

HABITATIONS OF PRAISE
“The Use of the Hands: Play Instruments!”
Part III – Wind

We have previously discussed string and percussion instruments. This message is about the spirit of instrumental music, the wind section.

Gen 2:7

the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. NIV

It was by the breath of God that man became a living being. The spirit of man is the breath of life from God. It was by breathing that man became a worship instrument in the first place. Wind instruments are the “spirit” of the music. As we have said before, drums give the structure of rhythm. Wind instruments carry the spirit of the music. And the strings tie it all together.

When it comes to godly worship, there are three principle types of wind instruments mentioned in Scripture. They are:

- 1. Flutes – shepherd’s pipes and regular flutes*
- 2. Pipe organs – reed instruments*
- 3. Trumpets – both straight and curved*

I. The Flute-

1. Strong’s number OT:2485, Hebrew *chaliyl*, flute (as perforated). It comes from Strong’s # OT:2490, Hebrew *chalal*.

Brown-Driver-Briggs’ definition for 2490-

- 2) to wound (fatally), to bore through, to pierce, to bore
 - a) (Qal) to pierce
 - b) (Pual) to be slain
 - c) (Poel) to wound, to pierce
 - d) (Poal) to be wounded
- 3) (Piel) to play the flute or pipe

2. The use of the flute:

A. Flutes used in prophecy-
1 Sam 10:5

"After that you will go to Gibeah of God, where there is a Philistine outpost. As you approach the town, you will meet a procession of prophets coming down from the high place with lyres, tambourines, flutes and harps being played before them, and they will be prophesying. NIV

B. Used to make a joyful sound:
1 Kings 1:39-40

39 Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the sacred tent and anointed Solomon.
Then they sounded the trumpet and all the people shouted, "Long live King
Solomon!"
40 And all the people went up after him, playing **flutes** and rejoicing greatly, so that
the ground shook with the sound. NIV

Isa 30:29-31

29 And you will sing as on the night you celebrate a holy festival; your hearts will
rejoice as when people go up with **flutes**¹ to the mountain of the LORD, to the
Rock of Israel.
30 The LORD will cause men to hear his majestic voice and will make them see his
arm coming down with raging anger and consuming fire, with cloudburst,
thunderstorm and hail.
31 The voice of the LORD will shatter Assyria; with his scepter he will strike them
down. NIV

*"The majestic voice of the Lord," refers to the strong voice He will use in destroying
Assyria. But I also think that it has application prophetically. As anointed flute
players play in gladness of heart, God's prophetic voice is heard in the congregation.*

C. Used to make a mournful sound:

Jer 48:36-38

36 "So my heart laments for Moab like a **flute**; it laments like a flute for the men of
Kir Hareseth. The wealth they acquired is gone.
37 Every head is shaved and every beard cut off; every hand is slashed and every
waist is covered with sackcloth.
38 On all the roofs in Moab and in the public squares there is nothing but mourning,
for I have broken Moab like a jar that no one wants," declares the LORD. NIV

This is the sound of God's heart in mourning for the loss of the wicked.

3. It's significance:

Ps 87 Of the Sons of Korah. A psalm. A song.

1 He has set his foundation on the holy mountain;
2 the LORD loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.
3 Glorious things are said of you, O city of God: Selah
4 "I will record Rahab and Babylon among those who acknowledge me-- Philistia too,
and Tyre, along with Cush-- and will say, "This one was born in Zion."
5 Indeed, of Zion it will be said, "This one and that one were born in her, and the Most
High himself will establish her."
6 The LORD will write in the register of the peoples: "This one was born in Zion." Selah
7 **As they make music** [OT:2490] they will sing, "All my fountains are in you." NIV

*"As they make music," as they play the flute, they will sing that all of our fountains are in
Zion. The Tabernacle of David was in Zion. We are in Zion.*

Heb 12:22-24

22 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly,
23 to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect,
24 to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. NIV

Where was that blood poured? On Calvary's Cross. Aside from the profuse bleeding, what other outpouring was there from the cross? The piercing of the side [a spear thrust to the heart] that brought forth a flow of blood and water (John 19:34). The blood and water were our redemption and the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit respectively. Since He now sits in Zion, these fountains in a sense are dispensed from Zion.

Acts 1:20

"For," said Peter, "it is written in the book of Psalms, "'May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,' and, "'May another take his place of leadership.'" NIV

Peter spoke this about Judas. As a Greek thinking people, we think in terms of proof text, a verse that will prove our point. But the rabbinic style of instruction would involve the quoting of an appropriate verse and an implication of the application of its surrounding context as well.

◆ "May his place be deserted" – Ps. 69:25

Ps 69:18-25

18 Come near and rescue me; redeem me because of my foes.

19 You know how I am scorned, disgraced and shamed; all my enemies are before you.

20 Scorn has broken my heart and has left me helpless; I looked for sympathy, but there was none, for comforters, but I found none.

21 They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst.

22 May the table set before them become a snare; may it become retribution and a trap.

23 May their eyes be darkened so they cannot see, and their backs be bent forever.

24 Pour out your wrath on them; let your fierce anger overtake them.

25 May their place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in their tents. NIV

◆ "May another take his place of leadership." – Ps. 109:8

Ps 109:3-8

3 With words of hatred they surround me; they attack me without cause.

4 In return for my friendship they accuse me, but I am a man of prayer.

5 They repay me evil for good, and hatred for my friendship.

6 Appoint an evil man to oppose him; let an accuser stand at his right hand.

7 When he is tried, let him be found guilty, and may his prayers condemn him.

8 May his days be few; may another take his place of leadership. NIV

Again, though Peter references one part of one verse in the 109th Psalm, he is in a sense quoting the entire Psalm. The Psalm is prophetic of Judas' betrayal and the crucifixion. Let's look at what it says later on in the Psalm.

Ps 109:21-28

21 But you, O Sovereign LORD, deal well with me for your name's sake; out of the goodness of your love, deliver me.

22 For I am poor and needy, and my heart is **wounded** [OT:2490] within me.

23 I fade away like an evening shadow; I am shaken off like a locust.

24 My knees give way from fasting; my body is thin and gaunt.

25 I am an object of scorn to my accusers; when they see me, they shake their heads.

26 Help me, O LORD my God; save me in accordance with your love.

27 Let them know that it is your hand, that you, O LORD, have done it.

28 They may curse, but you will bless; when they attack they will be put to shame, but your servant will rejoice. NIV

His heart was wounded within Him. Not only was it wounded in an emotional and spiritual sense, we know that his actual heart was actually pierced for you and me. And yet, he boldly declares that "your servant will rejoice."

Heb 12:2

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. NIV

Isa 53:5

But he was **pierced** [OT:2490] for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. NIV

Like a flute, the Lord's heart was pierced. And its mournful sounds in death turned into our songs of joy. His heart was the flute that played the song of our salvation.

II. The Pipe Organ-

1. Strong's number OT:5748, Hebrew 'uwgab, a reed instrument of music. It comes from Strong's # OT:5689, Hebrew 'agab, to breathe after, i.e. to love (sensually).

2. It's first use:

Gen 4:21

His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all who play the harp and flute [KJV – organ]. NIV

Though the harp and the pipe were invented by someone from Cain's line does not mean that the instruments themselves are evil (or even that all Cain's progeny were evil for that matter).

3. It's use in worship:

Ps 150:4 KJV

Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and **organs**.

All the uses of the root word [5689] are negative and imply lust. This would lead one to believe that the sound of the organ is a lusty, sensual sound. Why would God want us to use such a sound in worshiping Him? Because to breath on God in intimate affection as we would a lover is proper and holy. Marriage is given to us as a pattern of Christ with the Church. However intimate and special a marriage relationship is in all its aspects, our consummation with Christ will be even better.

III. The Trumpets-

1. The (silver) trumpets:

A. Strong's # OT:2689, Hebrew *chatsotserah*. It gives reference by its root to its sound and structure.

Num 10:1-10 NIV

1 The LORD said to Moses:

2 "Make two **trumpets**³ of hammered silver, and use them for calling the community together and for having the camps set out.

3 When both are sounded, the whole community is to assemble before you at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.

4 If only one is sounded, the leaders--the heads of the clans of Israel--are to assemble before you.

5 When a trumpet blast is sounded, the tribes camping on the east are to set out.

6 At the sounding of a second blast, the camps on the south are to set out. The blast will be the signal for setting out.

7 To gather the assembly, blow the trumpets, but not with the same signal.

8 "The sons of Aaron, the priests, are to blow the **trumpets**³. This is to be a lasting ordinance for you and the generations to come.

9 When you go into battle in your own land against an enemy who is oppressing you, sound a blast on the **trumpets**³. Then you will be remembered by the LORD your God and rescued from your enemies.

10 Also at your times of rejoicing--your appointed feasts and New Moon festivals--you are to sound the **trumpets**³ over your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, and they will be a memorial for you before your God. I am the LORD your God."

When we studied the Tabernacle of Moses, we noted that these silver trumpets were representative of the gospel of salvation. Silver is the redemption metal in Scripture. Jesus was sold for thirty pieces of silver. By the sound of the trumpets, the Israelites were given direction with regard to who was to assemble, who was to move out and when. We can apply this to leaders gathering together and mobilizing for evangelism. And when we retell the story of our salvation, it is a time of rejoicing. Trumpets can bring joyful sounds to music.

B. Used in warfare:

Num 31:6

And Moses sent them to the war, a thousand of every tribe, them and Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, to the war, with the holy instruments, and the **trumpets**³ to blow in his hand. KJV

The trumpets were used in battle to call upon the Lord. It is no different today.

C. Its use in worship:

2 Chron 5:12-14

12 All the Levites who were musicians-Asaph, Heman, Jeduthun and their sons and relatives-stood on the east side of the altar, dressed in fine linen and playing cymbals, harps and lyres. They were accompanied by 120 priests sounding **trumpets**³.

13 The trumpeters and singers joined in unison, as with one voice, to give praise and thanks to the LORD. Accompanied by **trumpets**³, cymbals and other instruments, they raised their voices in praise to the LORD and sang: "He is good; his love endures forever." Then the temple of the LORD was filled with a cloud,

14 and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the temple of God. NIV

2 Chron 29:27-29

27 Hezekiah gave the order to sacrifice the burnt offering on the altar. As the offering began, singing to the LORD began also, accompanied by **trumpets** and the instruments of David king of Israel.

28 The whole assembly bowed in worship, while the singers sang and the trumpeters played. All this continued until the sacrifice of the burnt offering was completed.

29 When the offerings were finished, the king and everyone present with him knelt down and worshiped. NIV

2. Jubilee-

A. Strong's # OT:3104, Hebrew *yobel*. It means the blast of the trumpet, be it the silver trumpets, shophars, or *qerens*. The word jubilee puts the emphasis on the sound of the instrument. According to Leviticus 25, it is the sound of liberty!

B. The sound of liberty:

Lev 25:10

Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a **jubilee**⁴ for you; each one of you is to return to his family property and each to his own clan. NIV

3. Qeren-

A. Strong's # OT:7161, Hebrew *qeren*. Qeren means horn. When the word is used, it emphasizes *what* the trumpet is made from.

Josh 6:4-5

- 4 Have seven priests carry trumpets [*shophar*] of rams' horns [*yobel*] in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets [*shophar*].
- 5 When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets [KJV – ram's (*yobel*) horn (*qeren*)], have all the people give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the people will go up, every man straight in." NIV

Josh 6:4-5

- 4 And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets⁶ of **rams' horns**⁵: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets⁶.
- 5 And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the **ram's**⁴ **horn**⁵, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet⁶, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him. KJV

*In Joshua 6, the three primary words for wind instruments in the Old Testament come together. The trumpets were **shophars**, curved trumpets (as opposed to the straight silver trumpets), that made the continuous liberty sound of **jubilee** and were made out of **qeren**, animal horn.*

B. Its first use in Scripture:

Gen 22:13-14 [Scene 1 – Abraham sacrificing Isaac]

- 13 Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its **horns**. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son.
- 14 So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided." NIV

The way the Israelites got their horns was through sacrifice. No sacrifice, no horn. Blowing the horn in worship is a sacrifice of praise.

4. Shophar-

- A. Strong's # OT:7782, Hebrew *shophar*. It means incisive or cutting, giving reference not only to the quality of sound one gets from a curved horn, but also the process by which one removes the horn from the animal.

B. Its first use in Scripture:

Ex 19:16-19 [Scene 2 – Moses and Mt. Sinai]

- 16 On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud **trumpet** blast. Everyone in the camp trembled.
- 17 Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.
- 18 Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the LORD descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, the whole mountain trembled violently,

19 and the sound of the **trumpet** grew louder and louder. Then Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him. NIV

*It is telling that the first use of **shophar** in Scripture, it is played for all practical purposes by God! The sound of the shophar came off the Mount Sinai in a loud voice that terrified the people.*

Ex 20:18-19

18 When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the **trumpet** and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance
19 and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die." NIV

C. It sounds liberty – Lev 25:9 (Jubilee)

D. Used in battle by the Spirit of God:

Judg 6:34

Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a **trumpet**, summoning the Abiezrites to follow him. NIV

Judg 7:20-22

20 The three companies blew the **trumpets** and smashed the jars. Grasping the torches in their left hands and holding in their right hands the **trumpets** they were to blow, they shouted, "A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!"

21 While each man held his position around the camp, all the Midianites ran, crying out as they fled.

22 When the three hundred **trumpets** sounded, the LORD caused the men throughout the camp to turn on each other with their swords. The army fled to Beth Shittah toward Zererah as far as the border of Abel Meholah near Tabbath. NIV

E. Used in the announcement of kings:

1 Kings 1:34

There have Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel. Blow the **trumpet** and shout, 'Long live King Solomon!' NIV

Ps 47:5-7

5 God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the LORD amid the sounding of **trumpets**.

6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

7 For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise. NIV

Ps 98:5-6

5 make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing,

6 with trumpets [*chatsotserah*] and the blast of the **ram's horn**-- shout for joy before the LORD, the King. NIV

F. Used in prophecy and intercession:

Isa 58:1

"Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a **trumpet**. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the house of Jacob their sins. NIV

Ezek 33:2-7

2 "Son of man, speak to your countrymen and say to them: 'When I bring the sword against a land, and the people of the land choose one of their men and make him their watchman,

3 and he sees the sword coming against the land and blows the **trumpet** to warn the people,

4 then if anyone hears the **trumpet** but does not take warning and the sword comes and takes his life, his blood will be on his own head.

5 Since he heard the sound of the **trumpet** but did not take warning, his blood will be on his own head. If he had taken warning, he would have saved himself.

6 But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the **trumpet** to warn the people and the sword comes and takes the life of one of them, that man will be taken away because of his sin, but I will hold the watchman accountable for his blood.'

7 "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. NIV

G. Its use in the harvest:

Isa 27:12-13

12 In that day the LORD will thresh from the flowing Euphrates to the Wadi of Egypt, and you, O Israelites, will be gathered up one by one.

13 And in that day a great **trumpet**⁶ will sound [1 Thes. 4:16]. Those who were perishing in Assyria and those who were exiled in Egypt will come and worship the LORD on the holy mountain in Jerusalem. NIV

5. The New Testament use of trumpets [*shophar*]-

A. Mt. Sinai-

Heb 12:18-19

18 You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm;

19 to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, NIV

What mountain was this? Mt. Sinai. The trumpet sounded there by God was a shophar. The Greek word used here is salpigx (sal'-pinx), Strong's # NT:4536. By its use here in Hebrews, we can draw the conclusion that salpigx = shophar.

B. Its use in prophecy and warfare:

1 Cor 14:8-15

8 Again, if the trumpet [same as *shophar* by virtue of its use in Heb. 12] does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle?

- 9 So it is with you. Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will just be speaking into the air.
- 10 Undoubtedly there are all sorts of languages in the world, yet none of them is without meaning.
- 11 If then I do not grasp the meaning of what someone is saying, I am a foreigner to the speaker, and he is a foreigner to me.
- 12 So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church.
- 13 For this reason anyone who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret what he says.
- 14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.
- 15 So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind. NIV

Both in prophecy and in music, the sound of the trumpet must be clear!

Rev 8:2, 6-7

- 2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven **trumpets**.
- 6 Then the seven angels who had the seven **trumpets** prepared to sound them.
- 7 The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down upon the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up. NIV

C. Its use in the harvest:

Matt 24:31

And he will send his angels with a loud **trumpet** call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. NIV

1 Thess 4:16

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the **trumpet** call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. NIV

1 Cor 15:52

in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last **trumpet**. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. NIV

Rev 4:1

After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a **trumpet** said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." NIV

Once again, we see God's consistency. What the shophar is the Old Testament, it is in the New.

*The wind instruments are the spirit of instrumental music. The piercing flute reminds us of the sorrow and joy of our pierced Lord. The reed instruments remind us of the intimacy of worshipping God; He breathing on us and we breathing on Him. The trumpets announce the entrance of the King and resound with redemption and liberty. Their clarion call assembles the congregation, sets them out to battle, and can represent the clear warning cry of the prophet and the call of the intercessor. In the end, it will be to the sound of God's **shophar** that we will be gathered to our Lord.*

Ps 150:3a "Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet," NIV

Amen!