

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NUMBERS

"Silver Trumpets"

Numbers 10:1-10

INTRODUCTION

1. Great lessons are learned from Israel's experience in the wilderness (1 Cor. 10:11).
2. Keeping of the Passover (9:1-14) clearly reminded Israel every 14th day of the first month that they were a redeemed people. Remembrance of the Lord's Table gives the same consideration for believers today (1 Cor. 11:23-34).
3. Redeemed people need guidance from God. This was provided by the cloud and the fire (9:15-23). The whole nation stayed or moved with the tabernacle as the cloud/fire moved from over the tabernacle (9:23 cf. Lev. 16:2). Today's believers need guidance also. It is provided by a gracious God through His Word, the Holy Spirit, circumstances, and the help of spiritual friends. Of course, it is assumed, like for Israel, that there is a willing heart to do God's will--obedience is basic!
4. Now (10:1-10) information is given about specific times for movement. God leaves nothing to guesses or chance. Consider--

1. MAKING OF THE TRUMPETS vv. 1. 2

a. Commanded v. 1

The LORD (intimate Name of God used here) ordered Moses with regard to the trumpets. This is, therefore, a divine activity to be done.

b. Instructed v. 2

The trumpets were hammered out of a single piece of silver. Josephus describes them and they are pictured on the Arch of Titus in Rome. They were straight pipes like a long slender tube, about 1½ to 3 feet in length.

2. BLOWING OF THE TRUMPETS vv. 3-8

a. Who? v. 8

The responsibility is given to the sons of Aaron, the priests. They represented God, hence here is another evidence that God claimed control over the camp. Who today is willing to allow God control of his life? Not many!

b. How? vv. 3-8

1) Assembly of all v. 3. When both trumpets were sounded, then the entire tribes were to come to the tabernacle door. Obviously, this connotes representatives and not every person. Note, however, that Israel's life-style was centered around the tent of testimony--what

a lesson for moderns who focus on money, education, employment, pleasure, etc. Who focuses on the local Assembly?!?

2) Assembly of leaders v. 4. One trumpet blowing called the princes and heads of thousands. The "unto thee" shows that Moses stood in the stead of God. Authority is never sacrificed to maintain Israel's unity.

3) Assembly of alarm vv. 5-7. One blast alerted the eastern tribes (cf. 2:3-9). A second alarm alerted the southern tribes (cf. 2:10-16). Nothing is noted for the northern/western tribes. The alarm is distinguished from the assembly blast (v. 7).

Item: The Mishna states there were two techniques to use: a) Regular blast. (b) Three short blasts, a staccato rhythm.

3. USING OF THE TRUMPETS vv. 2, 9, 10

a. Assembly v. 2

This is a general statement (cf. vv. 3, 4, 7).

b. Travel v. 2

This is a general statement (cf. v. 6b).

c. War v. 9

This is war "in your land." Canaan is not heaven, but part of the journey. When the trumpet is sounded, assurance is given that God will "remember"--right in His face--and Israel will be "saved" from her enemies. What a God of promise!

d. Festivities v. 10

In times of gladness, solemnity, at Passover (beginning of months) burnt offerings (conscious acceptance and devotion to God) and peace offerings (joy of communion with God)--blow the trumpet. Why? It is all a remembrance, a spiritual boast before the Lord. He delights in this. Why? He says, "I am the LORD your God." Amen!

CONCLUSION

Trumpets for Israel--yes. But there is one to be blown for us also. Not an alarm, but for a journey upward. It will be for an assembly in His blessed presence forever (1 Thess. 4:16). Blow trumpet, blow--NOW!