed instruments, which used vibrating strings to make sounds; (2) percussion instruments, which were struck to produce musical sounds; and (3) wind instruments, which made sounds either by passing air over a vibrating reed or by forcing air through the instrument." These include the bagpipe, bell, bugle, cornet, cymbals, dulcimer, fife, flute, gong, harp, horn, lute, lyre, organ, pipe, psaltery, ram's horn, reed-pipe, sackbut, shophar, sistrums, tabret, tambourine, timbrel, triangle, trigon, trumpet, viol, zither, etc.

### ***Examples***

Moses & Miriam used instruments to celebrate Israel's deliverance from Egypt (Exod. 15:20-21).

*Exodus 15:20-21 (NASB95) — 20 Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took the timbrel in her hand, and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dancing. 21 Miriam answered them, "Sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted; The horse and his rider He has hurled into the sea."*

David organized the musical worship of Israel, and Solomon employed such at the dedication of the temple (1 Chron. 23:3-5; 2 Chron. 5:11-14; 7:4-7).

*1 Chronicles 23:3-5 (NASB95) — 3 The Levites were numbered from thirty years old and upward, and their number by census of men was 38,000. 4 Of these, 24,000 were to oversee the work of the house of the Lord; and 6,000 were officers and judges, 5 and 4,000 were gatekeepers, and 4,000 were praising the Lord with the instruments which David made for giving praise.*

*2 Chronicles 5:11-14 (NASB95) — 11 When the priests came forth from the holy place (for all the priests who were present had sanctified themselves, without regard to divisions), 12 and all **the Levitical singers**, Asaph, Heman, Jeduthun, and their sons and kinsmen, clothed in fine linen, **with cymbals, harps and lyres, standing east of the altar, and with them one hundred and twenty priests blowing trumpets 13 in unison when the trumpeters and the singers were to make themselves heard with one voice to praise and to glorify the Lord, and when they lifted up their voice accompanied by trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and when they praised the Lord** saying, “He indeed is good for His lovingkindness is everlasting,” then the house, the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud, 14 so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.*

*2 Chronicles 7:4-7 (NASB95) — 4 Then the king and all the people offered sacrifice before the Lord. 5 King Solomon offered a sacrifice of 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep. Thus the king and all the people dedicated the house of God. 6 The priests stood at their posts, and **the Levites also, with the instruments of music to the Lord, which King David had made for giving praise to the Lord — “for His lovingkindness is everlasting”**—whenever he gave praise by their means, while the priests on the other side blew trumpets; and all Israel was standing. 7 Then Solomon consecrated the middle of the court that was before the house of the Lord, for there he offered the burnt offerings and the fat of the peace offerings because the bronze altar which Solomon had made was not able to contain the burnt offering, the grain offering and the fat.*

Many Psalms were accompanied by instruments of music (cf. Psa. 4, 6, 54, 55, 61, 81, 92, etc.).

*Psalm 4 (NASB95) — [For the choir director; on stringed instruments. A Psalm of David] 1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have relieved me in my distress; Be gracious to me and hear my prayer....*

*Psalm 6 (NASB95) — [For the choir director; with stringed instruments, upon an eight-string lyre. A Psalm of David] 1 O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your anger, Nor chasten me in Your wrath. 2 Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am pining away; Heal me, O Lord, for my bones are dismayed...*

*Psalm 54 (NASB95) — [For the choir director; on stringed instruments. A Maskil of David, when the Ziphites came and said to Saul, “Is not David hiding himself among us?"] 1 Save me, O God, by Your name, And vindicate me by Your power. 2 Hear my prayer, O God; Give ear to the words of my mouth...*

*Psalm 55 (NASB95) — [For the choir director; on stringed instruments. A Maskil of David] 1 Give ear to my prayer, O God; And do not hide Yourself from my supplication. 2 Give heed to me and answer me; I am restless in my complaint and am surely distracted...*

*Psalm 61 (NASB95) — [For the choir director; on a stringed instrument. A Psalm of David] 1 Hear my cry, O God; Give heed to my prayer. 2 From the end of the earth I call to You when my heart is faint; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I...*

*Psalm 81 (NASB95) — [For the choir director; on the Gittith. A Psalm of Asaph] 1 Sing for joy to God our strength; Shout joyfully to the God of Jacob. 2 Raise a song, strike the timbrel, The sweet sounding lyre with the harp. 3 Blow the trumpet at the new moon, At the full moon, on our feast day. 4 For it is a statute for Israel, An ordinance of the God of Jacob. 5 He established it for a testimony in Joseph When he went throughout the land of Egypt...*

*Psalm 92:1-4 (NASB95) — [An Unattributed Psalm, a Song for the Sabbath day] 1 It is good to give thanks to the Lord And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; 2 To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning And Your faithfulness by night, 3 With the ten-stringed lute and with the harp, With resounding music upon the lyre. 4 For You, O Lord, have made me glad by what You have done, I will sing for joy at the works of Your hands.*

## **Commands**

The use of instrumental music was commanded by Moses (Num. 10:1-2, 10).

*Numbers 10:1-2 (NASB95) — 1 The Lord spoke further to Moses, saying, 2 “**Make yourself two trumpets of silver, of hammered work you shall make them; and you shall use them for summoning the congregation and for having the camps set out.***

*Numbers 10:10 (NASB95) — 10 “**Also in the day of your gladness and in your appointed feasts, and on the first days of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; and they shall be as a reminder of you before your God. I am the Lord your God.**”*

The use of instrumental music was commanded by David (2 Chron. 29:25-27).

*2 Chronicles 29:25-27 (NASB95) — 25 **He then stationed the Levites in the house of the Lord with cymbals, with harps and with lyres, according to the command of David and of Gad the king’s seer, and of Nathan the prophet; for the command was from the Lord through His prophets.** 26 The Levites stood with the musical instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets. 27 Then Hezekiah gave the order to offer the burnt offering on the altar. When the burnt offering began, the song to the Lord also began with the trumpets, accompanied by the instruments of David, king of Israel.*

The use of instrumental music was commanded in the Psalms (Psa. 81 & 150).

*Psalm 81:1-4 (NASB95) — 1 **Sing for joy to God our strength; Shout joyfully to the God of Jacob.** 2 **Raise a song, strike the timbrel, The sweet sounding lyre with the harp.** 3 **Blow the trumpet at the new moon, At the full moon, on our feast day.** 4 **For it is a statute for Israel, An ordinance of the God of Jacob.***

*Psalm 150:1-6 (NASB95) — 1 **Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty expanse.** 2 **Praise Him for His mighty deeds; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness.** 3 **Praise Him with trumpet sound; Praise Him with harp and lyre.** 4*

*Praise Him with timbrel and dancing; Praise Him with stringed instruments and pipe. 5 Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with resounding cymbals. 6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!*

## **New Testament Worship**

As stated earlier, the practice of New Testament disciples is set forth in a select group of verses (Matt. 26:30; Mark 14:26; Acts 16:25; Rom. 15:9; 1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 2:12; James 5:13). Let's look at these in more detail, considering the Greek words that are used therein, along with their meaning.

### **Terminology**

The Greek verb **humneō** [pronounced hum-NE-ō] means to sing a song of praise. Thomas defines ὑμνέω [humneō] as derived from humnos [a hymn], meaning “to sing to, to laud” [5214]. BDAG say it means “to sing a song in a cultic [i.e., religious, MM] setting, especially of praise and celebration; (a) sing in praise to, sing in praise of; (b) sing (a hymn).” This word occurs 4x in the NT (Matt. 26:30; Mark 14:26; Acts 16:25; Heb. 2:12).

*Matthew 26:30 (NASB95) — 30 After **\*singing a \*hymn**, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*

*Mark 14:26 (NASB95) — 26 After **\*singing a \*hymn**, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*

*Acts 16:25 (NASB95) — 25 But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and **\*singing \*hymns of \*praise** to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;*

*Hebrews 2:12 (NASB95) — 12 saying, “I will proclaim Your name to My brethren, In the midst of the congregation I will **\*sing Your \*praise.**”*

The noun **humnos** [pronounced HUM-nos] refers to a song of praise. Thomas defines ὕμνος [humnos] as “a hymn” [5215]. BDAG say it refers to “a song with religious content, hymn/song of praise, especially in honor of a deity.” This word occurs 2x in the NT (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).

*Ephesians 5:19 (NASB95) — 19 speaking to one another in psalms and **\*hymns** and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;*

*Colossians 3:16 (NASB95) — 16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and **\*hymns** and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

The verb **psallō** [pronounced PSAL-lō] means to sing songs of praise. Thomas defines ψάλλω [psallō] as derived from psaō [to rub], meaning “to pull, twitch, twang, play, sing” [5567]. BDAG say ψάλλω “in our literature, in accordance with O.T. usage, [means] to sing songs of praise, with or without instrumental accompaniment, sing, sing praise... The original meaning of ψάλλω was ‘pluck’, ‘play’ (a stringed instrument); this persisted at least to the time of Lucian. In

the LXX ψάλλω freq. means ‘sing’, whether to the accompaniment of an instrument (Psa. 32:2; 97:5; al.) or not, as is usually the case (Psa. 7:18; 9:12; 107:4; al.). This focus on singing continued until ψάλλω in Modern Greek means ‘sing’ exclusively... Although the NT does not voice opposition to instrumental music, in view of Christian resistance to mystery cults, as well as Pharisaic aversion to musical instruments in worship, it is likely that some such sense as make melody is best understood in this Ephesian passage. Those who favor ‘play’ may be relying too much on the earliest meaning of ψάλλω...” This word occurs 4x in the NT (Rom. 15:9; 1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; James 5:13).

*Romans 15:9 (NASB95) — 9 and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written, “Therefore I will give praise to You among the Gentiles, And I will \*sing to Your name.”*

*1 Corinthians 14:15 (NASB95) — 15 What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will \*sing with the spirit and I will \*sing with the mind also.*

*Ephesians 5:19 (NASB95) — 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and \*making \*melody with your heart to the Lord;*

*James 5:13 (NASB95) — 13 Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to \*sing \*praises.*

The noun **psalms** [pronounced psal-MOS] refers to a psalm. Thomas defines ψαλμός [psalmos] as derived from psallō [to pull, twitch, twang, play, sing], meaning “a striking (of musical strings), a psalm” [5568]. BDAG say it refers “in our literature [to] only song of praise, psalm in accordance w. O.T. usage; (a) of OT Psalms; (b) of Christian songs of praise.” This word occurs 7x in the NT (Luke 20:42; 24:44; Acts 1:20; 13:33; 1 Cor. 14:26; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).

*Luke 20:42 (NASB95) — 42 “For David himself says in the book of \*Psalms, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand,*

*Luke 24:44 (NASB95) — 44 Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the \*Psalms must be fulfilled.”*

*Acts 1:20 (NASB95) — 20 “For it is written in the book of \*Psalms, ‘Let his homestead be made desolate, And let no one dwell in it’; and, ‘Let another man take his office.’*

*Acts 13:33 (NASB95) — 33 that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second \*Psalm, ‘You are My Son; today i have begotten You.’*

*1 Corinthians 14:26 (NASB95) — 26 What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a \*psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.*

*Ephesians 5:19 (NASB95) — 19 speaking to one another in **\*psalms** and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;*

*Colossians 3:16 (NASB95) — 16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with **\*psalms** and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

The verb **adō** [pronounced AD-ō] means “to sing.” Thomas defines ἄδω [adō] as derived from aeidō [to sing], meaning “to sing” [103]. BDAG say it means “sing (in praise).” This word occurs 5x in the NT (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Rev. 5:9; 14:3; 15:3).

*Ephesians 5:19 (NASB95) — 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **\*singing** and making melody with your heart to the Lord;*

*Colossians 3:16 (NASB95) — 16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **\*singing** with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

*Revelation 5:9 (NASB95) — 9 And they **\*sang** a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.*

*Revelation 14:3 (NASB95) — 3 And they **\*sang** a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth.*

*Revelation 15:3 (NASB95) — 3 And they **\*sang** the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, “Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations!”*

The noun **ōdē** [pronounced ō-DĒ] refers to a song. Thomas defines ᾠδή [ōdē] as a contraction from aoidē [a song], from the same as adō [to sing], meaning “a song, ode” [5603]. BDAG say it refers to a “song, in our literature only of sacred song, a song of praise to God.” This word occurs 7x in the NT (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Rev. 5:9; 14:3 [2x]; 15:3 [2x]).

*Ephesians 5:19 (NASB95) — 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual **\*songs**, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;*

*Colossians 3:16 (NASB95) — 16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual **\*songs**, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

*Revelation 5:9 (NASB95) — 9 And they sang a new **\*song**, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.*



*Revelation 14:3 (NASB95) — 3 And they sang a new **\*song** before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the **\*song** except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth.*

*Revelation 15:3 (NASB95) — 3 And they sang the **\*song** of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the **\*song** of the Lamb, saying, “Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations!”*

## **Examples**

On the night of His betrayal, after meeting in an upper room, Jesus and the disciples sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives (Matt. 26:30; Mark 14:26).

*Matthew 26:30 (NASB95) — 30 After **\*singing a \*hymn**, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*

*Mark 14:26 (NASB95) — 26 After **\*singing a \*hymn**, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*

Around midnight, after having been beaten and cast in prison at Philippi, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God (Acts 16:25).

*Acts 16:25 (NASB95) — 25 But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and **\*singing \*hymns of \*praise** to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;*

In the Book of Revelation, saints surrounding the throne of God sang songs of praise to God and the Lamb (Rev. 5:9; 14:3; 15:3).

*Revelation 5:9 (NASB95) — 9 And they **\*sang** a new **\*song**, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.*

*Revelation 14:3 (NASB95) — 3 And they **\*sang** a new **\*song** before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the **\*song** except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth.*

*Revelation 15:3 (NASB95) — 3 And they **\*sang** the **\*song** of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the **\*song** of the Lamb, saying, “Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations!”*

## **Commands**

Some commands regarding singing have general application, being applicable to private settings and public worship (Rom. 15:8-11; Eph. 5:18-19; Col. 3:16; James 5:13).

*Romans 15:8-11 (NASB95) — 8 For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises given to the fathers, 9*

*and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written, “Therefore I will give praise to You among the Gentiles, And I will **\*sing** to Your name.” 10 Again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people.” 11 And again, “Praise the Lord all you Gentiles, And let all the peoples praise Him.”*

*Ephesians 5:18-19 (NASB95) — 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in **\*psalms** and **\*hymns** and spiritual **\*songs**, **\*singing** and **\*making** **\*melody** with your heart to the Lord;*

*Colossians 3:16 (NASB95) — 16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with **\*psalms** and **\*hymns** and spiritual **\*songs**, **\*singing** with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

*James 5:13 (NASB95) — 13 Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to **\*sing** **\*praises**.*

Other passages are directly associated with collective worship offered in the assembly (1 Cor. 14:13-19, 26-33; Heb. 2:11-12).

*1 Corinthians 14:13-19 (NASB95) — 13 Therefore let one who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. 14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. 15 What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will **\*sing** with the spirit and I will **\*sing** with the mind also. 16 Otherwise if you bless in the spirit only, how will the one who fills the place of the ungifted say the “Amen” at your giving of thanks, since he does not know what you are saying? 17 For you are giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not edified. 18 I thank God, I speak in tongues more than you all; 19 however, **in the church** I desire to speak five words with my mind so that I may instruct others also, rather than ten thousand words in a tongue.*

*1 Corinthians 14:26-33 (NASB95) — 26 What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a **\*psalm**, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. 27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, it should be by two or at the most three, and each in turn, and one must interpret; 28 but if there is no interpreter, he must keep silent in the church; and let him speak to himself and to God. 29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others pass judgment. 30 But if a revelation is made to another who is seated, the first one must keep silent. 31 For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all may be exhorted; 32 and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets; 33 for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.*

*Hebrews 2:11-12 (NASB95) — 11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, 12 saying, “I will proclaim Your name to My brethren, In the midst of the congregation I will **\*sing** Your **\*praise**.”*

## **Conclusion**

Why was instrumental music (i.e., stringed, percussion or wind instruments) used in worship during the Old Testament? Because God commanded it.

Why is a cappella music (i.e., singing) used in worship during the New Testament era? Because God commanded it.

If God had wanted us to use instruments of music today, He would have said so! Instead, through approved example and by direct command, He specified singing as the type music that Christians offer in worship. For those who respect Bible authority, that settles the issue.