

## Numbers 10:1–10

### Gathered, Mobilized, and Remembered by the LORD

#### Friday, May 10, 2024 • Read Numbers 10:1–10

*Questions from the Scripture text: Who spoke to whom in v1? What did He tell him to make (v2)? To use for what two purposes? What is to happen if both are blown (v3)? What is to happen if only one is blown (v4)? What might Moses "sound" in v5? Who, then, is to begin what? When he does this a second time, who is to begin what (v6)? What does the rest of v6 imply? How do these sounds compare to the one in v2 (v7)? Who are to be the blowers of trumpets (v8)? Through which generations of the Mosaic administration would this be the case? What would they go to in v9? Where? Against whom? What will this enemy have done? What sort of sound is to be made by the trumpet in that case? Who will remember? What will He do? What other sorts of days are these trumpets for (v10)? What does He give as examples of days of gladness? Upon what actions are they to blow the trumpet on such days? What will such days, and offerings, and trumpetings be for them, before Whom? Who is He?*

**How will the Lord's people know when to do what?** Numbers 10:1–10 prepares us for the evening sermon on the Lord's Day. In these ten verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **God gives His people the distinct soundings of His call so that they will properly prepare for action.**

**Priestly trumpets.** The making of the silver trumpets, and instruction for their use, are the last order of business before departing from Sinai. YHWH Himself signals that it is time to leave, but He has assigned to His priests the short blasts of the trumpet (v5) that initiate the actual movement of the people. This was important, because the house of Aaron oversaw the packing up of the tabernacle (ch3–4), and the people must not begin moving until it was ready. Because God is the King, the trumpet-blowing is a priestly function. If you weren't of the house of Aaron, it wouldn't matter if you were the most skilled trumpeter on earth; God had not given it to you to do.

**Occasions in the wilderness.** While Israel were one great camp, the trumpets served a special function. The long blowings of the trumpets would call for the assembly of the people, and the short blasts for the mobilization of the people. A long blowing of both trumpets would assemble the entire congregation (v3), and a long blowing of just one would assemble only the leadership (v4).

There are times when the Lord calls for His people to gather in a convocation, an assembly. And there are other times when He calls the leaders of His people together as a council. By appointing special trumpets for this for the church in the wilderness, the Lord reminds us that it is He Himself Who is really calling such gatherings.

The short blasts of the trumpet would initiate the march of the people. One short blast would send the eastern camp off (v5). The next short blast would send the southern camp off (v6). And so forth (end of v6). The Lord assigned to the priests these short blasts, assigning this auditory cue to the visual cue of the cloud, for reminding His people that He was the One Who went forth in their midst.

**Occasions in the land.** v9 now pivots to what would happen "in your land." There is an indication here that occupying the land would not bring an end to nations' attacking them. They would still have to go to war. There would still be enemies who oppressed them. But, they would still have "YHWH your God" in their midst! Now, the short blasts are not as much for mobilizing themselves, but a reminder that the Lord had promised that He would mobilize Himself in response!

And then there would be those occasions, when they were all gathered together for days of gladness (v10). Then, as had been true in the wilderness times, the Lord would be in their midst. And He would give memorial of this by use of the trumpets. This occurred not only at the feasts but at times like the inauguration of a king (cf. 2Ki 11:14) and the dedication of the temple (cf. 2Ch 5:12–13).

The Lord is in our midst to deliver us and gladden us! And, He calls us to action and mobilizes us! Though we no longer have trumpets that announce these things, the preaching and teaching of His Word proclaim them to us. These are gifts from the God Who is with us, and His servants Whom He employs in calling and reminding His people must do so clearly and distinctly (cf. 1Cor 14:6–9). When they do so, let all His people believe what the Scripture teaches, and do what the Scripture commands. Let them prepare for battle!

**Without trumpets, how do you know that the Lord calls us to gather? How do you know what you should be doing as part of His people?**

*Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for giving to us Christ as our Great High Priest, who gathers us to You. And thank You for giving Him to us also as King, who defeats all His and our enemies. And thank You for giving Him to us also as Prophet, who clearly reveals Your will to us. Grant that we would follow Him in all things, we ask in His Name, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs: ARP46 "God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength" or TPH271 "Blessed Jesus, At Your Word"**

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](http://hopewellarp.org))**

Numbers chapter 10 verses one through 10. These are God's words. And Yahweh spoke to Moses saying. Make two silver trumpets for yourself. You shall make them a hammered work. You shall use them for calling the congregation. And for directing the movement of the camps, When they blow both of them, all the congregations shall gather before you at the door, the Tabernacular meeting.

But if they blow only one, then the leaders, the heads of the division are Israel shall gather to you. When you sound the advance, the camps, that lie on the east side, shall begin their Journey. When you sound the advance the second time. Then the camps that lie on the South Side shall begin, their J.

They still sound the call for them to begin their Journeys. And when the assembly is to be gathered together, you shall blow but not sound in advance. The sounds. The sons of Aaron, the priests shall blow the trumpets. And this shall be to you as an ordinance forever. Throughout your Generations.

When you go to war in your land against the enemy, who oppresses, you Then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets. And you will be remembered before you offer your God. That you will be saved from your enemies. Also, in the day of your gladness and your appointed feasts, And at the beginning of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over.

Your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings. And they shall be a memorial for you before your God. I am Yahweh. Your God. So far the reading of gods inspired and inerrant word. This these 10 verses about the trumpets are very closely related to the end of chapter nine about the cloud, which Hover over the testimony over the Tabernacle.

And then would rise up and go out when they were supposed to. Move when they were supposed to start journeying? And so to that visual cue that Yahweh does all by himself. He now adds the auditory cue of the trumpets and so at this point, he commands the making of the trumpets and gives instructions about the use of the trumpets.

And we see first of all, that they are, Um, Priestly trumpets. Uh, Moses is commanded to make them and There's instruction about how to use them, but then, in verse 8,

we The sons of Aaron, the priests shall blow. The trumpets. So not even the Levites, but particularly those of the aaronic, Um, priesthood.

And so this is a reminder that it is God himself. Who is summoning them. By use of the trumpets and so, Employing the sons of Aaron to do it. And B that God ordains men. To function as priests. And so, When they blow. The, the trumpet blasts, especially the The short blasts, the alarm.

For mobilizing the people. The people can see. That the cloud has moved. At that point. And so they know that, although it's human lips that are on the ends of the trumpets, Uh that it is the Lord really who is mobilizing them and commanding them. Now, this adds Significance.

Then Uh, to the other occasions not just when they are to be. Mobilized. Uh, but also, when they are to be gathered And so when they're to be gathered, it is God himself who gathers them. Although it is Priestly lips again that are on the trumpet, at the time of gathering it is the Lord himself.

Who by his authority through his servants. Is gathering the people and that's important for us. Because we remember, Or we are to. Remember, we are to learn here. That it is the Lord himself who has ordained uh not just the Weekly Sabbath as a creation ordinance. Uh, but who has given us under the Lord, Jesus the Lord's day.

As a covenantal day, a holy convocation, a holy assembly. And that it is, the Lord who says, do not forsake, the assembling of yourselves together. So, although it is the servants. Um, who are Now ordained of Christ and under his priesthood under the Lord, Jesus is great. High priesthood, all of us having then a sort of levitical priesthood under Christ's High priesthood.

And in the priesthood of all believers and even Uh, in him, United to him coming into the holy of holies. Um, but when his Elders, Gather us and summon us to gather on the Lord's day. Uh, yes it is human lips as it or that are on the trumpet.

That calls us together. But the authority and the summons actually comes from the Lord. And so this was a good object lesson. For the Israelites. And it is a good reminder for us as well. So that's the first thing we see that these are Priestly trumpets. Next thing we see is the occasions on which They were be used in the wilderness.

Now both in the wilderness and then later in the land, the occasions would be divided into two groups represented by two different. Kinds of Sounds being made. On the trumpet. And the two different kinds of occasions. Are the two different groups of occasions are summarized in verse two. One is the calling the congregation calling the assembly.

And then the other group of uses of the trumpet is for directing the movements of the camps. Now, for calling the assembly, there would be these long blows in verse 7. When the assembly is to be gathered together. You shall blow, but not send the advance. So these silver trumpets were these very long trumpets with a flare at the end.

This is a different word than the word shofar, which refers to the blowing of the Horn of Iran. Um, and if the congregation was to assemble, then there would be a long Sounded on the trumpet. And it is likely. That the two trumpets actually had two different notes. And when the two different notes sounded together, Making a little bit of Harmony, then the whole congregation.

Uh, was to be gathered. Verse 3. But if only one or the other, then just the leaders of the divisions of the congregation. And so, it's helpful to remember whether, uh, it's Elders on a session or diaconates at a council of, uh, the diaconate or whether it's Elders in a Presbytery or the elders from a wider region.

In a synod or an assembly. Uh it's helpful for them to know that it is the Lord Jesus who summons them to their work as well. And that it is to be done, especially with him in their presence. Even as Matthew, 18 reminds us. That when the church is gathered for discipline.

Which for the determining of discipline is especially the Elders of the church, although they're carrying out of discipline. Is. Or should be biblically done in the congregation as a whole. That in those in the elders, meetings together. The Lord is the one. Who has summoned them together as well.

So, in the wilderness, you'd have these two different types of gatherings together. But then you have The sounding of the advance in verse 5. And the language means these short sharp blasts. The first time you have these short sharp blasts. Then the first group who are on the east side are to set out and once they have set out and Uh, there's the appropriate amount of distance than the next set of short short blasts.

And then the group on the south sets out. And then, Uh, when they are. A good enough distance. Whatever. Son of Aaron does the third series of Short Sharp blasts? And, Uh, the Priestly. Ones would probably move out and then the west and then the North and so far so forth.

Uh, and this is important both. So that the people would know, and remember that as the Lord himself, who is mobilizing them as they can also see. Uh, from the cloud but it's also important just logistically for organization. These are a lot of people to move. Now, we are used to our little Fellowship hall with our few tables.

Um, the church that I grew up in, they had Wednesday night dinner. In which they served a thousand people in a gym row upon row of tables. And we didn't have silver trumpets, there's short sharp blasts, that would have been very entertaining and would have added much to The meal.

But there was a, there was an official designee designee who Uh, would dismiss your table and your table had to stay seated. You were not Really supposed to be up and around unless it was your table's turn to get up and get in line and get your food and so forth.

And I remember I remember being instructed in that, because with that many people, You needed to be organized if things are going to go smoothly and not be, you know, total utter chaos. And traffic jam and we all needed to get to our classes and so forth. But hear the Lord.

Both displays his Authority displaced, his presence, among the people displays his care and interest in communicating to them. So that each one knows what is expected of him. Uh, his wisdom in arranging them. And managing. Um, Uh, they're logist logistical movements and so forth, so The Lord bless us to them the use of these trumpets, reminding his people.

That he is the one who gathers them to himself when they assemble, he is the one who sends them forth and goes forth in their midst. Uh, when they go out. They were all as it were.

A nation that was attending their great king. Who would go in the midst of the camp. But when they got to the land, they would still have use for these trumpets and we see that in verses, 9 and 10. Even in their land, even after they had. Dispossessed. The Canaanites, uh, the whose sins will have been completed at that time.

And they take the land, there would still be enemies who oppress them and there would be need to go to war again. And then there's short sharp blasts would be sounded uh, perhaps and um, throughout the land but at least Uh, at the Tabernacle and later the temple and here.

It was not so much for a mobilization of the people. Uh we say, perhaps about short sharp blasts as they go around. We do not have information about how the people

would be gathered to whichever place. Uh but what we do here is not so much about the mobilization of the people, but the mobilization of God, Now, God does not.

Need short, sharp blasts of trumpets. To remember his people And to know to take care of them and give them the victory. But when God gives the short sharp blasts and then he adds his words, In Numbers Chapter 10 verse 9 saying you will be remembered before Yahweh your God and you will be saved from your enemies.

We realize that. He decides that the short sharp blasts will be. What he uses and what he responds to to deliver his people. Just for our six that when we hear them, we remember not just that Yahweh remembers. But that Yahweh wants us to know that he remembers. He wants us to remember that he remembers And so he's stirring up faith in himself, he's stirring up in them, faith in himself.

He and he does the same for us. It's very similar. Um, When the Lord Jesus keeps telling us over and over again, in the gospels that when we pray in his name, we will receive what we ask that we will be heard in heaven. When he fills the Psalms by the Holy, With these certainties that we are heard in heaven.

When we pray, that we are remembered. God does not need to be reminded. He tells us these things so that we will see the great privilege of prayer, and it's great usefulness. Not so much for reminding God. But that he has appointed it as that to, which he responds and through, which he works, in order to remind us.

That we are heard on high to remind us. That we are remembered. So, even last night on our knees as a family, Having great confidence from the Bible. That our praying is like the short sharp blasts. Of the trumpet, in verse 9. That God hears and God responds. That we are remembered in heaven and that we are saved.

And that even if we get hit by the tornado, and it turns the Mance into a blender and we're all skewered a thousand times. Still, we are saved. Praise God. But they wouldn't just have the calling of Um, the mobilizing of the short chart blasts in verse nine. They would also still have the long blowings at their times and says wonderful.

Also in the days of your gladness. In your appointed feasts and at the beginning of your months. Now they wouldn't all be gathered. At the beginning of every month, you would have to be near enough. Uh, to the Tabernacle and later the temple for that, but three times a year, they would all be gathered.

And then they would have the long blowings of the, trumpet of the Tabernacle reminding them. They weren't just being gathered together to each other. They were being gathered together to their God. And that indeed would be a day of gladness. And an Israelite mommy or daddy. When the long blowing is going and child asks, why is it blowing so long?

And the mother or father might say, well those are the Gathering notes. And you hear how? Uh, they're blowing the tube and you can hear the two tones together. That's the Lord Gathering. All of us for a day of gladness with him. Shall we be glad to be gathered with the Lord?

And indeed. The use of the silver trumpets is gone. But we still have the Lord's day. We still have his word which mobilizes us and which gathers To him, we still have his Sacrament. Which joins Heaven and Earth as we have. A meal on Earth that partakes of him who is in heaven and has fellowship with him.

Bless God in Jesus. We have greater reality. Even without trumpets. And we might say, especially With our trumpets. So, I pray, let us ask the Holy. To remind us that we have a god. Who remembers us? Our gracious God and our heavenly father, we ask that your spirit indeed.

Would remind us that it is Christ, who is in our midst Christ, who assembles his people to himself. Christ who has given us to be those. Who even mobilize you by prayer. As we say that reverently, We pray that your spirit would stir up our faith in you that we would Rejoice to come near you in prayer.

That we would Rejoice be to be called to you by your word. Knowing that you have given these as ways. Not only by which you gather and mobilize us on Earth. But assure us from Heaven that you are remembering us and saving us. And so we pray that you would make the this portion of your word to take root in our hearts.

And grant us to rest, in and rejoice. Our Lord Jesus Christ. Especially we pray that as you gather us. Lord, say my Lord's Day They would be to us days of gladness. Until we come to that last great, glad day. So keep us, we pray. Week by week, day by day.

Until then, in Jesus name. Amen.