

Numbers 10:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When ye blow an alarm the second time, then the camps that lie on the south side shall take their journey: they shall blow an alarm for their journeys.

Analysis

The directional marching—"when ye blow an alarm the second time, then the camps that lie on the south side shall take their journey"—shows precise order in Israel's movements. Each trumpet alarm signaled specific tribes to march. This military precision reflects divine order, not chaos. God's people move according to His command, not human impulse. The principle extends to church life: missions, church planting, and ministry initiatives should follow divine leading through providential circumstances and scriptural wisdom, not merely human enthusiasm or opportunity.

Historical Context

Numbers 2 details the tribal arrangement: east (Judah), south (Reuben), west (Ephraim), north (Dan). The marching order moved eastward tribes first (verse 5), then southward tribes second (verse 6). The trumpet system coordinated movement of approximately 600,000 fighting men plus families—perhaps 2-3 million people. Such coordination required divine wisdom.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God's ordered progression challenge impulsive ministry decisions?
2. What role should patience and divine timing play in strategic ministry planning?
3. How can churches discern God's leading versus mere human opportunity?

Interlinear Text

When ye blow	an alarm	the second time	shall take their journey	then the camps
H8628	H8643	H8145	H5265	H4264

that lie	on the south side	an alarm	When ye blow	for their journeys
H2583	H8486	H8643	H8628	H4550

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 10:18 (Parallel theme): And the standard of the camp of Reuben set forward according to their armies: and over his host was Elizur the son of Shedeur.

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