

## ~TAMBOURINE (76)

[Hebrew, *toph*]

- A percussion instrument used since patriarchal times. The Hebrew word *toph* has also been translated, timbrel, tambour, and tabret. **KX, DA, AS**
- Why did you have to run away secretly and outwit me and not tell me, that I might send you away with rejoicing and with songs, with **tambourine** and with harp? (**Genesis 31:27**)
- All these renderings essentially are descriptive of the same instrument a small hand drum of animal skin or parchment stretched on one or both sides of a wooden or metal frame, likely about 25 centimeters (10 inches) in diameter.
- In view of its festive use, some models may have had pieces of metal, perhaps jingles, attached to the sides and could have been played like a modern **tambourine**. Other types probably had more the appearance and use of a tom-tom, being beaten with both hands.
- Although the **tambourine** is not mentioned in connection with temple worship, it was used by both men and women in praising Yehowah and on other joyful occasions such as feasts and weddings.
- 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**)
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- Praise him with the **tambourine** and the circle dance. Praise him

with strings and the pipe. (**Psalms 150:4**)

- And there must prove to be harp and stringed instrument, **tambourine** and flute, and wine at their feasts, but the activity of Yehowah they do not look at, and the work of his hands they have not seen. (**Isaiah 5:12**)
- Women especially would accompany themselves with **tambourines** in singing and dancing.
- And Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, proceeded to take a **tambourine** in her hand, and all the women began going out with her with tambourines and in dances. (**Exodus 15:20**)
- Finally Jephthah came to Mizpah to his home, and, look! His daughter coming out to meet him with **tambourine** playing and dancing! Now she was absolutely the only child. Besides her he had neither son nor daughter. (**Judges 11:34**)
- And it came about that at their coming in, when David returned from striking the Philistines down, the women began coming out from all the cities of Israel with song and dances to meet Saul the king, with **tambourines**, with rejoicing and with lutes. (**1 Samuel 18:6**)
- The **tambourine** is also associated with the prospective gladness of Israel when the time of her restoration would arrive.
- Yet shall I rebuild you and you will actually be rebuilt, O virgin of Israel. You will yet deck yourself with your **tambourines** and actually go forth in the dance of those who are laughing. (**Jeremiah 31:4**)