

# Job 21:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They take the timbrel and harp, and rejoice at the sound of the organ.

## Analysis

---

The wicked enjoy music: 'They take the timbrel and harp, and rejoice at the sound of the organ.' Musical instruments (timbrel/tambourine, harp, organ/pipe) represent joy and celebration. The wicked experience genuine happiness, not constant dread his friends claimed. Job's observation challenges theodicy that assumes all joy indicates righteousness. The wicked DO enjoy temporal pleasures—judgment is often deferred, not immediate.

## Historical Context

---

Ancient Near Eastern cultures used music for celebration and worship. Timbrels, harps, and pipes were common instruments for festivities. Job's point: the wicked aren't constantly miserable as his friends claimed—they genuinely enjoy life, at least temporarily.

## Related Passages

---

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

---

1. How do we reconcile the wicked's genuine happiness with doctrine of divine justice?
2. What is the difference between temporal enjoyment and eternal blessing?
3. How does understanding deferred judgment help us make sense of present injustice?

## Interlinear Text

---

|                  |                    |                 |                    |                     |                     |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| שָׂאוּ !         | כֶּתֶף             | וְכִנּוֹר       | וְשִׁמְחוּ !       | לִקְוֹל             | עֹגֶבֶת:            |
| <b>They take</b> | <b>the timbrel</b> | <b>and harp</b> | <b>and rejoice</b> | <b>at the sound</b> | <b>of the organ</b> |
| H5375            | H8596              | H3658           | H8055              | H6963               | H5748               |

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Isaiah 5:12** (Parallel theme): And the harp, and the viol, the tabret, and pipe, and wine, are in their feasts: but they regard not the work of the LORD, neither consider the operation of his hands.

**Genesis 4:21** (Parallel theme): And his brother's name was Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ.