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SONGS AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS



Female Singers & Musicians

- After God's deliverance of the Israelites at the Red Sea, Miriam led women who played timbrels (tambourines) and danced and sang in reply to the men (Exodus 15:20-21). [1446 BC]
- The prophetess and judge Deborah composed and sang a song (along with Barak) that celebrated their victory over the Canaanites led by Sisera (Judges 5:1-31). [c.1212 BC]

Female Singers & Musicians

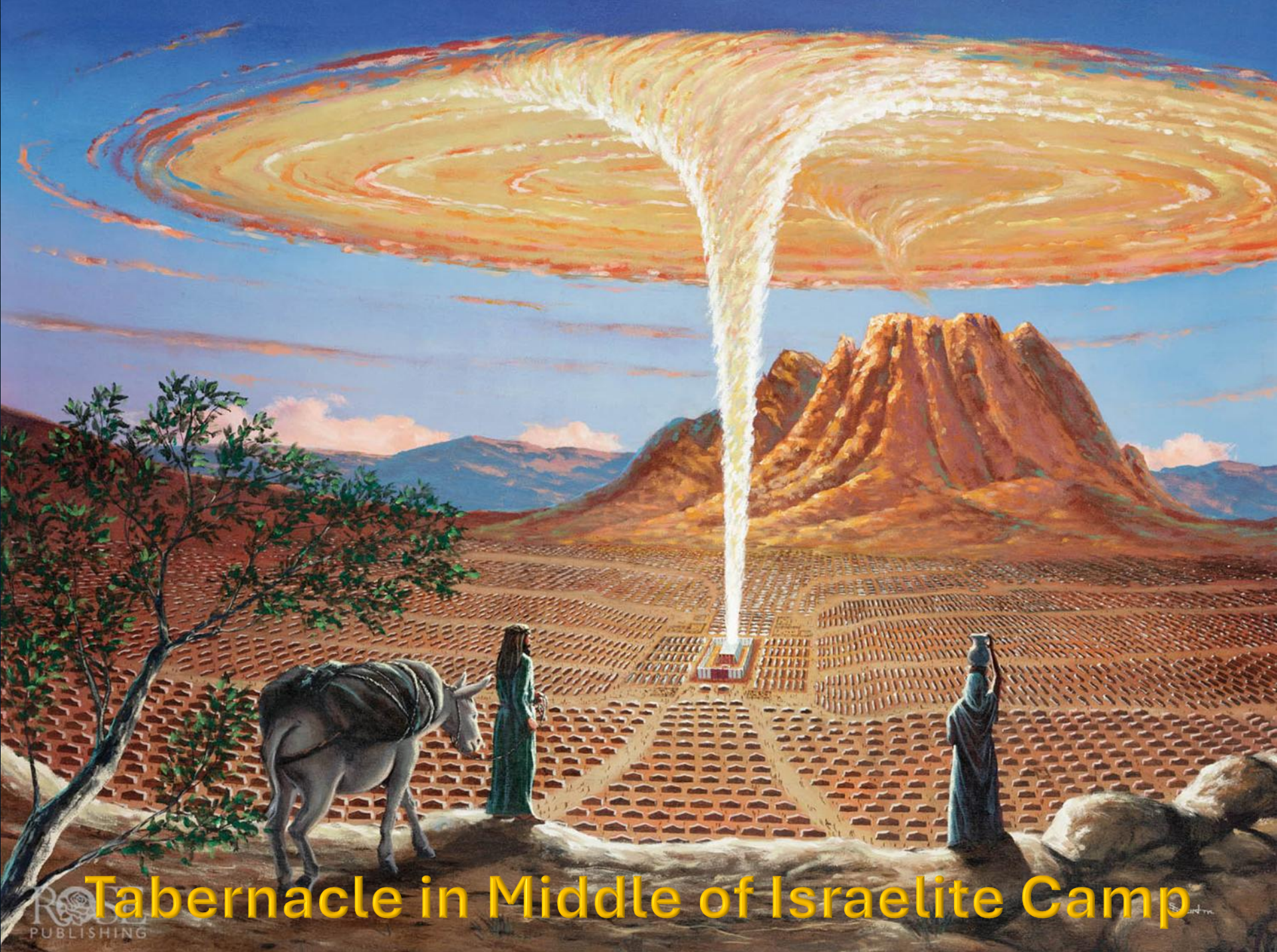
- After David killed Goliath, the women who came out of the cities to greet the returning soldiers were singing, dancing, and playing tambourines and other instruments (1 Samuel 18:6-7). [c.1020 BC]
- Barzillai, age 80, commented to King David that he could no longer “hear the voices of male and female singers” (2 Samuel 19:35, NIV). [c. 980 BC]

Female Singers & Musicians

- The 17 children of Heman who sang and played instruments in the house of God included 3 daughters (1 Chronicles 25:5-6). [c. 975 BC]
- Solomon wrote, “I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired male and female singers, and a harem as well—the delights of a man’s heart” (Eccl. 2:8, NIV). [c.935 BC]

Female Singers & Musicians

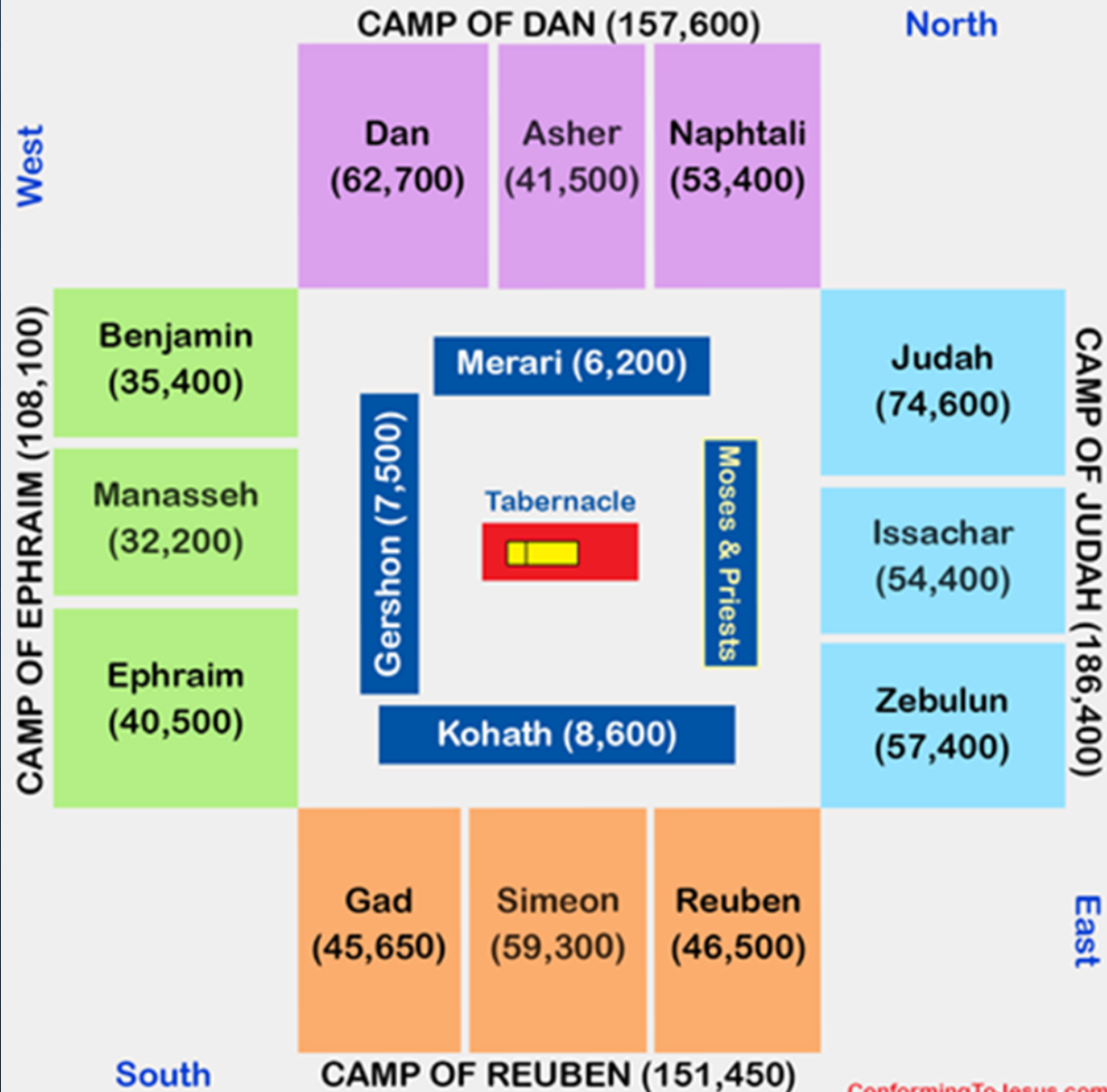
- Jeremiah composed a lament for Josiah. Even to this day all the men and women singers remember and honor Josiah with these songs (2 Chronicles 35:25, EXB). [c.608 BC]
- Among those whom Ezra lists as having returned to Judah from the Babylonian captivity were “200 singing men and women” (2:65). Nehemiah lists “245 male and female singers” (7:67). [c.536 BC]



Tabernacle in Middle of Israelite Camp

ENCAMPMENT OF THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL IN THE WILDERNESS

Numbers 2:1 - 3:39

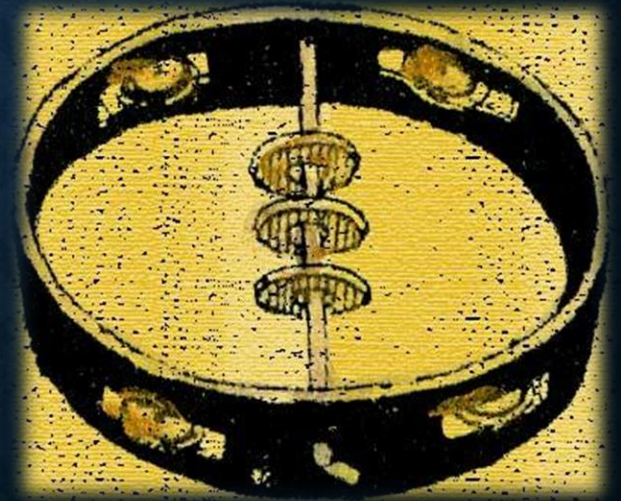


David's Organization of the Musicians

LEVI		
GERSHON ↓	KOHATH ↓	MERARI ↓
ASAPH ↓	HEMAN ↓	JEDUTHUN (ETHAN) ↓
4 divisions	14 divisions	6 divisions

3 Categories of Musical Instruments

1. Strings
2. Wind
3. Percussion





Stringed Instrument: *Kinnor*

- The most common one
- First instrument mentioned in the Bible (Genesis 4:21)
- Played by plucking
- Used for celebration (2 Sam. 6:5), worship (Ps. 33:2), and prophecy (1 Chr. 25:1)
- Used in temple worship (2 Chr. 29:25)



Other Stringed Instruments

- *Nebel*—Hebrew word for *skin bag* or *jar*, which suggests its shape
- *Nebel asor*—a harp or lute with 10 strings
- Same uses as the *kinnor*

Wind Instruments



- *Ugab*—from Hebrew for “breathing”—pipe or flute; mentioned in Gen. 4:21 with the *kinnor*. Used for worship (Ps. 150:4). Could have been an early bagpipe.
- *Halil*—Hebrew for “pierced” (fingerholes)—pipe or flute; probably a double-reeded oboe-like instrument; used for celebrations (1 Kings 1:40), prophecy (1 Sam. 10:5), mourning (Jer. 48:36)

Wind Instruments

- Shofar—ram's horn—used in battle (Josh. 6:4), in celebration (1 Kings 1:34; Ps. 81:3), & as a call or warning (Isaiah 27:13; 58:1)—much like a modern bugle
- Made from the horn of any kosher animal
- First mentioned in Ex. 19:16 (at Mt. Sinai)



Wind Instruments

“On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet [shofar] blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain” (Exodus 19:16-17).

Wind Instruments



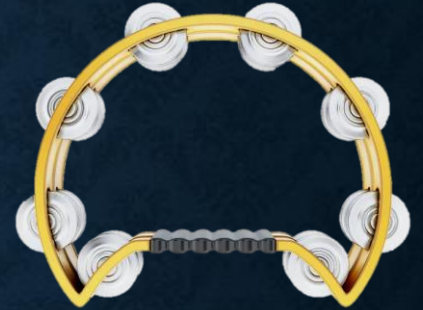
Chatzotzera [*khats-ō-tser-AW*]—metal trumpets (often silver)—used to sound battle alarms (2 Chronicles 13:12; Hosea 5:8) or get attention or to celebrate events such as the crowning of a king or the dedication of the Temple (1 Chronicles 13:8; 2 Chronicles 5:12-13).

Percussion Instruments



Sistrum

- *Metselet* [met-SAY-leth]—cymbals—played in pairs; could be small finger cymbals or larger, used in worship (2 Chr. 5:13)
- *Selâshal* [tsel-aw-TSAL]—loud, large cymbals, used for worship (2 Sam. 6:5; Ps. 150:5)



Timbrel



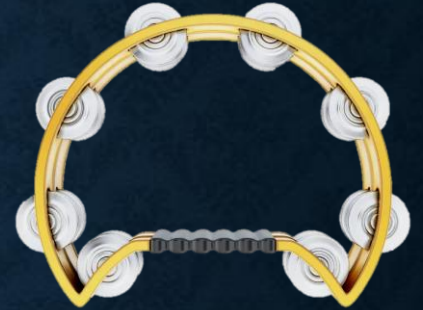
Cymbals

Percussion Instruments



Sistrum

- *Toph*—timbrel or tambourine—played by singing, dancing women (Ex. 15:20)
- *Mananim* [man-an-IM]—possibly castanets or a rattle (sistrum); played in celebration (2 Sam. 6:5)



Timbrel



Cymbals

2 Chronicles 5:12-14, ESV

Dedication of Solomon's Temple

[And] all the Levitical singers, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun, their sons and kinsmen, arrayed in fine linen, with cymbals [*meselet*], harps [*nebel*], and lyres [*kinnor*], stood east of the altar with 120 priests [blowing trumpets] [*chatzotzera*]; and it was the duty of the trumpeters and singers to make themselves heard in unison in praise and thanksgiving to the LORD),

2 Chronicles 5:12-14, ESV

Dedication of Solomon's Temple

and when the song was raised, with trumpets and cymbals and other musical instruments, in praise to the LORD, “For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever,” the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.

Do angels sing?

- “Where were you . . . When the morning stars sang together And all the sons of God shouted for joy?” (Job 38:4, 7).
- The “four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. . . . And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You” (Rev. 5:8-9).

Do angels sing?

- Other passages—such as the appearance of the heavenly angelic host on the night of Jesus’ birth—speak of their “praising God and saying” (Luke 12:13).
- The Greek word for “saying” is *lego*, meaning “to say” or “to speak”; it doesn’t ever seem to mean “sing.” However, it does focus on the substance of what is said more than the way it is said; thus, the angels were communicating their praise to God as well as their message to the shepherds. This word doesn’t indicate how they communicated. They could have sung or shouted or chanted.

Does God sing?

- “The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing” (Zephaniah 3:17, ESV).
- “The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing” (Zephaniah 3:17, NIV).

Biblical Criteria for Worship Music

- **Eph.5:10**—Our music should please the Lord.
- **Is.1:13-15**—God doesn't accept hypocritical worship (**Amos 5:21, 23**).
- **John 4:24**—Worship Him in spirit & in truth.
- **Ps.33.1-3**—Everyone should sing for joy to the Lord (**Ps.100.1**) & for God's glory.

Biblical Criteria for Worship Music

- **Col. 3.16**—Music can be a means of letting God's Word dwell in us richly (meditating on it). It can teach & admonish other believers & also express gratitude to God.
- **1Cor.14:15**—Sing with the spirit & with the mind.
- **Ex.15**—Praise God for Who He is & what He has done.

