

### Prayer List

Judy  
Wallace  
Sheila  
Ophelia

### Services:

#### Sunday

Bible Class 9:00 a.m.  
Assembly 9:50 a.m.  
Assembly 6:00 p.m.

#### Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

### Elders:

Brad Behrens - [bradbehrens@pinolechurchofchrist.com](mailto:bradbehrens@pinolechurchofchrist.com)  
Michael Odom - [MichaelOdom@pinolechurchofchrist.com](mailto:MichaelOdom@pinolechurchofchrist.com)  
Ernie Sprinkel - [preacher@pinolechurchofchrist.com](mailto:preacher@pinolechurchofchrist.com)

### This Week's Question:

What priest anointed Solomon king?

### Answer To Last Week's Question:

Leprosy - Matthew 8:4

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# Pinole Tidings

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## Do 'Harps in Heaven' Prove That We Can Use Instrumental Music in Worship?

In less than a minute you can read every passage in the New Testament referring to music among the disciples of the Lord. Here they are:

- Matthew 26:30 And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.
- Acts 16:25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.
- Romans 15:9 (quoted from 2 Sam. 22:50) And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.
- 1 Corinthians 14:15 What is it then? 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.

- Ephesians 5:19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

- Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

- Hebrews 2:12 (quoted from Ps. 22:22) Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

- James 5:13 Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.

Failing to find any hint of the use of mechanical instruments of music in the worship of God among first century Christians, some will turn to Revelation 14:2. The verse speaks of “a voice from heaven . . .the voice of harpers harping with the harps.” It is claimed that this proves that the practice of instrumental music is authorized.

But, at least two things are wrong with this conclusion. First, this is a heavenly scene, not an earthly one. What angels do in heaven does not prove what can be done by mortals on earth. By the way, Jesus said that angels “neither marry, nor are given in marriage” (Matthew 22:30). Will those who see ‘harps in heaven’ as a proof for instrumental music be consistent in applying their ‘rule’?

Furthermore, look carefully at the complete statement in Revelation 14:2

“And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: and they sung as it were a new song before the throne . . . (KJV)

It says that what John actually heard was ‘voices’ which were so beautiful that they sounded like ‘harpers harping with their harps’. It never actually mentions the playing of harps! Other translations make this even clearer:

NASV “And I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the voice which I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps. And they sang a new song before the throne . . .”

RSV “And I heard a voice from heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder; the voice I heard was like the sound of harpers playing on their harps, and they sing a new song before the throne . . .

Clearly, there is no justification for instrumental music in worship based upon ‘harps in heaven’. Think!

- by Greg Gwin