



TOF MIRIAM DRUM

Song — Dance — Drum



Tof Miriam — The Biblical Hand Drum

Song • Dance • Drum

“Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron’s sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women followed her, with tambourines and dancing.”

—Exodus 15:20

MIRIAM

In the Book of Exodus, **Miriam the prophetess** led the women of Israel in joyful song and dance after the LORD delivered His people from Egypt and brought them safely through the Red Sea.

Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, we find women celebrating significant moments with **song, dance, and the sound of the hand-drum**. Miriam provides one of the clearest and most beautiful examples.



After Moses and the children of Israel sang to the LORD, Miriam took the drum in her hand, and the women followed her with drums and dancing. Miriam led them in a joyful response, proclaiming the LORD's triumph and celebrating His mighty deliverance.

INSTRUMENT

The Tof

The Hebrew word **tof** refers to a hand-held percussion instrument commonly understood as a **frame drum or hand-drum**. In English Bible translations, *tof* is often rendered as **tambourine** or **timbrel**.

Because Miriam took the *tof* in her hand and led the women in song and dance following the crossing of the Red Sea, the instrument has become closely associated with **Miriam's joyful worship and celebration**.

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, the **tof** appears in scenes of rejoicing, celebration, music, and dance. Women are notably pictured playing hand-drums at significant moments of victory and joyful praise.

Miriam's response after the deliverance at the Red Sea beautifully joins **prophetic worship, song, movement, and the sound of the drum**. The *tof* provides a meaningful biblical picture of worship expressed not only through the voice, but also through **music, movement, and celebration before the LORD**.

A SOUND OF DELIVERANCE

The sound of the *tof* in Miriam's hands followed a powerful moment of **deliverance**. Israel had witnessed the LORD make a way through the sea and **bring His people safely to the other side**. Miriam's response was not silent—she took the *tof*, and the women followed her with **music, movement, and celebration**.

There are times when worship becomes a response to remembering what God has done. The sound of the drum can become an expression of **thanksgiving, victory, and rejoicing**, reminding us that the LORD is worthy to be praised for His mighty acts.

Miriam's example also reveals the beauty of **corporate worship**. She did not celebrate alone. As she lifted her *tof*, other women joined her. Their worship became a



shared declaration of the LORD's deliverance—a beautiful biblical picture of **one worshipper encouraging others to arise, rejoice, and celebrate together**

SCRIPTURES

- **Exodus 15:21** — Miriam answered them, singing of the LORD's glorious triumph and His victory over horse and rider.
- **Judges 11:34** — Jephthah's daughter came out to meet him with hand-drums and dancing.
- **1 Samuel 18:6–7** — The women of Israel came out singing and dancing with hand-drums as they celebrated the victory.
- **Jeremiah 31:4** — Israel is pictured once again taking up the hand-drum and going forth in joyful dance.
- **Psalms 68:25** — Singers and musicians are pictured together with maidens playing hand-drums.

Let's Celebrate — Happy Drumming!

—Lora



Further Reading

Tambourines & Timbrels – In the Hands of the Worshipper

<https://worshipwarriors.net/teachings/WORSHIP-WARRIORS-Tambourines-Timbrels.pdf>

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