

# **CHURCHES IN THE SHAPE OF SCRIPTURE**



**Special Sermon Series at Crosstown**



I lift up holy hands and sing  
Let the praises ring

**Let The Praises Ring**

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# A CAPPELLA MUSIC

- The Latin term “a cappella” (“without accompaniment”) means “in the style of the church”





# Joseph Bingham, Church Historian

**“Music in churches is as ancient as the apostles, but instrumental music is not so. For it is now generally agreed by learned men that the use of the organs came into the church around the time of Thomas Aquinas about 1250 A.D.”**

**(The Antiquities of the Christian Church”, Vol 1, 315**

# The “Why” Question

- We believe God is in charge of every element of worship, including the use of instruments in worship
  - God alone has the authority to decide whether or not to use instruments in worship
  - If he hasn’t placed any instruments in His worship, we don’t believe we have the authority to bring any in



# Old Testament Tabernacle Worship

- When it came to the use of instruments in tabernacle worship, God specifically told Moses what instruments to use, who could use them, and when they were to be used

# Numbers 10:1-2, 8, 10

“The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “**Make two silver trumpets.** Of hammered work you shall make them, and you shall use them for summoning the congregation and for breaking camp.....And **the sons of Aaron, the priests, shall blow the trumpets**.....On the day of your gladness also, and at your appointed feasts and at the beginnings of your months, **you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings.** They shall be a reminder of you before your God: I am the LORD your God.”



# Old Testament Temple Worship

- David made some distinct changes to God's worship
- One of those changes was the addition of several new instruments



# 1 Chronicles 16:4-6

**“Then he [David] 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.**

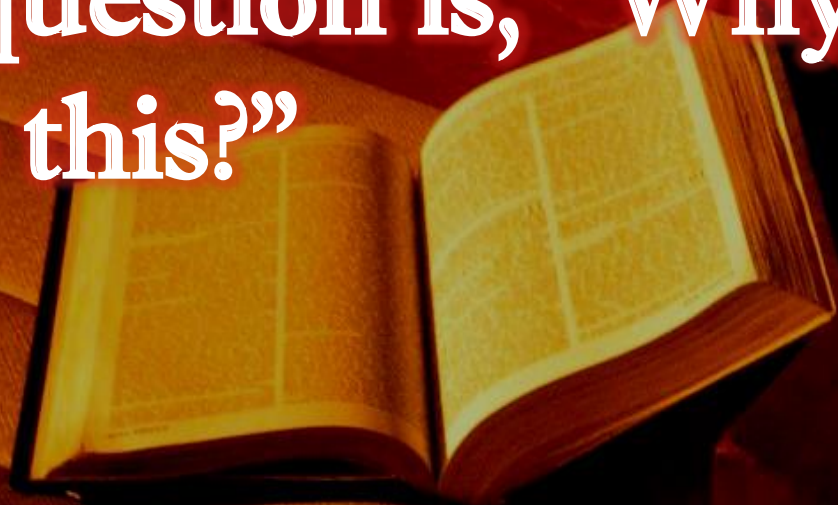
# 1 Chronicles 23:1-5

**“When David was old and full of days, he made Solomon his son king over Israel. David assembled all the leaders of Israel and the priests and the Levites. The Levites, thirty years old and upward, were numbered, and the total was 38,000 men. 4“Twenty-four thousand of these,” David said, “shall have charge of the work in the house of the Lord, 6,000 shall be officers and judges, 4,000 gatekeepers, and 4,000 shall offer praises to the Lord with the instruments that I have made for praise.”**



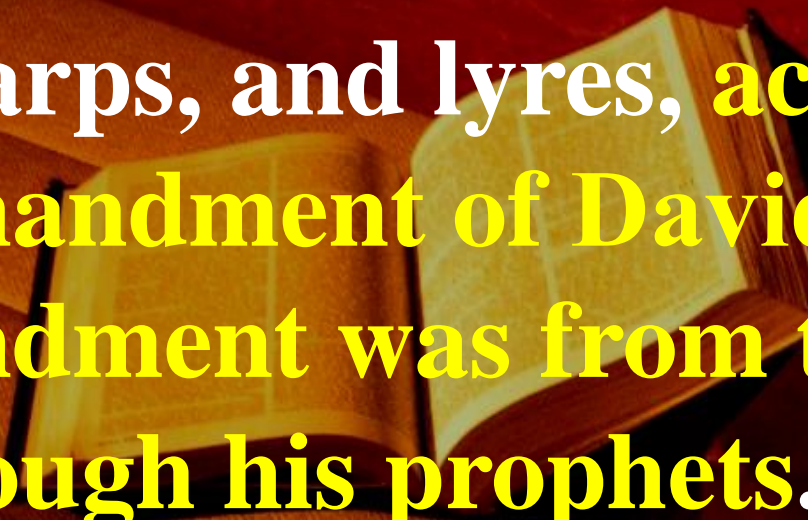
# Old Testament Temple Worship

- The big question is, “Why did David do this?”



## 2 Chronicles 29:25

**“And he [Hezekiah] stationed the Levites in the house of the Lord with cymbals, harps, and lyres, according to the commandment of David.....for the commandment was from the Lord through his prophets.**





# 1 Chronicles 28:11-13, 19

**“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.....for the divisions of the priests and of the Levites, and all the work of the service in the house of the Lord.....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.”**

# Old Testament Temple Worship

- Only God had the authority to add those instruments
- No human being had the freedom to change any detail of temple worship, including which instruments were to be used





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- Every time Temple worship was restored in the OT, they always went back to “the instruments of David King of Israel.”
    - King Hezekiah’s temple reforms  
(2 Chronicles 29:25-29)
    - King Josiah restoration of Passover  
(2 Chronicles 35:4, 15)
    - Restoration after Babylonian captivity  
(Ezra 3:10)
    - Nehemiah’s restoration (Neh. 12:24, 35-36, 45)

# New Testament Christian Worship

- Most believers from the time of the apostles until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, believed we must consult the instructions of those to whom God revealed His plans for worship
- **Christian worshipers consulted the instructions of the apostles**



# New Testament Christian Worship

- Why the change? Why did Christians consult the apostles for direction in worship instead of Moses or David?
- Because the Old Testament, along with its temple system of worship, was permanently shelved when Jesus died on the cross

# New Testament Christian Worship

- In the New Testament, God dramatically changed how His people would worship Him





# Hebrews 9:1, 8-9

Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness. The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still functioning. <sup>9</sup> This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper. <sup>10</sup> They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings—external regulations applying until the time of the new order.

# New Testament Christian Worship

- God revealed His new plans for worship through His apostles
- That's why the early church “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching” (Acts 2:42; cf. Eph. 2:19; 1 Cor. 14:37-38), instead of David’s or Moses’s teaching



# New Testament Christian Worship

- Since God revealed His plans for Christian worship through His apostles, we ask, “What instruments did the apostles command us to use?”
- The NT commands us to sing praise to God (1 Cor. 14:Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 13:15; James 5:13)

# LaGard Smith

“In contrast to the many Old Testament passages referring to musical instruments in temple worship, in the New Testament text not one sound of a musical instrument is heard—not a trumpet, not a harp, not the quietest jingle of a tambourine! Singing, yes. Musical instruments, no. Relative to musical instruments, there is only an ominous haunting silence.” (F. LaGard Smith, *The Cultural Church*, p. 199)



# Conclusion

- If God wanted instruments in Christian worship, it's reasonable to conclude that He would have specifically placed them there through His apostles
- Since God didn't place any instruments in Christian worship, we aren't going to bring any in

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