

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown

Bible Study Notes

10-6-21

Numbers 10

The Silver Trumpets - Verses 1-7

¹ 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. ³ When both are sounded, the whole community is to assemble before you at the entrance to the tent of meeting. ⁴ If only one is sounded, the leaders—the heads of the clans of Israel—are to assemble before you. ⁵ When a trumpet blast is sounded, the tribes camping on the east are to set out. ⁶ At the sounding of a second blast, the camps on the south are to set out. The blast will be the signal for setting out. ⁷ To gather the assembly, blow the trumpets, but not with the signal for setting out.

10:1-2 The two silver trumpets were used to coordinate the tribes as they moved through the wilderness. To keep so many people in tight formations required clear communication and control. Trumpet blasts also reminded Israel of God's protection over them.

10:3 When they blow both of the trumpets, all the congregation shall gather: Distinctive sounds were made to indicate gathering for assembly, marching, or warfare. God also promised to hear the trumpet of Israel in warfare, and to act on behalf of the nation.

10:5-7 "If we follow Jewish tradition, long blasts were used to assemble the people to Moses, to the tent of meeting and for worship. Short staccato blasts were used in battle and to order the camps to move off."

The System Of Blowing Trumpets - Verses 8-10

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. 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."

10:8-10 Also in the day of your gladness: Trumpets were also to be sounded in the day of your gladness; they were a way of celebrating God's people coming together and the presence of the LORD with them. God will use the sound of a trumpet to gather His people for the ultimate assembling together - the rapture of the church, to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18).

The Israelites Leave Sinai For The Promised Land - Verses 11-13

¹¹ On the twentieth day of the second month of the second year, the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle of the covenant law. ¹² Then the Israelites set out from the Desert of Sinai and traveled from place to place until the cloud came to rest in the Desert of Paran. ¹³ They set out, this first time, at the LORD's command through Moses.

10:11-13 And the children of Israel set out from the Wilderness of Sinai on their journeys: As the cloud began to move, one might imagine the huge sense of excitement that flowed through the people - now they were on their way to the Promised Land! Previously, their journey had been from Egypt and slavery; now it was to Canaan and liberty.

So they started out for the first time according to the command of the LORD by the hand of Moses: This was the first time Israel marched as an organized, prepared nation. They were not the same group that escaped Egypt as a mob.

10:11-13 They had been fully prepared to walk as Promised Land people and it was all focused towards this exact point: bringing them into the Promised Land: They were ordered and organized - They were cleansed and purified - They were set apart and blessed - They were taught how to give and how to function as priests - They were made to remember judgment spared and deliverance brought - They were given God's presence as a guide and the tools needed to lead the people.

10:13 One would be tempted to think that after such extensive preparation - a virtual transformation from slave people to Promised Land people - the actual entering into the Promised Land would be easy. This was not the case. The preparation was exactly that - preparation. Ahead of them are the greatest challenges, challenges that can only be met by faith. A soldier might think boot camp finishes something - but it doesn't. It only prepares for a greater challenge: The actual battle itself.

Description Of The Order Of March - Verses 14-21

¹⁴ The divisions of the camp of Judah went first, under their standard. Nahshon son of Amminadab was in command. ¹⁵ Nethanel son of Zuar was over the division of the tribe of Issachar, ¹⁶ and Eliab son of Helon was over the division of the tribe of Zebulun. ¹⁷ Then the tabernacle was taken down, and the Gershonites and Merarites, who carried it, set out. ¹⁸ The divisions of the camp of Reuben went next, under their standard. Elizur son of Shedeur was in command. ¹⁹ Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai was over the division of the tribe of Simeon, ²⁰ and Eliasaph son of Deuel was over the division of the tribe of Gad. ²¹ Then the Kohathites set out, carrying the holy things. The tabernacle was to be set up before they arrived.

10:21 Those who travel, move, or face new challenges know what it is to be uprooted. Life is full of changes, and few things remain stable. The Israelites were constantly moving through the wilderness. They were able to handle change only because God's presence in the tabernacle was

always with them. The portable tabernacle signified God and his people moving together. For us, stability does not mean lack of change, but moving with God in every circumstance.

Description Of The Order Of March - Verses 22-28

²² The divisions of the camp of Ephraim went next, under their standard. Elishama son of Ammihud was in command. ²³ Gamaliel son of Pedahzur was over the division of the tribe of Manasseh, ²⁴ and Abidan son of Gideon was over the division of the tribe of Benjamin. ²⁵ Finally, as the rear guard for all the units, the divisions of the camp of Dan set out under their standard. Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai was in command. ²⁶ Pagiel son of Okran was over the division of the tribe of Asher, ²⁷ and Ahira son of Enan was over the division of the tribe of Naphtali. ²⁸ This was the order of march for the Israelite divisions as they set out.

10:22-28 They actually marched in the order God had commanded earlier in the book. This means that they took God's word seriously, and followed it exactly - just as Promised Land people should. When they began their journey: This was only the beginning. It would have been easy to see all they went through to get to Sinai, and the preparations as the end, but they were only beginning.

Moses Appeals To His Brother In Law To Stay With Israel - Verses 29-32

²⁹ Now Moses said to Hobab son of Reuel the Midianite, Moses' father-in-law, "We are setting out for the place about which the LORD said, 'I will give it to you.' Come with us and we will treat you well, for the LORD has promised good things to Israel." ³⁰ He answered, "No, I will not go; I am going back to my own land and my own people." ³¹ But Moses said, "Please do not leave us. You know where we should camp in the wilderness, and you can be our eyes. ³² If you come with us, we will share with you whatever good things the LORD gives us."

10:29-32 By complimenting Hobab's wilderness skills, Moses let him know he was needed. People cannot know you appreciate them if you do not tell them they are important to you. Complimenting those who deserve it builds lasting relationships and helps people know they are valued. Think about those who have helped you this month. What can you do to let them know how much you need and appreciate them?

Rise Up Oh Lord - Verses 33-36

³³ So they set out from the mountain of the LORD and traveled for three days. The ark of the covenant of the LORD went before them during those three days to find them a place to rest. ³⁴ The cloud of the LORD was over them by day when they set out from the camp. ³⁵ Whenever the ark set out, Moses said, "Rise up, LORD! May your enemies be scattered; may your foes flee before you." ³⁶ Whenever it came to rest, he said, "Return, LORD, to the countless thousands of Israel."

10:29-32 And the cloud of the LORD was above them by day when they went out from the camp: As they begin the journey to the Promised Land, they were guided by God's presence - and not

by themselves. They followed the cloud no matter where God led them. If they were to camp in a rough place, they did it. If they were told to go on from a comfortable place, they did it. They allowed themselves to be guided by God, not by their own desire for comfort and ease.

10:29-32 Rise up, O LORD! Let Your enemies be scattered, and let those who hate You flee before You! This was the prayer of Moses when the presence of God led them on.

The idea was simple: "God, go before us and take care of our enemies. It's too dangerous ahead unless You do so!" What a fitting prayer for every believer to pray! God has things before us, places to lead us - shouldn't we pray this same prayer? Isn't this a fitting prayer also by which to remember the glory and strength of our resurrected Lord? When Jesus rose up, were not all His enemies scattered? Who dared oppose Him? Is not all our victory found in His risen glory?

10:36 Return, O LORD, to the many thousands of Israel: This was the prayer of Moses when God's presence stopped, and indicated a place to camp. Moses then prayed, "Here we camp, LORD. Stay with us." God sometimes tells us to move on, sometimes tells us to "camp out" - either is fine when we are guided by His presence.