

Numbers Chapter 10 Commentary

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Make thee two trumpets of silver; of a whole piece shalt thou make them: that thou mayest use them for the calling of the assembly, and for the journeying of the camps.

Why only make 2 trumpets? Because only the priests (Aaron's sons) were to blow them and there were only 2 of them alive at this time, Eleazar and Ithamar. The other two, Nadab and Abihu, had died as seen in scripture in: ***Nu 3:4 "And Nadab and Abihu died before the LORD, when they offered strange fire before the LORD, in the wilderness of Sinai, and they had no children: and Eleazar and Ithamar ministered in the priest's office in the sight of Aaron their father."*** A reminder to us; we are not to be presumptuous, in our thoughts or actions.

3 And when they shall blow with them, all the assembly shall assemble themselves to thee at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

We shall see in this chapter there are 7 trumpet sounds to be given.

- 1st: blow trumpets for the assembly of all Israel
- 2nd: blow trumpets for the journeying of Israel
- 3rd: they were to assemble at the tabernacle, a picture of the church gathering to Christ

4 And if they blow but with one trumpet, then the princes, which are heads of the thousands of Israel, shall gather themselves unto thee.

- 3rd: blow 1 trumpet to assemble the princes

5 When ye blow an alarm, then the camps that lie on the east parts shall go forward.

- 4th: blow 1st alarm and the east camps go forward first

6 When ye blow an alarm the second time, then the camps that lie on the south side shall take their journey: they shall blow an alarm for their journeys.

- 5th: blow 2nd alarm camps south go forward

7 But when the congregation is to be gathered together, ye shall blow, but ye shall not sound an alarm.

- 1st: blow trumpets for the assembly of all Israel

8 And the sons of Aaron, the priests, shall blow with the trumpets; and they shall be to you for an ordinance forever throughout your generations.

We see only the priests were to blow the trumpets. It is a permanent service for the priests.

9 And if ye go to war in your land against the enemy that oppresseth you, then ye shall blow an alarm with the trumpets; and ye shall be remembered before the LORD your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies.

- 6th: blow alarm going to war

This is a reminder to us, just as God directed Israel here, before we go to war we should call out to God, by and through our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ. How often I forget this, and when I have gotten myself in a bind, remember that I should have approached God first in prayer, and in supplication, for God's deliverance from my enemies.

10 Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, and in the beginnings of your months, ye shall blow with the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; that they may be to you for a memorial before your God: I am the LORD your God.

- 7th: blow for gladness, solemn days, burnt offerings, peace offerings

What is significant about the 7 different soundings of the trumpets? In Scripture we find:

- Rev chapters 1-3: (7 messages) There was a message for each of the 7 churches
- Rev chapters 4:5; (7 lamps) The seven lamps around the throne of God
- Rev chapters 5-8: (7 seals) The opening of the seven seals of the sealed book
- Rev chapters 8-11: (7 trumpets) The sounding of the 7 trumpets
- Rev chapters 15-16: (7 vials and 7 plagues)
- Rev chapter 17: The harlot and the beast with 7 heads (satan trying to imitate God)

As we consider all these things in concert, we find again, there is a reason for God giving the commandment of the blowing of the trumpets. This very simple action, which gave instruction and produced order in leading the people of God, acknowledged God was directing his people. We look back, with the knowledge of the New Testament scriptures, and see the prophetic picture of the preaching of the gospel of Christ, and the leading of the Holy Spirit in time. This, in time, accomplishes at least 2 things:

- The preaching of the gospel is for God's people, to know what and how they should be doing, and the action they need to take, as guided by the understanding of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- We see the preaching of the gospel of Christ manifested to all the world, the lost and saved. The lost, the enemy, will hear the trumpets sound and be informed that God is on the scene. Whether they care or not, they can't say they were not warned.

So it is in the preaching of the gospel to all the world. There is none with excuse as seen in: ***Ro 1:16-23; 16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; 19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: 21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.***

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things."

11 And it came to pass on the twentieth day of the second month, in the second year, that the cloud was taken up from off the tabernacle of the testimony.

The travel of Israel from Sinai is begun. Notice, it happened in the 2nd month on the 20th day, to allow for the 2nd keeping of the Passover for those not qualified the 1st time. This insured that all Israel had made their sacrifices to God and were in his good graces. (See **Numbers 9:6-12** for those who were not qualified the 1st time)

This may be observed today in that, when one of a church's body can't participate in the Lord's Supper, as soon as they are able to participate, it would be good to have another Lord's Supper for them, so that all are in concord and favor with God. This signifies unity of the Spirit, and teaches us the importance of following God's commandments in our relationship, to Him, and to one another.

Remember God's teaching on division: **Mt 12:25 "And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:"**

12 And the children of Israel took their journeys out of the wilderness of Sinai; and the cloud rested in the wilderness of Paran. 13 And they first took their journey according to the commandment of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

In verses 13-27 we see the order of the movement of Israel is given.

14 In the first place went the standard of the camp of the children of Judah according to their armies: and over his host was Nahshon the son of Amminadab. 15 And over the host of the tribe of the children of Issachar was Nethaneel the son of Zuar. 16 And over the host of the tribe of the children of Zebulun was Eliab the son of Helon. 17 And the tabernacle was taken down; and the sons of Gershon and the sons of Merari set forward, bearing the tabernacle. 18 And the standard of the camp of Reuben set forward according to their armies: and over his host was Elizur the son of Shedeur. 19 And over the host of the tribe of the children of Simeon was Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai. 20 And over the host of the tribe of the children of Gad was Eliasaph the son of Deuel. 21 And the Kohathites set forward, bearing the sanctuary: and the other did set up the tabernacle against they came. 22 And the standard of the camp of the children of Ephraim set forward according to their armies: and over his host was Elishama the son of Ammihud. 23 And over the host of the tribe of the children of Manasseh was Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur. 24 And over the host of the tribe of the children of Benjamin was Abidan the son of Gideoni. 25 And the standard of the camp of the children of Dan set forward, which was the rereward of all the camps throughout their hosts: and over his host was Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai. 26 And over the host of the tribe of the children of Asher was Pagiel the son of Ocran. 27 And over the host of the tribe of the children of Naphtali was Ahira the son of Enan. 28 Thus were the journeyings of the children of Israel according to their armies, when they set forward. 29 And Moses said unto Hobab, the son of Raguel the Midianite, Moses' father in law, We are journeying unto the place of which the LORD said, I will give it you: come thou with us, and we will do thee good: for the LORD hath spoken good concerning

Israel. **30** And he said unto him, I will not go; but I will depart to mine own land, and to my kindred. **31** And he said, Leave us not, I pray thee; forasmuch as thou knowest how we are to encamp in the wilderness, and thou mayest be to us instead of eyes. **32** And it shall be, if thou go with us, yea, it shall be, that what goodness the LORD shall do unto us, the same will we do unto thee. **33** And they departed from the mount of the LORD three days' journey: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD went before them in the three days' journey, to search out a resting place for them.

"And they departed from the mount of the LORD" Here, we see a prophetic picture of Jesus Christ sacrificed on the cross, as the Mount of the Lord.

"three days' journey" This is a picture of the age of Grace and the expected return of Christ at the end of time.

"and the ark of the covenant of the LORD went before them in the three days' journey" A picture of Christ sending the Holy Spirit to earth, after his ascension to heaven and the throne, to guide his people until their place and time of eternal rest is ready for occupation.

"to search out a resting place for them." A picture of Christ having completed the resting place as seen in: *Joh 14:2-3; 2 "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."*

34 And the cloud of the LORD was upon them by day, when they went out of the camp.

This is a picture of the divine protection of God, upon the saved people of the world. How? Being born again, and having joined the church body, we see the spirit of God resting upon the children. The Holy Spirit has taken up residence in the heart and soul.

35 And it came to pass, when the ark set forward, that Moses said, Rise up, LORD, and let thine enemies be scattered; and let them that hate thee flee before thee.

A picture of Christ praying for God's presence and protection for the saved people in time, as seen in scripture in: *Joh 17:15 "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil."*

36 And when it rested, he said, Return, O LORD, unto the many thousands of Israel.

This is a picture of the final gathering of all God's people in eternity, and fellowship and communion with God the Father, finally being fully restored.

Praise the Lord for our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ and the great expectation of eternal life in the presence of God and Christ. Hallelujah!