

Numbers 10:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But when the congregation is to be gathered together, ye shall blow, but ye shall not sound an alarm.

Analysis

The distinction 'but when the congregation is to be gathered together, ye shall blow, but ye shall not sound an alarm' establishes different signals for different purposes. The Hebrew kahal (gather the assembly) versus teruah (alarm) prevented confusion. Clear signals enabled proper response. This teaches that different circumstances require different approaches in church life. Pastoral care differs from church discipline; evangelism differs from discipleship; regular worship differs from special services. Wise leaders discern which approach each situation requires.

Historical Context

The long, sustained trumpet blast (tekiah) for gathering created a solemn, reverent mood appropriate for worship assembly. The alarm (teruah) created urgency and action. Jewish tradition preserved these trumpet sounds in the shofar blowing on Rosh Hashanah (New Year)—tekiah (long), shevarim (broken), and teruah (staccato)—each conveying different meaning.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do wise leaders discern which approach—gentle or urgent—situations require?
2. What confusion results when churches apply urgent crisis methods to routine situations?
3. How can we cultivate wisdom to know when to gather peacefully versus sound alarms?

Interlinear Text

וְבִהְיוּ יַלְ	אֶת	הַקֶּה ל	תִּתְקַע ו	לֹא א
is to be gathered together	H853	But when the congregation	ye shall blow	H3808
H6950		H6951	H8628	
תִּרְעוּ:				
but ye shall not sound an alarm				
H7321				

Additional Cross-References

Joel 2:1 (Parallel theme): Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand;