

Num. 10:1-10 “Silver Service”

For the Children: Perhaps some of you think it is nice to be able to stay home and have “church” there while we are in lock-down. But the Bible teaches that there is something special about the church as a body” – and its worship services where the whole congregation gathers to hear God speak, and then responds as a body. In the OT, the worship of all Israel was called by blasts on a silver trumpets – a bit like a church bell ringing on Sundays. Things of silver are precious. Those times when all Israel gathered for worship were precious – as are our worship services with the whole congregation. **Questions:** What are some other ways that God showed that the importance of worship of the whole congregation? How does the Lord guide us now? How does He call us to worship now?

Introduction:

First Point: The Significance of the Silver Trumpets

- 1) The Context of Guidance: The account of the ordinance of the silver trumpets is part of a section on God’s guidance of Israel in the wilderness (9:15-10:10). The people’s lives were not under their own guidance. The Lord was giving them their “marching orders” so they would eventually reach Canaan. Today, we are guided by God’s Word and Spirit, as we experience His unfolding Providence.
- 2) The Manner of Making: The fact that God instructs Moses in the making of the trumpets shows their importance – as with other items related to the priests and the Tabernacle e.g., Ex. 25-31. The Lord even filled craftsmen with His Spirit for the making of holy items (Ex. 31:4).
- 3) The Metal of Making: Silver, as a precious metal often used for making holy items, symbolizes God’s beauty, majesty, glory and wealth. Israel’s worship was to reflect that (Ps. 96:9).
- 4) Blown by Priests: The fact that only the Aaronic priests were allowed to blow the trumpets further shows their significance. The Lord was guiding His church through His appointed office-bearers.
- 5) A Perpetual Statute: The importance of the ordinance is also seen in the assurance that it was a “perpetual statute” – for as long as the theocracy would last. This is normally said only of significant ordinances related to the priesthood, the Tabernacle service, or Israel’s existence.

Second Point: The Use of the Silver Trumpets

- 1) Breaking Camp and Making Camp: The trumpet blasts were used to signal Israel to de-camp, as God led them on their pilgrimage through the wilderness to the Promised Land. The signals also indicated which sectors would move first.
- 2) Upholding the Antithesis: When needed, the trumpets issued a call to battle. In the OT, the “Antithesis” (fundamental opposition between God’s people and the world) often involved physical warfare. Our spiritual battle to uphold the Antithesis is waged by spiritual means today. The trumpets reminded the people to join that battle, but they also “reminded” God to deliver His people from their enemies (v. 9b). He would do so because of His covenant. For He is “Yahweh” (vss. 1 and 10), the unchanging, faithful God of the covenants; and they were His people by covenant. This is fulfilled in Christ’s victory.
- 3) Calling the Leaders: The trumpets called the leaders to meet with Moses at times. In this way, God’s Word could be passed on from Moses, to the tribes and clans.
- 4) The Call Worship: The trumpets called upon the whole assembly to meet before the Lord - for normal, or special services – feast days, or expressing thanks for great blessings and joy for deliverances. The words “congregation” (vss. 1 and 3) and “convene/assemble and assembly” (v. 7), emphasize corporate worship at the appointed time and place. See also Heb. 10:25 on the importance of assembling for worship. God is glorified when His people loudly praise Him as a congregation (Rev. 5:11-14). This also demonstrates Christ’s work, which creates the church as His Body; and results in the Spirit being poured out to enable that Body to work together for mutual encouragement and for sanctification (Heb. 10:25)

Conclusion:

