

Psalm 33:2-3

“Praise the Lord with the harp; make melody to him with an instrument of ten strings. Sing to him a new song; play skillfully with a shout of joy.”

Praise:

Yadah-to use (i.e. hold out) the hand; physically, to throw (a stone, an arrow) at or away; especially to revere or worship (with extended hands)

Harp:

Kinnowr-to twang; a harp: -harp

Melody (Sing in KJ):

Zamar-through the idea of striking with the fingers; properly, to touch the strings or parts of a musical instrument, i.e. play upon it; to make music, accompanied by the voice; hence to celebrate in song and music

Instrument:

`Asowr-ten; ten strings, and so a decachord

Sing:

Shuw-r-through the idea of strolling minstrelsy, to sing

New:

Chadash- fresh, new thing

Song:

Shiyr-a song; abstractly, singing

Play skillfully:

Nagan-to thrum, i.e. beat a tune with the fingers; to play on a stringed instrument; hence to make music

Loud noise:

Teruw` ah-clamor, i.e. acclamation of joy or a battle-cry; especially clangor of trumpets, as an alarm

This might be one way you could interpret this verse: “Revere and worship the Lord by using your hands to twang the harp. Play a ten stringed instrument and celebrate in song and music. Walk around playing music and singing a fresh new song. Make music with an acclamation of joy.”

Note: The kinnowr or kinnohr is translated harp and is the first stringed instrument mentioned in Scripture. Some writers believe it was a portable lyre of Syrian origin. The Gahsohr (which means ten) was a ten stringed instrument which some consider being the zither of ten strings.

As we see in many of the psalms, the psalmist gives a reason for such worship to be offered to the Lord. In verse four he says, “*For the word of the Lord holds true, and we can trust everything he does.*” (NLT)

Scripture references:

Psalm 92:3

...on an instrument of ten strings, on the lute, and on the harp, with harmonious sound.

Psalm 144:9

I will sing a new song to you, O God; on a harp of ten strings I will sing praises to you...

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