

## ~HARP (203)

[Hebrews, *kin-nohr'*, Greek, *ki-tha'ra*]

- The name of the **first musical instrument** mentioned in Scripture. AS, Fn, Kx, NW, Yg, Da

- And the name of his brother was Jubal. He proved to be the founder of all those who handle the **harp** and the pipe. (**Genesis 4:21**)

- The **Hebrew** word *kin-nohr'* **harp**, is also rendered **lyre** in a number of Bible translations. JB, Mo, Ro, RS

- In about half of the 42 occurrences of *kin-nohr'* in the Bible, the translators of the **Septuagint** rendered it by the **Greek** *ki-tha'ra*.

- The *ki-tha'ra* was an instrument resembling the **lyre** **Greek**, *ly'ra*, but it had a more shallow sounding board. Modern translations generally render *ki-tha'ra* in the **Christian Greek Scriptures** as **harp**.

- As it is, the inanimate things give off sound, whether a flute or a **harp**, unless it makes an interval to the tones, how will it be known what is being played on the flute or on the harp? (**1 Corinthians 14:7**)

- And when he took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, having each one a **harp** and golden bowls that were full of incense, and the incense means the prayers of the holy ones. (**Revelation 5:8**)

- Pictorial representations on Egyptian monuments indicate that ancient **harps** were of many styles and shapes, with a varying number of strings. In view of those points, some have suggested that *kin-nohr'* may have been a somewhat general term designating any instrument incorporating basic features of the ancient **harp**.

- All that the Hebrew Scriptures definitely indicate about the *kin-nohr'* is that it was portable and comparatively light in weight, since it could be played in a procession, or even by a prostitute as she sang, walking through a city.

- It is after that that you will come to the hill of the true God,

where there is a garrison of the Philistines. And it should come about that at the time of your coming there to the city, you will certainly meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place, and ahead of them a stringed instrument and tambourine and flute and **harp**, while they are speaking as prophets. (**1 Samuel 10:5**)

- And David and all the house of Israel were celebrating before Yehowah with all sorts of instruments of juniper wood and with **harps** and with stringed instruments and with tambourines and with sistrums and with cymbals. (**2 Samuel 6:5**)
- And it must occur in that day that Tyre must be forgotten seventy years, the same as the days of one king. At the end of seventy years it will happen to Tyre as in the song of a prostitute. (**Isaiah 23:15**)
- Take a **harp**, go around the city, O forgotten prostitute. Do your best at playing on the strings, make your songs many, in order, that you may be remembered. (**Isaiah 23:16**)
- Some were made of alghum wood.
- And the king proceeded to make out of the timbers of the alghum trees supports for the house of Yehowah and for the house of the king, and also **harps** and stringed instruments for the singers. Timbers of alghum trees like this have not come in nor have they been seen down to this day. (**1 Kings 10:12**)
- The strings may have been made from the small intestines of sheep, although perhaps spun vegetable fibers were also used.
- David, who was skilled in playing the *kin-nohr'* with his hand.
- Let our lord, please, command your servants before you that they should look for a skilled man playing upon the **harp**. And it must occur that, when God's bad spirit comes to be upon you, he will have to play with his hand, and it will certainly be well with you. (**1 Samuel 16:16**)
- And it occurred that, when God's spirit came to be upon Saul, David took the **harp** and played with his hand, and there was relief for Saul and it was well with him, and the bad spirit departed from upon him. (**1 Samuel 16:23**)

- Assigned this instrument a prominent place along with the stringed instrument *ne'vel* in the orchestra that later played at Solomon's temple.
- Further, David and the chiefs of the service groups separated for the service some of the sons of Asaph, Heman and Jeduthun the ones prophesying with the **harps**, with the stringed instruments and with the cymbals. And from their number the official men for their service came to be. (**1 Chronicles 25:1**)
- Meantime, he had the Levites stationed at the house of Yehowah, with cymbals, with stringed instruments and with **harps**, by the commandment of David and of Gad the king's visionary and of Nathan the prophet, for it was by the hand of Yehowah that the commandment was by means of his prophets. (**2 Chronicles 29:25**)
- When Nehemiah inaugurated Jerusalem's wall, the *kin-nohr'* added to the joy of the occasion.
- And at the inauguration of the wall of Jerusalem they looked for the Levites, to bring them out of all their places to Jerusalem to carry on an inauguration and a rejoicing even with thanksgivings and with song, cymbals and stringed instruments and with **harps**. (**Nehemiah 12:27**)
- Since the *kin-nohr'* was essentially a pleasant instrument of exultation, its sound would cease at times of judgment or punishment.
- Strike up a melody and take a tambourine, the pleasant **harp** together with the stringed instrument. (**Psalms 81:2**)
- And I will cause the turmoil of your singing to cease, and the very sound of your **harps** will be heard no more. (**Ezekiel 26:13**)
- The exultation of the tambourines has ceased, the noise of the highly elated ones has discontinued, the exultation of the **harp** has ceased. (**Isaiah 24:8**)
- It is with no song that they drink wine, the intoxicating liquor becomes bitter to those drinking it. (**Isaiah 24:9**)

- Saddened by their exile in Babylon, the Israelites had no inclination to play their **harps**, but they hung them upon poplar trees.
- By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down. We also wept when we remembered Zion. (**Psalms 137:1**)
- Upon the poplar trees in the midst of her we hung our **harps**. (**Psalms 137:2**)
- Because of the uncertainty surrounding the precise identity of the *kin-nohr'*, and especially the *ne'vel*, stringed instrument, any attempt to compare the two instruments is speculative.
- And Zechariah and Aziel and Shemiramoth and Jehiel and Unni and Eliab and Maaseiah and Benaiah with stringed instruments tuned to Alamothe. (**1 Chronicles 15:20**)
- And Mattithiah and Eliphelehu and Mikneiah and Obed-edom and Jeiel and Azariah with **harps** tuned to Sheminith, to act as directors. (**1 Chronicles 15:21**)
- Mentions stringed instruments *neva-lim'*, **plural**, tuned to Alamothe, **harps** *kin-no-roth'*, **plural**, tuned to Sheminith. If Alamothe refers to a higher musical register and Sheminith to a lower tonal range, this could imply that the *kin-nohr'* was the larger, lower-pitched instrument.
- On the other hand, the reverse could be true, which is the general consensus, if, indeed, Alamothe and Sheminith are specifically here mentioned because of being exceptional tunings for these instruments. In any event, both instruments were portable.
- That at the time that you hear the sound of the horn, the pipe, the zither, the triangular **harp**, the stringed instrument, the bagpipe and all sorts of musical instruments, you fall down and worship the image of gold that Nebuchadnezzar the king has set up. (**Daniel 3:5**)
- Because of this, at the same time as all the peoples were hearing the sound of the horn, the pipe, the zither, the triangular **harp**, the stringed instrument and all sorts of musical instruments, all the peoples, national groups and languages were falling down and worshiping the image of gold that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up. (**Daniel 3:7**)

- You yourself, O king, set forth the command that every man that hears the sound of the horn, the pipe, the zither, the triangular **harp**, the stringed instrument, and the bagpipe and all sorts of musical instruments, should fall down and worship the image of gold. (**Daniel 3:10**)
- Now if you are ready so that when you hear the sound of the horn, the pipe, the zither, the triangular **harp**, the stringed instrument, and the bagpipe and all sorts of musical instruments, you fall down and worship the image that I have made, all right. But if you do not worship, at that same moment you will be thrown into the burning fiery furnace. And who is that god that can rescue you out of my hands? (**Daniel 3:15**)
- The **Aramaic** word *sab-bekha* ' seems to refer to a triangular **harp** **NW**, also rendered as **trigon**, **AT**, **JB**, **RS**, and **sambuca**. **Da**
- The *sab-bekha* ' is described by some as a small, shrill, triangular, **four-stringed harp**, which description harmonizes with the above renderings.

**See Also STRINGED INSTRUMENT**