

Instrumental Music in Worship

Is It
Scriptural?



Instrumental Music in Worship

- *Very common today*





Instrumental Music

- We object because the New Testament does not authorize this form of worship
 - Answering misconceptions :
 - We do not object just because “we have never done it”
 - We do not object because we cannot afford a piano or band
 - We do not object because we “want to be different”



**Patriarchal
Age**

**Mosaic
Age**

**Christian
Age**

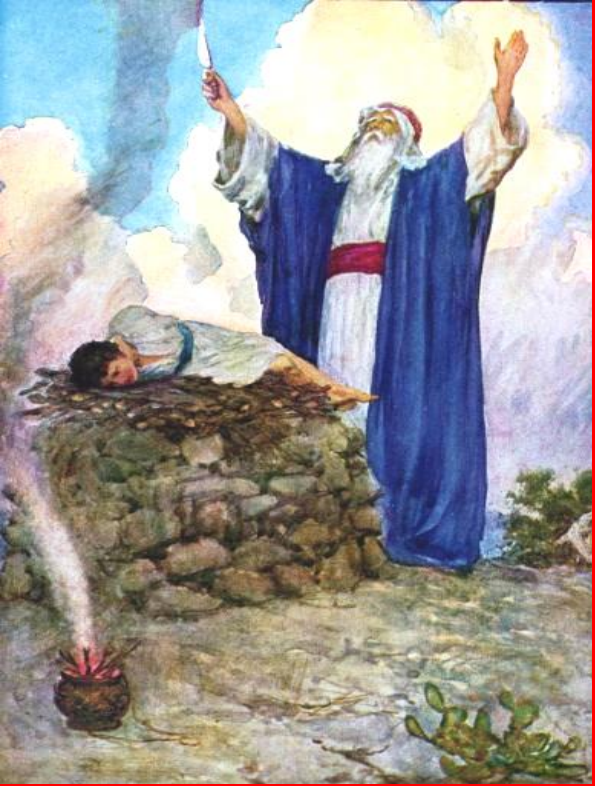
3 Periods of World History

Romans 5:12-17; 2:12-16; Gal. 3:23-25

Instrumental Music in Worship

- **God is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8)**
- **But He divided history into distinct periods and *different laws* applied in each period**
 - **God always called for worship but specifics behind worship changed**
 - **In each period men are *tested* as to whether they will give God exactly what He asked for (Deut. 4:2)**





The Patriarchal Age

Lasted from Creation until the law of Moses, 1400 BC

- God spoke directly to the heads of the household
 - Adam
 - Cain & Abel
 - Noah
 - Job
 - Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob



The Mosaic Age

Lasted from Moses until the
law of Christ, 30 AD

- God spoke through the law of Moses
and prophets
 - Col. 2:14; Heb. 9:16



The Christian Age

Lasts from Christ until the
end of time

- God spoke through His Son, the apostles, and thus through the Holy Bible (NT)
 - Jn. 15:20; 1 Cor. 14:37

Do you know what law you live under?

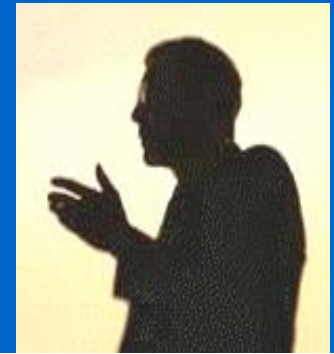


Hey, I want to be able to drive without a seatbelt. After all, my grandfather drove without a seatbelt!



Answer: He lived under a different law!

Do you know what
law you live under?



Hey, I'd like to worship with
mechanical instruments.
After all, David did!

Answer: He lived under a
different law!





The Mosaic Age

Lasted from Moses until the law of Christ, 30 AD

- Nadab & Abihu – Lev. 10
 - Where did God say “not to” use strange fire in worship?
 - Answer: Nowhere. God didn’t have to.
- Korah & Companions – Num. 16
 - Where did God say Korah and his posterity could not worship at the altar of burnt offering and altar of incense?
 - Answer: Nowhere. God didn’t have to.



The Christian Age

Lasts from Christ until the
end of time

Application of these principles
can be made to today!

- It is not our obligation to show where God has expressly forbidden a type of music
- It is the job of the advocate to show where it is authorized!



The Christian Age

Lasts from Christ until the
end of time

- Scriptures on Singing
 - 10 in all!
- Matthew 26:30 – “Sung an hymn...”
- Mark 14:26 – “Sung an hymn ...”
- Acts 16:25 – “Sang praises unto God”
- Romans 15:9 – “Sing unto thy name”
- I Corinthians 14:15 – “Sing”



The Christian Age

Lasts from Christ until the
end of time

- Scriptures on Singing
 - 10 in all!
- Ephesians 5:19 – “Singing”
- Colossians 3:16 – “Singing with Grace”
- Hebrews 2:12 – “Sing”
- Hebrews 13:15 – “Fruit of our Lips”
- James 5:13 – “Sing Psalms”
- All 10 passages emphasize **SINGING!!!!**

Instrumental Music in Worship

- You can't rewrite history
 - If the argument - “*They were used in the OT so we can use them today*” worked with **NT Christians**, ...why didn't NT Christians use instrumental music?
 - A) They did not have them
 - B) The argument did not work



Instrumental Music in Worship

- You can't rewrite history
 - If the argument - "*They were used in the OT so we can use them today*" worked with **NT Christians**, ...why didn't **NT Christians** use instrumental music?
 - A) They could not have them
 - You can easily demonstrate that these were wealthy **NT Christians**



Instrumental Music in Worship

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Instrumental Music in Worship

- You can't rewrite history
 - Why do we not find them used among Christians in the 2nd Century?
 - They were used by the Jews
 - Why do we not find them used among Christians in the 3rd Century?
 - They were used by the Jews
 - Why do we not find them used among Christians in the 4th Century?
 - They were used by the Jews

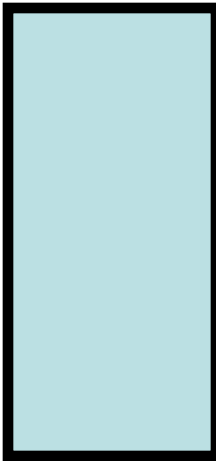


Instrumental Music in Worship

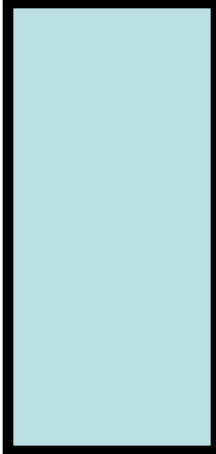
- You can't rewrite history
 - Why do we not find them used among Christians in the 5th Century?
 - They were used by the Jews
 - Why do we not find them used among Christians in the 6th Century?
 - They were used by the Jews
 - Why first hear of them brought in by Catholics in the 7th Century!



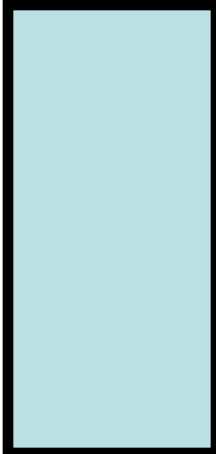
3rd Century



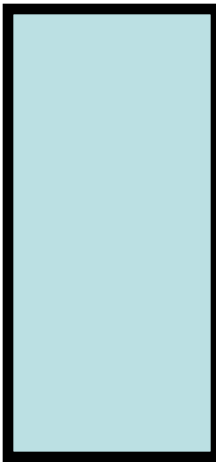
2nd Century



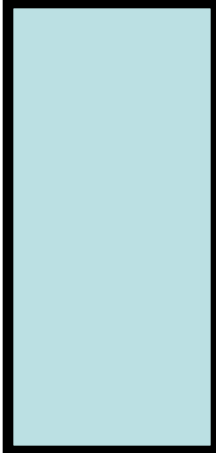
1st Century



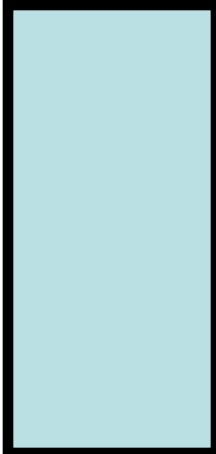
6th Century



5th Century



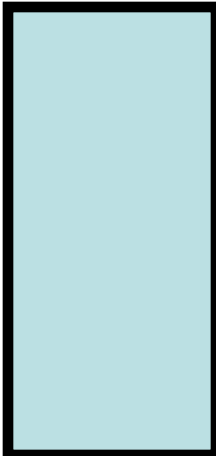
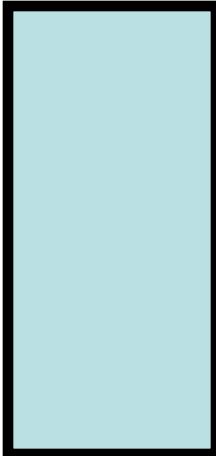
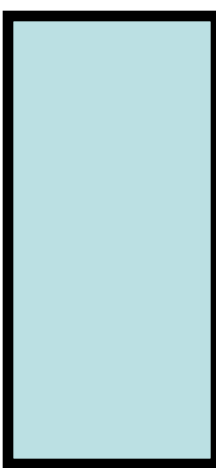
4th Century



9th Century

8th Century

7th Century



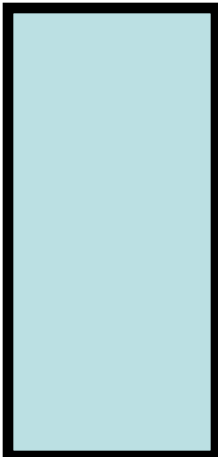
670 AD

Pope Vitalian

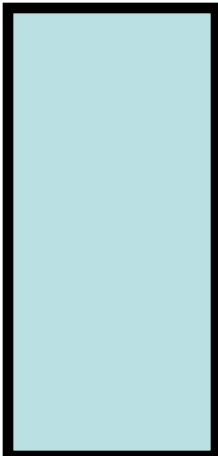
“Sir John Hawkins, following the Roman writers on the ‘History of Music,’ makes Pope Vitalian, in A.D. 670, the first who introduced organs into churches.”



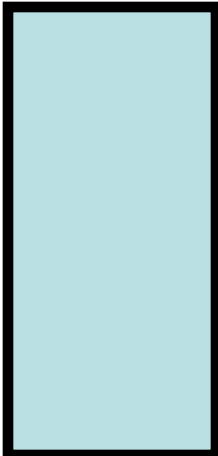
12th Century



11th Century



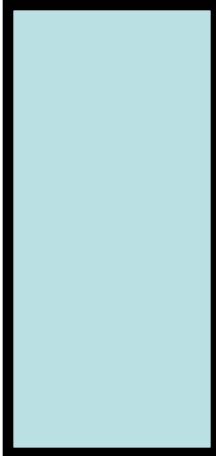
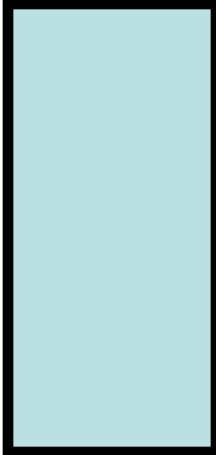
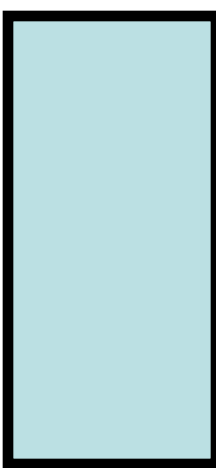
10th Century



15th Century

14th Century

13th Century



1250 AD

Thomas Aquinas

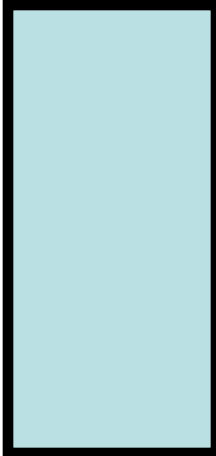
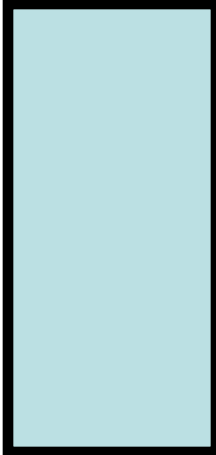
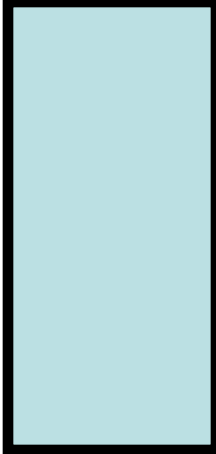
“Our church does not use musical instruments, as harps and psalteries to praise God, that she may not seem to Judaize” (McClintock and Strong’s Encyclopedia, VIII:739).



18th Century

17th Century

16th Century



1770 AD

The Puritans

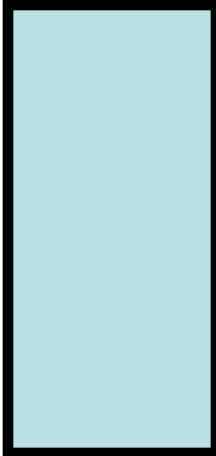
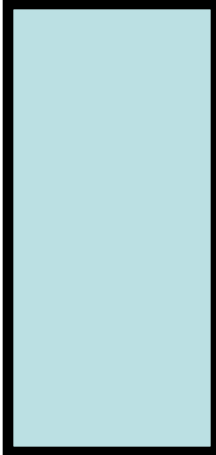
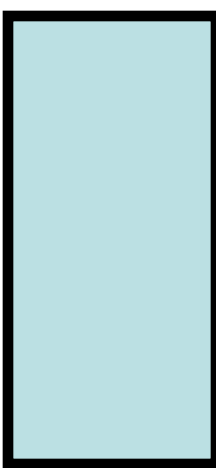
“The first Puritan church to have an organ was the First Congregational Church in Providence, RI, in 1770. The organ was installed only after much debate” (Old Light on New Worship, 2005).



21st Century

20th Century

19th Century



1820 AD

The Baptists

**“The first organ
in a Baptist
church was about
1820 in
Pawtucket, RI”
(Old Light on New
Worship, 2005).**



Prominent Leaders Object to the Instrument Innovation



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



CALVIN "To sing the praises of God upon the harp and psaltery unquestionably formed a part of the training of the law and of the service of God under that dispensation of *shadows and figures*, but they are not now to be used in public thanksgiving" (Commentary on Psalm 71:22).



Prominent Leaders Object to the Instrument Innovation



WESLEY "I have no objection to instruments of music in our worship, provided they are neither seen nor heard" (John Wesley, founder of Methodism, quoted in Adam Clarke's Commentary, Vol. 4, p. 685).



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" (Adam Clark, Methodist).



Prominent Leaders Object to the Instrument Innovation



SPURGEON "We do not need them. They would hinder rather than help our praise. Sing unto him. This is the sweetest and best music. No instrument like the human voice" (Commentary on Psalm 42:4).

"We might as well pray by machinery as praise by it."

Spurgeon preached to 20,000 people every Sunday for 20 years in the Metropolitan Baptist Tabernacle and never were mechanical instruments of music used in his services. When asked why, he quoted 1st Corinthians 14:15. "I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the understanding also; I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also" (Charles H. Spurgeon, Baptist).

Faithful Brethren Asked for the Old Paths

CAMPBELL "I presume, that to all spiritually-minded Christians, such aid would be as a cow bell in a concert" (Alexander Campbell, recorded in Robert Richardson's biography, *Memoirs of Alexander Campbell*, Vol. 2., p366).

McGARVEY "The fact that the church, when established, rejected the use of the Jewish worship of the Old Testament is proof enough that the instrument was not suited to the worship in the church" (McGarvey, *Instruments in Churches*, 1864, p.510).



Faithful Brethren Asked for the Old Paths

FRANKLIN IN 1860: "If anyone had told us, forty years ago, that we would live to see the day when those professing to be Christians; who claim the Holy Scriptures as their only rule of faith and practice; those under the command, and who profess to appreciate the command, to 'observe all things whatsoever I commanded you', would bring any instruments of music into a worshiping assembly, and use it there in worship, we should have repelled the idea as an idle dream" (John T. Lewis, *The Voice of the Pioneers on Instrumental Music and Societies*, Gospel Advocate, 1932).



Shall Use of Mechanical Instruments in the Old Testament authorize them in the Christian Era?

The Old Law also required regular animal sacrifices, diet restrictions, a separate priesthood, a high priest, worship in Jerusalem, Sabbath worship (including travel and labor restrictions), mandatory tithing, annual observance of the Passover (including the smearing of blood on the doorposts), mandatory observance of many feast days, mandatory circumcision of all male boys, capital punishment even for ceremonial offenses, no intermarriage with those outside of God's covenant people, and a host of other requirements.

Shall Use of Mechanical Instruments in the Old Testament authorize them in the Christian Era?

For those making an authoritative appeal to the Old Testament, the question becomes, “Which Old Testament practices do we roll forward and which ones do we leave behind?” Gal. 5:3 –

If you keep one part, you must keep all!



New Testament Worship Defined

Col. 3:16 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord”

Eph. 5:19 “Speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord”





Authority Needed For All That We Do In Religion

Col. 3:17 “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord”

1 Thess. 5:21 “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good”

Jn. 8:32 “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”



