

Exegetical Notes, Numbers 10:1-10
“When the Trumpet Sounds”

Prepared by Charles H. Jensen, Pastor, Cornerstone Fellowship
101 Kylies Road, Coatesville, PA 19320
610-384-1375
charleshjensen@aol.com

Numbers 10:1-10

Verses 1-4

The LORD said to Moses: ²“Make two trumpets of hammered silver, and use them for calling the community together and for having the camps set out. ³When both are sounded, the whole community is to assemble before you at the entrance to the tent of meeting. ⁴If only one is sounded, the leaders—the heads of the clans of Israel—are to assemble before you.

- Moses was instructed to make two trumpets of hammered silver. Hammered silver is silver which is beaten into thin sheets. These sheets were then fashioned into slim tubes with flared ends. The tubes were straight and so the trumpets were long and thin, not like modern trumpets. These were not "shofars, rams horns. These were musical instruments.
- Their first use was to summon people to the Tent of Meeting. If there were two blasts from these horns, all of the people of Israel were to assemble. If there was only one blast, only the elders were to come.

Verses 5-7

⁵When a trumpet blast is sounded, the tribes camping on the east are to set out. ⁶At the sounding of a second blast, the camps on the south are to set out. The blast will be the signal for setting out. ⁷To gather the assembly, blow the trumpets, but not with the signal for setting out.

- The second use of the trumpets was to sound directions for the movement of the tribes. When the cloud lifted (see 9:15-23) and the tribes were ready to move, the first blast on the silver trumpets signaled that the first group, Judah's group, was to begin the march. At

- the second blast, the second group moved out and so on until all four groups were marching.
- Verse 7 indicates that there were different tones or tunes for different commands from the trumpets. So the sound of the blast for coming to the Tent of Meeting was different from the sound for marching.

Verses 8-9

⁸ “The sons of Aaron, the priests, are to blow the trumpets. This is to be a lasting ordinance for you and the generations to come. ⁹ When you go into battle in your own land against an enemy who is oppressing you, sound a blast on the trumpets. Then you will be remembered by the LORD your God and rescued from your enemies.

- At times when Israel was to do battle, the silver trumpets were to be sounded as a reminder to the army that they were dependent upon God for success in battle.

Verse 10

¹⁰ Also at your times of rejoicing—your appointed festivals and New Moon feasts—you are to sound the trumpets over your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, and they will be a memorial for you before your God. I am the LORD your God.”

- At Israel's holy celebrations the silver trumpets were to be blown. They were to sound to remind the people that offerings were being made to God on their behalf.
- Thus, it can be seen that the silver trumpets had special meaning in the life of the people of Israel. They summoned the people to God and they helped the people remember their relationship to and their dependence upon God.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *When the Trumpet Sounds*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by *Cornerstone Fellowship & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen*. They are used here by permission.