

# Psalm 98:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Sing unto the LORD with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm.

## Analysis

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**Sing unto the LORD with the harp** (זִמְרָה לְהָלָל בְּכָנָר, zammeru l'YHWH bekinnor) —Zimrah means to make music, to sing praise accompanied by instruments. The kinnor (lyre/harp) was David's instrument (1 Samuel 16:23), associated with prophetic worship and royal psalms.

**With the harp, and the voice of a psalm** (בְּכָנָר וְקֹל זִמְרָה, bekinnor veqol zimrah) —doubled emphasis on instrumental and vocal worship united. The phrase qol zimrah (voice of melody) suggests not mere singing but artful, skillful praise. Biblical worship engages both crafted beauty (instrumental music) and articulate word (psalm lyrics).

Worship befitting God's salvation requires our best offerings—cultivated skill, passionate heart, and thoughtful words. The New Testament transfers this principle: whatever we do in worship should be done skillfully and heartily to the Lord (Colossians 3:16-17, Ephesians 5:19).

## Historical Context

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Temple worship featured Levitical musicians with harps, lyres, and cymbals (1 Chronicles 15:16-24). This verse reflects Israel's sophisticated musical tradition, where worship was both spontaneous joy and disciplined artistry. David established this musical order.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse challenge the idea that worship style doesn't matter to God?
2. What 'instruments' (gifts, skills, resources) has God given you to employ in His praise?
3. Is your worship characterized by both passionate joy and thoughtful excellence?

## Interlinear Text

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זֹמְרָה: לְקֹרֵל כְּבָרֶר בְּכָבֶר לְיִהְיוֹת יְמִינָה  
Sing unto the LORD with the harp with the harp and the voice of a psalm  
H2167 H3068 H3658 H3658 H6963 H2172

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 51:3** (References Lord): For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.