

Elder Vernon Johnson

Numbers

Ten

Instrument of Ten Strings

Three verses of scripture speak specifically of an instrument of ten strings:

1. Psa 33:2 "Praise the LORD with harp: sing unto him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings."

2. Psa 92:3 "Upon an instrument of ten strings, and upon the psaltery; upon the harp with a solemn sound."

3. Psa 144:9 "I will sing a new song unto thee, O God: upon a psaltery and an instrument of ten strings will I sing praises unto thee."

The above verses tell us that the instrument of ten strings is the harp. The harp and the psaltery are often linked together in the book of Psalms. The psaltery is defined as "the truth" in Ps. 71:22 "I will also praise thee with the psaltery, even thy truth, O my God: unto thee will I sing with the harp, O thou Holy One of Israel." The harp, the instrument of ten strings is the instrument identified in Psalms to sing with.

In Revelations, we read of the harp as follows:

1. Rev. 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: 3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth."

2. Rev. 15:2 "And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. 3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints."

The harpers sang the new song of redemption and they sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb. Thus, they were singing about both timely and eternal deliverances. There is only one instrument that we are told to sing with in the New Testament and that is the "heart:" Eph 5:19 "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." The heart is the antitype to which the harp is a type.

Often we hear of the term, "heart strings," which is reference to the heart being the instrument of ten strings. Since ten is associated with the laws and commandments of God, we would expect that the heart would have the laws of God written on it:

1. Heb. 8:10 "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people."

2. Heb. 10:16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them."

3. Rom. 2:14 "For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: 15 Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another."

4. 2 Cor. 3:3 "Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart."

From the above we gather that when a person is born of the Spirit of God that God writes his laws in their heart and in their mind with the finger of God (Spirit of the living God) and this is a direct writing of God. This is in comparison to when God wrote the ten commandments on two tables of stone with the finger of God. Now the laws of God are written directly into the hearts of God's elect.

Therefore, it is with the heart, that has the commandments of God written therein, that we sing the new song of redemption giving all the praise, honor, and glory unto God. The elect are indeed harpers harping with their harps.