

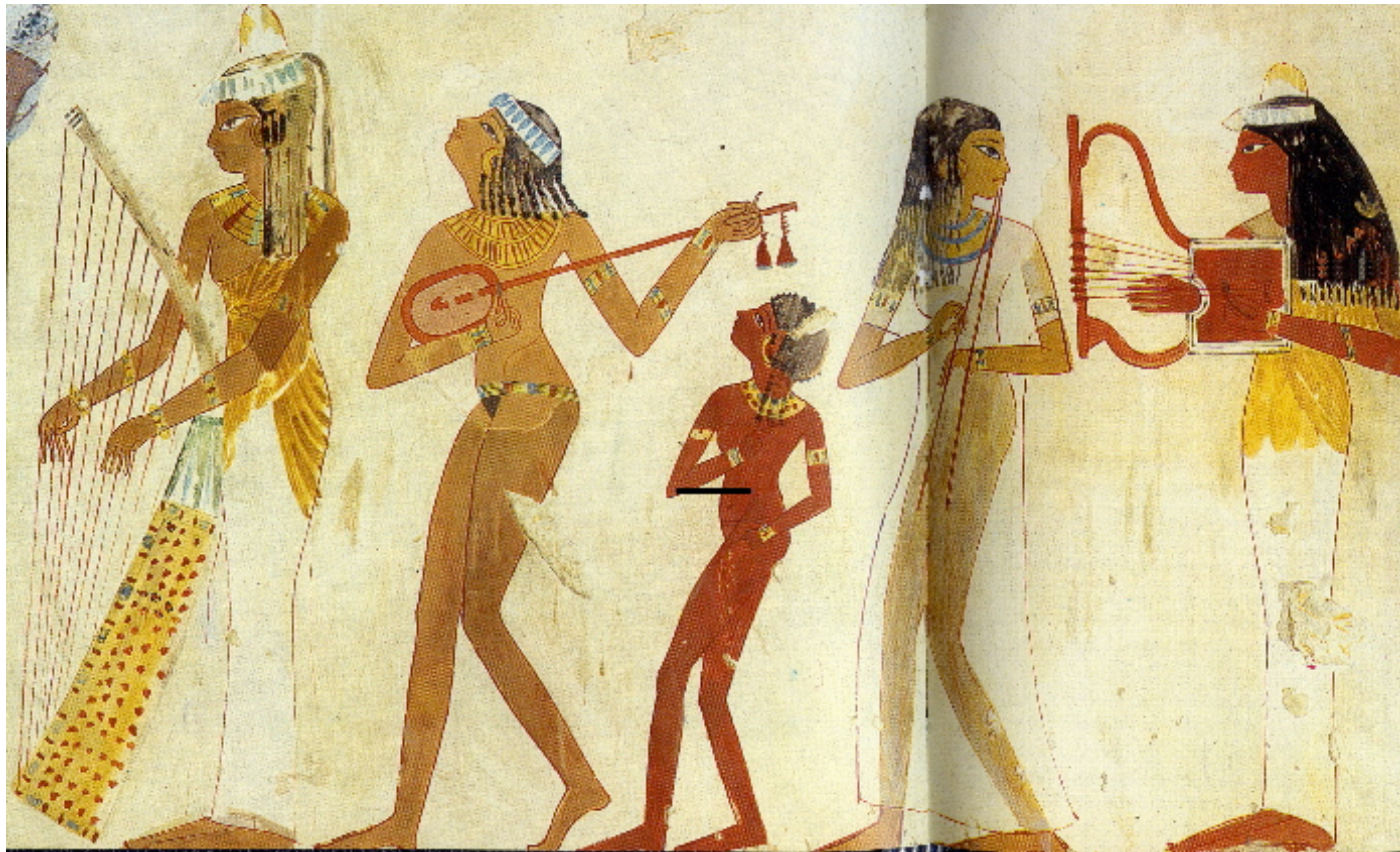
Psalm 92: Thanksgiving

Harp

Lute

Oboe

Lyre



Psalm 92 (91) (Mode 2. 5....31 / 4.....32)

The psalmist takes delight in thanking the Lord for the way he acts in history, including the way he has made the psalmist prevail over his enemies.

People who lack wisdom are impressed by the fact that godless people are seen to flourish. The psalmist knows that they will finally be destroyed, for 'there is no unrighteousness' in the Lord.

It is the only psalm to begin with the word 'Good'.

Note that YHWH (Lord) is mentioned seven times.

How good it is to give you thanks, O Lord,
to make music in your honour, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning,
and in the night your faithfulness,
to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the plucking of the lyre.

Harp

Lute

Oboe

Lyre



Your deeds, O Lord, make me glad.
I sing for joy at the works of your hands.
How great are your works, O Lord!
How deep your designs!

‘As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts’(Isaiah 55:9).

‘Great are your judgments and hard to describe;
therefore uninstructed souls have gone astray.’

(Wisdom 17:1)

The foolish cannot understand

‘I feared provocation by the enemy, for their adversaries might misunderstand and say, “Our hand is triumphant; it was not the Lord who did all this”. They are a nation void of sense; there is no understanding in them. If they were wise, they would understand this; they would discern what the end would be’(Deuteronomy 32:27-29).

‘Those who are wise understand these things; those who are discerning know them. For the ways of the Lord are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them’(Hosea 14:9).

‘They do not know the thoughts of the Lord; they do not understand his plan, that he has gathered them as sheaves to the threshing floor’(Micah 4:12).

‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants’(Matthew 11:25).

‘Great and amazing are your deeds, Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, King of the nations!’(Revelation 15:3).

The foolish cannot understand
that though the wicked sprout like grass,
though evildoers flourish,
they are doomed to final destruction.

You, O Lord, are for ever on high.

Your enemies perish; all who do evil are scattered.

‘The haughty eyes of people shall be brought low,
and the pride of everyone shall be humbled; and
the Lord alone will be exalted in that day.’

(Isaiah 2:11)

To me you give the wild ox's strength ('horn').
You anoint me with the purest oil.

Psalm 75:4-5,10 speaks of the 'horn' in a similar way. The image is of strength, especially in battle. The power of God's people is likened to the power of a wild ox.

'God, who brings them out of Egypt, is like the horns of a wild ox for them'(Numbers 23:22).

'Majesty is his (speaking of Joseph)! His horns are the horns of a wild ox'(Deuteronomy 33:17).

I have seen the downfall of my enemies.

I have heard the doom of my evil assailants.

Peter reminds us that not all our enemies are outside. He speaks of ‘the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul’(1Peter 2:11).

The righteous flourish like the palm tree,
and grow like a Lebanon cedar.

They are planted in the house of the Lord;
they flourish in the courts of our God.

In old age they still bear fruit;
they are always green and full of sap.

‘I am like a green olive tree in the house of God.

I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever.’

(Psalm 52:8)

Proclaim that the Lord is upright;
my rock, in whom there is no wrong.

‘The Rock, his work is perfect, and all his ways are just.
A faithful God, without deceit, just and upright is
he’(Deuteronomy 32:4)

‘Who will say: What have you done? Or who will resist
your judgment? Who will accuse you for the destruction
of nations that you made? Or who will come before you
to plead as an advocate for the unrighteous? For neither
is there any god besides you, whose care is for all people,
to whom you should prove that you have not judged
unjustly’(Wisdom 12:12-13).