

NOTE TO DON PRESTON

Don, these two Hebrew words are equivalent to the Greek word ψάλλω. The following is a citation from Abbott-Smith's Manual Greek Lexicon of the New Testament:

ψάλλω, [in LXX chiefly for רַמַּי pi. (Jg 5:3, Ps 7:17, al.), also for רַמַּי pi. (1 Ki 16:16 ff., al.);] 1. *to pull, twitch, twang* (as a bowstring, etc.; Æsch., Eur., al.), hence, 2. absol., (a) *to play* a stringed instrument with the fingers (Hdt., Plat., al.); (b) later, *to sing to a harp, sing psalms* (LXX); in NT, *to sing a hymn, sing praise*: Ja 5:13; c. dat. pers., Ro 15:9 (LXX), Eph 5:19; dat. instr., 1 Co 14:15.†¹

In Judges 5:3, the LXX renders רַמַּי as ψαλλῶ. Another witness is found in *Lexham Theological Workbook*:

ψάλλω (*psallō*). vb. **to sing praise**. *Conveys the act of singing praise*. This verb is the usual Septuagint translation of the Hebrew רַמַּי (*zāmar*, “to sing praise”). It occurs five times in the NT, where it denotes singing praise to God (e.g., 1 Cor 14:15; Jas

LXX Septuagint.
al. alibi (*elsewhere*).
al. alibi (*elsewhere*).
Æsch. Æschylus, v/B.C.
Eur. Euripides, v/B.C.
al. alibi (*elsewhere*).
absol. absolute.
Hdt. Herodotus, v/B.C.
Plat. Plato, v–iv/B.C.
al. alibi (*elsewhere*).
LXX Septuagint.
c. Cum (with).
dat. dative.
pers. person.
LXX Septuagint.
dat. dative.

† It signifies that all the instances of the word's occurrence in the N.T. have been cited.

¹ G. Abbott-Smith, *A Manual Greek Lexicon of the New Testament* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1922), 487.

5:13).² Don, I might add that “singing” does not exclude “playing.” For example, Ephesians 5:19 reads:
Ephesians 5:19–20 (NIV)

Speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. **Sing** and **make music** from your heart to the Lord,²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Greek text for “sing and make music” is **ᾄδοντες** καὶ **ψάλλοντες**. **Paul is not saying “singing and singing,” but rather, ᾄδοντες** (singing) and **ψάλλοντες** (making music).

ᾄδοντες is identified as a verb, present, active, participle, masculine, plural, nominative from ᾄδω (“I sing”).

Ψάλλοντες is identified as a verb, present, active, participle, masculine, plural, nominative from ψάλλω (twitch, twang, play—I play on the harp or other stringed instrument”)

An example of these two words are found in Psalm 27:6: “Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; **I will sing** [ᾄσομαι] and **make music** [ψαλῶ] to the LORD.

My translation: “I will sing and I will make music.”

LXX: 26:6 reads:

ᾄσομαι	καὶ	ψαλῶ	τῷ	κυρίῳ
ᾄδω, αἰείδω	καί	ψάλλω	ὁ	κύριος
VFMIIS	C	VFAIIS	DDSM	NDSM
sing; twang a	and	sing psalms	the	lord
bowstring				
I will sing	and I will sing psalms	to the	Lord.	

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Once more, Psalm 57:7–8 (NIV) reads: ⁷ My heart, O God, is steadfast, my heart is steadfast; **I will sing** and **make music**. ⁸ Awake, my soul! **Awake, harp and lyre!** I will awaken the dawn.

² John Frederick, “Praise and Thanksgiving,” ed. Douglas Mangum et al., *Lexham Theological Wordbook*, Lexham Bible Reference Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).

³Randall Tan and David A. deSilva, Logos Bible Software, *The Lexham Greek-English Interlinear Septuagint* (Logos Bible Software, 2009), Ps 26:6.

LXX: 56:8:

ᾄσομαι καὶ **ψαλῶ**
ᾄδω, ἀείδω καὶ ψάλλω
VFMI1S C VFAI1S
sing and sing psalms
I will sing and sing psalms.
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Don, hopefully, this will assist you in your own studies. Please let me know if I need to do more.

Yours in Jesus,

Dallas

⁴Randall Tan and David A. deSilva, Logos Bible Software, [*The Lexham Greek-English Interlinear Septuagint*](#) (Logos Bible Software, 2009), Ps 56:8.