

Numbers 10:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Make thee two trumpets of silver; of a whole piece shalt thou make them: that thou mayest use them for the calling of the assembly, and for the journeying of the camps.

Analysis

God's command to make two silver trumpets for calling assemblies and directing camp movements demonstrates His orderly direction of His people. The silver material (precious metal refined by fire) symbolized redemption and purity. These trumpets were priestly instruments, blown by Aaron's sons, showing that divine direction came through appointed mediators. The dual purpose (assembly and travel) illustrates that God gathers His people for worship and then disperses them for mission—principles continuing in the church today.

Historical Context

Archaeological discoveries have uncovered ancient trumpets from this period, confirming the biblical description's accuracy. The trumpets were straight, unlike the curved ram's horn (shofar) used for other purposes. Only priests could blow these silver trumpets (verse 8), maintaining the principle that communication of God's direction came through authorized mediators. Later, temple worship employed trumpets extensively (2 Chronicles 5:12-13), demonstrating the continuation of this practice.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's provision of specific means for directing His people teach about His concern for order in the church?
2. What modern equivalents to the trumpets help God's people know when to gather and when to advance?

Interlinear Text

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|--------------|------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| תַּעֲשֶׂה הַ | לְךָ | שְׁתֵּי | חֲצֹצְרֹת | כֶּסֶף | מִקֶּשֶׁה הַ | תַּעֲשֶׂה הַ |
| Make | H0 | thee two | trumpets | of silver | of a whole piece | Make |
| H6213 | | H8147 | H2689 | H3701 | H4749 | H6213 |

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| אֹתָם | וְהִיא | לְךָ | לְמִקְרָא | הַעֵד הַ |
| them that thou mayest use | H1961 | H0 | them for the calling | of the assembly |
| H853 | | | H4744 | H5712 |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------|---------------------|
| וּלְמַסַּע | אֶת | הַמַּחֲנֵה: |
| and for the journeying | H853 | of the camps |
| H4550 | | H4264 |

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 1:13 (Parallel theme): Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting.

Joel 1:14 (Parallel theme): Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the LORD your God, and cry unto the LORD,

Psalms 81:3 (Parallel theme): Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day.

